Learning Outcomes for the Philosophy Major and Minor

Content Knowledge

Goal: Students will understand the core issues of philosophy and its history

Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major questions and issues in the core areas of philosophy ─ ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.

2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the central methods, issues, figures, and arguments in major philosophical schools of thought and traditions.

Intellectual Skills

Goal: Students will think clearly, critically, creatively, and independently

Outcomes:

3. Students will employ the tools of formal and informal logic to identify, construct, analyze, evaluate, and respond to arguments.

4. Students will approach questions of value with clarity, balance, open-mindedness, and rational rigor.

5. Students will make connections across texts and philosophical traditions and between philosophy and everyday life.

Goal: Students will be effective readers and communicators

Outcomes:

6. Students will demonstrate a capacity to read closely and analytically, interpreting texts in sophisticated, fair, and cogent ways.

7. Students will clearly articulate ideas and arguments in writing and speech.

Intellectual Values and Attitudes

Goal: Students will cultivate philosophical values and attitudes, enabling them to live richer lives

Outcomes:

* Since these learning goals and outcomes are aspirational, success is in each case a matter of degree. Our expectations for philosophy majors are of course greater than for philosophy minors; but at the same time, all of the goals and outcomes listed here apply to both majors and minors.
8. Students will engage in self-reflection and achieve greater self-understanding.

9. Students will manifest a healthy skepticism toward received opinion and exhibit openness to alternative possibilities and conceptual frameworks.

Course Alignments

Every course in the department develops skills in most of the above areas, but special emphasis occurs in the following courses. These outcomes apply to both the philosophy major and minor.

**Outcome 1**: 316, 317, 331, 343, 345, 355

**Outcome 2**: 235, 236, 326, 335, 336, 338, 339, 340, 365, 371

**Outcome 3**: 101-485

**Outcome 4**: 120, 301, 305, 306, 308, 310, 320, 325, 331, 332, 333, 334, 377

**Outcome 5**: 101-485

**Outcomes 6 & 7**: 235, 236, 305-485

**Outcomes 8 & 9**: 101-485