

2022 ANNUAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FORM
(Due October 15 to the dean)

The Faculty Senate Academic Assessment Committee (AAC) is committed to a vision of assessment that leads to continuous program improvements and benefits students. Annual assessment reporting informs decision making and resource allocation aimed at improving student learning and success. It also enables the AAC to analyze assessment across the institution and to respond to UA System, Board of Regents, legislative, and Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) requests. We thank you for your continued support of and participation in this annual activity.

Starting in Spring 2021, UAA moved to one academic assessment reporting mechanism. The below form merges and streamlines the former Annual Academic Assessment Survey and the Annual Academic Assessment Report. It also incorporates questions about how academic programs contribute to student achievement of institutional core competencies and to student success.

This annual report will be due to the dean on October 15. Programs with suspended admissions and new programs in the first year of implementation are not required to complete this form.

These reports are public documents and will be posted on the assessment website. Responses are to be narrative only, and must be ADA- and FERPA-compliant. Do not embed any links, including to webpages or other documents. To be FERPA-compliant, do not include the names of any current or former students. Rather, use statements such as, "In AY22 four program graduates were accepted to graduate programs in the field." Programs with specialized accreditation or other external recognitions must comply with restrictions regarding what can be published, as per the accreditor or external organization. Do not include appendices. Appendices to this form will not be accepted.

The form uses narrative, text, and drop-down boxes. Narrative boxes have a character limit, which includes spaces. When using text and drop-down boxes, if you want to undo an answer, press "Control-Z" or "Command-Z."

Note: To ensure the fillable fields function correctly, the form must be completed in Microsoft Word. It will not function properly in Google Docs. Programs that wish to record collaborative discussion of the report might consider creating a separate document to take notes, before entering final responses in the official fillable form.

For technical assistance with this form, email Academic Affairs (uaa.oaa@alaska.edu).

PROGRAM SECTION (Due to the dean on October 15)

After completing the Program Section, the program should email this form to the dean, with a copy to the appropriate community campus director(s) if the program is delivered on a community campus.

Submission date: 10/17/2022

Submitted by: Terry Kelly, Associate Professor of Philosophy, tmkelly2@alaska.edu

Program(s) covered in this report: BA Philosophy

(Programs with suspended admissions and new programs in the first year of implementation are not required to complete this form.)

If you selected "Other" above, please identify. (100 characters or less) PHILOSOPHY

College: College of Arts and Sciences

Campuses where the program(s) is delivered: Anchorage KOD KPC MSC PWSC

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): N/A.

If explanation is necessary, such as only some of the certificates and degrees are covered by the specialized accreditation, briefly describe:

INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING CORE COMPETENCIES

In 2020, UAA launched a consensus-based, deliberative process to identify the key skillsets that help students achieve academic and post-graduation success. After a year-long process that included students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and employers, the UAA community identified four core competencies at the heart of a quality UAA education. Students develop mastery of these competencies through curricular (e.g., courses), co-curricular (e.g., internships, conferences), and extra-curricular (e.g., student clubs) learning experiences.

After the stakeholder-based process in AY20, UAA is phasing in the integration of the core competencies into ongoing processes, including program student learning outcomes assessment. Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility (PPCR) was integrated into the AY21 Annual Academic Assessment Report. The AY22 Annual Academic Assessment Report now also integrates Effective Communication.

Question #1 below is designed to engage program faculty in thinking about how they can or already do promote student learning in these two core competencies.



1. **A. *Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility: The knowledge and skills necessary to promote personal flourishing, professional excellence, and community engagement.***
 - **If last year you provided your program’s current or planned example of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that develops and showcases the student learning in this core competency, please discuss that implementation and any observations you have regarding how well it is working. (500 characters or less)**

PHIL A400 assessment instruments: weekly oral and written synopses and discussions, argumentative essay, research presentation and mid-term. Students excelled in conveying complex ideas, composing thesis driven arguments, integrating ethics with science and society content, critically evaluating diverse ethical perspectives and modeling moral sensitivity. Modest awareness of important points of scholarship and growth communicating original ideas.
 - **If last year you *did not* identify a current or planned example of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that provides students the opportunity to develop and showcase this core competency, please identify one now. (500 characters or less)**

- B. *Effective Communication: The knowledge and skills necessary to engage in effective communication in diverse contexts and formats.***
 - **What would you hope a student would say if asked where in your program or support service they had the opportunity to develop proficiency in this core competency? (500 characters or less)**

Philosophical education aims to promote the student's ability to dialogue effectively in a variety of context and present arguments and ideas in a way that is logical and persuasive. Critical and creative reasoning work hand in hand with effective communication, and philosophical education helps students logically structure their oral and written communications and sharpens their skills at extemporaneous, critical dialogue.
 - **Provide your program’s current or planned example(s) of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that showcases the student learning in this core competency. (500 characters or less)**

UAA’s annual ethics debate competition—the UAA Ethics Bowl—provides students with a learning experience in critical and effective communication in a team-based environment. Students learn to structure their presentations logically and persuasively and to extemporaneously present objections to the arguments of others.

