Graduate Program in Philosophy

Graduate Program in Philosophy
MA in Philosophy (Legal Philosophy) Degree Learning Goals and Assessment

The goal of the master's degree in philosophy is to train students at an advanced level in specific field of study of legal philosophy in order for them to assume leadership roles in research, teaching, applied work, or continue graduate studies.

Learning Goal 1: Attain mastery of a broad field of learning

Assessment of graduate student achievement of goal 1:

- Grades in graduate courses
- Review by faculty of student progress with close advising and mentoring
- Comprehensive examinations assessing depth and breadth of knowledge in the form of a paper or research thesis
    - Assessment of student's performance by committee of graduate faculty members
- Continuation of graduate studies or placement in a position that requires ability in this field

Role of the Graduate Program in Philosophy in helping students to achieve goal 1:

- Evaluate teaching effectiveness of instructors in graduate courses
    - If effectiveness is below expectations, work with instructors to improve effectiveness
- Periodic review of curricular offerings and assessment tools
    - By program faculty
    - Via curricular review by faculty department committees and graduate faculty
- Host regular meetings with individual advisors

Learning Goal 2: Engage in and conduct original research (for master's degrees with thesis options)

Assessment of graduate student achievement of goal 2:

- Assessment of quality of master's thesis:
    - Public defense of thesis
    - Critical reading of thesis by committee of graduate faculty members
    - Submission and acceptance of peer-reviewed articles and conference papers based on the thesis
- Achievement of students as evidenced by continuation of graduate studies or professional placement

Role of the Graduate Program in Philosophy in helping students to achieve goal 2:

- Provide early introduction to research methods and opportunities for research
- Provide opportunities to present research and receive feedback
- Provide comprehensive advising and assist in the identification of mentors
- Establish standards for membership of student committees

Learning Goal 3: Prepare to be professionals in the discipline

Assessment of graduate student achievement of goal 3:

- Collection of data on professional placement or continuation of graduate studies
- Review by external advisory committees, both inside of and external to the academy

Role of the Graduate Program in Philosophy in helping students achieve goal 3:

- Host professional development and career exploration activities
- Host external advisory committees

Leaders of master's degree in Philosophy should regularly review the structure and content of the program and provide the feedback received from assessments and surveys. These reviews should be used to provide the best possible education to the students, one that meets current needs for professionals in the discipline of Philosophy.