

Graduate Program in Philosophy
Ph.D. Degree Learning Goals and Assessment
Version: May 9, 2008

The doctoral program in Philosophy in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-New Brunswick prepares students to become research scholars and college or university teachers.

Learning Goal 1 for Students: Acquire broad knowledge of contemporary philosophical scholarship, familiarity with the history of the discipline, and research skills.

Assessment of student achievement of Goal 1:

- Grades in graduate courses
- Review by faculty of student progress with close advising and mentoring
- Assessment of student's preparedness for research at dissertation proposal defense or oral examination
- Placement in teaching and research positions in colleges and universities.

Role of the program in helping students to achieve Goal 1:

- Close advising to assure that students are being prepared in a coherent and academically rigorous fashion
- Effective monitoring of student progress
 - o Includes annual reports on research progress from both the student and the student's committee chair
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of instructors in graduate courses
 - o If effectiveness is below expectations, work with instructors to improve effectiveness
- Periodic review of curricular offerings and assessment tools
 - o By program faculty
 - o In consultation with the office of the dean of the graduate school and/or the unit dean

Learning Goal 2 for Students: Engage in and conduct original research

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 2:

- Preparation of and defense of Ph.D. dissertation proposal
- Assessment of quality of Ph.D. dissertation:
 - o Public defense of dissertation
 - o Critical reading of dissertation by committee of graduate faculty

members and a committee member from another philosophy department

- o Submission and acceptance of peer-reviewed articles and conference papers based on the dissertation
- Achievement of students as evidenced by professional placements, selection for conference presentations, and peer-reviewed publications

Role of the graduate program in helping students achieve Goal 2:

- Provide early introduction to research methods and opportunities for research
- Provide opportunities to present research and receive feedback
- Maintain adequate funding levels through the research phase
- Provide comprehensive advising and assist in the identification of mentors
- Provide assistance to students seeking external funding via Chaser-The Resource Center for Graduate Student External Support
- Provide (on a competitive basis) supplemental funding for graduate student travel:
 - o To develop dissertation proposals
 - o To participate in special study opportunities
 - o To present research results at conferences.

Learning Goal 3 for Students: Prepare students to be college and university professors

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 3:

- Review evidence of papers presented, publications and professional networking
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of graduate student instructors
- Collection of placement data
- Review by external advisory committees
- Survey alumni/ae

Role of the program in helping students achieve Goal 3:

- Develop discipline-specific programs in concert with the Teaching Assistant Project and/or Carnegie Academy for Scholarship on Teaching and Learning programs
- Encourage enrollment in Introduction to College Teaching I and II
- Encourage participation in professional development programs in such areas as interview skills, presentation skills, development of cvs, use of research tools, training in the responsible conduct of research, and proposal writing
- Host discipline-specific training when appropriate
- Teach students how to do assessments in their future professional capacities
- Provide flexible options for students with interdisciplinary interests related to global

warming

- Develop or enhance programs related to job and networking skills, including activity in professional societies

The philosophy department's graduate program advisory committee will regularly review the structure and content of the program and the feedback received from assessments and surveys. These reviews will be used to improve the quality of the program's instruction, advising, and placement.