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

2. Please list the Program Student Learning Outcomes your program assessed in AY22. For each outcome, indicate one of the following: Exceeded faculty expectations, Met faculty expectations, or Did not meet faculty expectations.

Example: Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and formats – Exceeded faculty expectations.

- Philosophical Knowledge and Understanding: Understand, analyze, and interpret claims and arguments in the context of diverse schools of thought and major works from the history of philosophy and its contemporary subfields (e.g. metaphysics, epistemology, logic, ethics).

Met Expectations

- Philosophical Argumentation: Critically and creatively assess and develop arguments using sound reasoning, sustained thesis development, and reflexive consideration of objections and diverse perspectives.

Met Expectations

- Philosophical Communication: Effectively present clear, coherent, and sustained philosophical ideas, analysis, and argumentation in oral and written forms using constructive listening and response to the presentations of others.

Met Expectations

- Philosophical and Ethical Mindset: Display curiosity, creativity, critical discernment, and a commitment to integrity and personal and social responsibility.

Met Expectations

3. Describe your assessment process in AY22 for these Program Student Learning Outcomes, including the collection of data, analysis of data, and faculty (and other, e.g., advisory board) conversations around the findings. (750 characters or less)

PSLO's are assessed by evaluating papers from a senior level course, PHIL 490, using a rubric that reflects a program consensus on elements of high-quality work in philosophy such as:

Clearly Stated Thesis

Sustained argument or sustained development of its thesis

Awareness of key concepts

Insightful explanation of complex ideas

Awareness of important points of scholarship
 Awareness of and key philosophical issues related to its thesis
 Critical thinking skills- raising philosophical objections
 Critical thinking skills-- evaluation of reasons and objections
 Original and Advanced Reasoning
 Cohesiveness

Quantitative and qualitative data was gathered from PHIL 490 in Spring 22.

4. What are the findings and what do they tell the faculty about student learning in your program? (750 characters or less)

Indicator	Average (1-5) n=6
Clearly Stated Thesis	3.2
Sustained arg/dev of thesis	2.8
Awareness key concepts	3.7
Insightful expl. complex ideas	2.2
Awareness imp. pts scholarship	2.2
Awareness of key phil. issues	2.7
Raising phil. objections	2.5
Evaluation reasons/objections	2.5
Org./Ad. Reasoning	2.4
Cohesiveness	4

5. Based on the findings, did the faculty make any recommendations for changes to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? Please describe the recommended action, what improvement in student learning the program hopes to see with this change, the proposed timeline, and how the program will know if the change has worked. If no recommendations for changes were made, please explain that decision. (750 Characters or less)

Students struggled most with their explanations of complex ideas, their awareness of important points of scholarship, and their ability to raise and assess objections. Program faculty are working to emphasize these elements of philosophical writing in earlier courses (200-300), including using the assessment rubric as a guide for course expectations. Program faculty are also curating resources for students to help improve their writing in these areas. More broadly, program faculty are working to create earlier assessment of student learning (perhaps through e-portfolios) so the program can intervene earlier when students are struggling and better measure student progress towards PSLO's.

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSING IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING

6. In the past academic year, how did your program use the results of previous assessment cycles to make changes intended to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? Please check all that apply.

- Course curriculum changes
- Course prerequisite changes
- Changes in teaching methods
- Changes in advising
- Degree requirement changes
- Degree course sequencing
- Course enrollment changes (e.g., course capacity, grading structure [pass/fail, A-F])
- Changes in program policies/procedures
- Changes to Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)
- College-wide initiatives (e.g., High-Impact Practices)
- Faculty, staff, student development
- Other
- No changes were implemented in AY22.

If you checked "Other" above, please describe. (100 characters or less)

7. Do you have any information about how well these or other past improvements are working? Are they achieving their intended goals? Please include any data or assessment results that help you demonstrate this. (750 characters or less)

The 2021-22 UAA Ethics Bowl team placed 2nd in the Regional Ethics Bowl competition and 8th at the National Competition. Philosophy majors also successfully presented and defended their work at the 2022 UAA Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. In both cases, students demonstrated significant communication, philosophical reasoning, and critical thinking skills. Students also demonstrated a strong philosophical mindset marked by intellectual curiosity.

STUDENT SUCCESS AND THE CLOSING OF EQUITY GAPS

Student success depends on many aspects of a student's experience. On the academic program level, it can relate to correct placement, course sequencing, standardized pre-requisites across sets of courses, the intentional use of high-impact practices, proactive advising, course scheduling practices, etc.

UAA has selected the below metrics as student success metrics for accreditation.

In response to faculty questions and concerns about reporting on these data without more discussion and training, we will spend AY23 exploring together what equity data are and are not, how they can be used responsibly, and what programs can do to close equity gaps in student achievement on the below metrics, as well as to improve overall student achievement on them. UAA has a team participating in the NWCCU Data Equity Fellowship, and that team will help to guide these conversations.

1. **8. PROGRAMS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RESPOND TO QUESTION #8 FOR THEIR REPORT DUE ON OCTOBER 15, 2022. IT IS HERE JUST FOR THEIR REFERENCE.** Describe the actions your program is taking to improve student achievement on one or more of the following metrics. Also, describe any resulting improvements in student learning.

Metric	Definition	Rationale
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE PASS RATES BY COURSE LEVEL (Undergraduate lower-division, undergraduate upper-division).	The percentage of students who receive a passing grade (A, B, C, P) for all undergraduate students in a course offered by a program compared to the same rate calculated for all courses at that level. Based on a 5-year trend. Included in the denominator for undergraduate courses are the grades D, F, W, I, NP, NB. <i>Data source: RPTP end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation.</i>	Low pass rates are one critical way to identify courses that are barriers to student success and degree completion. Failing key courses correlates with low retention and more major switching. Mitigation strategies can be internal or external to the course itself, including, among other things, the use of high-impact pedagogical practices, appropriate placement, course sequencing, tutoring, and other means to ensure student success within a particular course. This metric and the disaggregation of the data can inform planning, decision making, and the allocation of resources to programs and services designed to mitigate gaps in achievement and equity.
ANNUAL RETENTION 1 ST TO 2 ND FALL	Traditional measure of the % of first-time, full-time associate and baccalaureate degree-seeking freshmen who enter in a given fall term and return the following fall. <i>Data source: UA System Warehouse RPTP/DEDMGR end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation on an annual basis.</i>	Following the student from the 1 st fall to 2 nd fall can indicate ongoing connections and support inside and outside of the classroom are motivating students to return to continue their studies at the institution. Continuing enrollment is a key factor in completion.
SEMESTERS TO DEGREE –	The average number of semesters taken by students	Looking at the number of semesters graduate students

Metric	Definition	Rationale
GRADUATE PROGRAMS	to complete any graduate degree or graduate certificate program. Determined by students who have graduated from a graduate program as their primary degree. 5-year trend. <i>Data source: UA System Warehouse RPTP/DEDMGR end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation on an annual basis.</i>	take to complete their degrees illustrates how students progress through their degree programs (full-time, part-time, stop-out). This information on student behavior and completion can inform program structure and help the institution support students in a way that honors the time needed for rigorous intellectual engagement and growth and also ensures that students can complete in a timely manner.

9. **Do you have any examples of post-graduate success you want to highlight? For example, major scholarships, the percent of students who pass licensure examinations, the percent of students accepted to graduate programs, the percent in post-graduation employment in the field or a related field. (750 characters or less)**

Recent alumni achievements include:

Student #1: earned JD and has returned to practice to Alaska to practice law.

Student #2: ran for state legislature

Student #3: earned JD and practices law in Alaska.

Student #4: is now a high school teacher in Alaska.

DEAN SECTION (Due to the program on January 15)

After completing the Dean Section and signing it, the dean should email this form to the program, and copy uag_oaa@alaska.edu for posting. If the program is delivered on one or more community campus, the dean should consult with the appropriate community campus director(s) on the response and copy the appropriate community campus director(s) when emailing the response to the program.

1. Based on the program's responses above, what guidance and support do you have for the program moving forward? (750 characters or less)

The program's assessment involves multiple instruments in the senior-level course, PHIL 490. This analysis shows a need to strengthen writing components in earlier courses. The program is encouraged to do so, and to consider assessing writing at various points in the curriculum.

2. What is the program doing particularly well in terms of its processes for the assessment and improvement of student learning, for example, the achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes, the closing of equity gaps, or addressing the core competencies? (750 characters or less)

This assessment report includes a reflective portion on ways to improve the assessment process; this type of analysis is appreciated. The program does a good job in providing co-curricular activities (Ethics Bowl, Philosophy conference) for students that augment and enhance classroom learning.

Dean's signature:

Jenny McNulty

Date: 1/9/2023