

ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW FORM

All academic programs and units at UAA are required by Board of Regents Policy P10.06.010 to engage in program review on a seven-year cycle. University

2. The department has reduced the number of 400-level mastery courses required for degree completion. Before the Expedited Program Review, the BA in Philosophy required completion of two 400-level mastery courses: PHIL A490 and PHIL A423. By contrast to other division philosophy courses, these seminar style courses tend to have lower retention (i.e., 510 students). In order to satisfy the review recommendation, PHIL A423 was dropped as a major requirement. Now, only one seminar mastery course is offered each year, PHIL A490. The only other seminar style class offered that has similar retention levels is PHIL A400, which satisfies the Tier 3 General Education Capstone requirement and counts as a mastery course in the International Studies program.

3. In AY22, the department developed and implemented an Outreach, Advising, and Mentoring Plan for majors in cooperation with the staff Humanities advisor. By improving communications with majors and minors, the department intends to foster stronger mentoring relationships that will translate into improvements in retention, graduation, and career success.

Actions taken to date

Four degrees requiring PHIL A303, Environmental Ethics, or either A301, Ethics, A302, Biomedical Ethics, or A305, Professional Ethics, were in programs that are being discontinued (SOGBS, SOGBA, ENSOS, and ENSBA). At the time of the original program review the department estimated the impact of program deletion and determined it to be negligible to non-existent.

This January the department completed its yearly course rotation, scheduling current faculty for each upcoming year. This schedule represents the demand for corequisite and GER courses as well as courses required to run the major.

Even prior to the pandemic, the department has made sure to diversify modality offerings for co-requisite classes. These online/hybrid course offerings have been highly praised by students and have proven essential to meeting students where they are and maintaining strong enrollment numbers.

Evidence of success to date

The department submitted a reply when this recommendation was originally made by the interim dean of CAS; it detailed how very few students in programs identified for discontinuation were found to be populating the relevant courses. Based upon this data has proven correct: there was no drop in demand for these courses associated with these discontinuations.

Demand for PHIL A303 is steady (21 students in SP19 and 23 in SP21). Demand for the other applied ethics courses PHIL A301, A302, and A305 remained stable during the same time period with 223 students enrolled in sections of the three courses in FA19 and 210 students in FA21.

The following shows average enrollment by student seat count for (1) the eight corequisite philosophy courses, (2) all philosophy classes, and, for context, (3) all undergraduate classes at UAA (1000 level).

(1) Philosophy (all classes required by other programs):

AY18 30.2

AY19 30.2

AY20 30.9

AY21 29.6

(2) Philosophy (all classes): 373.78
(3) All undergraduate classes at UAA (1000 level): 1000.00

AY21 27.2

(3) UAA (all undergraduate classes):

AY18 17.8

AY19 17.1

AY20 16.8

AY21 16.7

(Data Source: UAA IR Reports, Course Reports, "Official Course Enrollment Closing." Formula:
Average Academic Year (AY) enrollment for course type equals (Fall Student Seat Count + Spring
Student Seat Count) / (Fall Course Count + Spring Course Count) for

analysis, biomedical, professional, and environmental ethics all essential areas of study for the workforce and civic readiness of UAA students.

Significant Partnerships and Impacts:

work (often working with community partners), promotion of undergraduate student research, consideration of diverse cultural perspectives and learning styles.

Program faculty members have adopted the assessment rubric for their courses and devoted more time to explicit instruction on the process of developing argumentation, including conducting one-on-one Zoom sessions with students at points in the writing process.

The Alaska Ethics Bowl is a debate competition that provides an opportunity for students to develop and practice their argumentative skills and their understanding of ethics. Program faculty organize, coach, conduct, and judge this event. The 2021 winning team, with coaching from Dr. Joel Potter, placed second in the Pacific Northwest Regional Ethics Bowl, thus qualifying for the National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (our second such entry in the last ten years). At the National competition in February 2022, the team placed among the top eight teams, making it to the quarter finals.

The annual UAA Undergraduate Philosophy Conference offers students an opportunity to present and defend their work in a formal setting. Presenting students defend their work in a discussion with peers, program faculty, and a guest keynote speaker.

Faculty have continued to support the Philosophy Club and the various philosophical interactions it promotes. This year the club tabled at campus office and Fallfest, supported the team admission to the regional ethics bowl, and organized hikes and discussion sessions with members.

Program faculty have regularly hosted weekly reading and discussion groups for students, including the 19-session Big Questions Weekly Dialogues Series, a collaboration with Student Life and Leadership, in AY21.

Program faculty agreed to create interventions aimed at improving student performance in the area of philosophical argumentation. At the instructional level, program faculty will offer more assignments aimed at improved argumentation, especially at the 200-300 level where most student development occurs and where program majors are taking the bulk of their philosophy courses. Upcoming faculty meetings will focus on using pedagogy in these areas. The program will (1) improve philosophical education (such as PPCR); (2) gauge student learning at more points in the program; and (3) make assessment a learning experience for students. The program plans to explore the use of Portfolios.

Students are scoring a 4 (out of 5) in indicators related to PSLO #1 and 4.4 in indicators related to PSLO #2, meaning that students are making good to very good progress towards mastery of graduate success.

{ dZ %o CE } P CE u Z • •μ ••(μ o o Ç %o • š μ v š •] v š } P CE μ š %o C

{ ^šµ vš• Z À o•} •µ ••(µooÇ %o Eir work at the annual (v š Z undergraduate philosophy conference and student showcase.

{ iđ9 }(%o OE} P OE u •šµ vš• P OE µ š Á]šZ ,}v} OE • ~ ^Aii9V h Aîó šZ]• Ç OE[• h šZ] • }Áo Á vš }v š} %o o • }v]v šZ W](] E Competition and among the top eight at the National Competition in 2022.

- b. Demonstrate program quality and improvement through other means for example, maintaining specialized accreditation, using guidance from advisory boards/councils, responding to community partners and local needs, maintaining currency of the curriculum, implementing innovative program design, intentionally integrating high-impact teaching and learning practices into the program, and meeting indications of quality in distance education, such as CRAC Standards.

The program is fortunate in its ability to staff most of its courses with experts in the field. In the areas of professional ethics, biomedical ethics, environmental, animal and food ethics, logic, and the history of philosophy, courses are taught by ETnWq 0.00000912 0 612 792 re W* n BT /F2 10.98

The level of efficiency and productivity achieved through the philosophy department is also evident

Philosophy is a small department with a big reach and deep impact: it teaches critical thinking, argumentation, self-reflection, civic awareness, and ethical responsibility to over one thousand students each year; its faculty performs critical service to the university and the public, chairing university-wide initiatives (Institutional Accreditation and the UAA 2025 Strategic Plan) and participating in ethics committees, locally and at state, national, and international levels; the department organizes popular events that showcase student excellence and bring students, alumni, and community members together. The Department plays a critical role serving the workforce needs of the state through courses that meet the programmatic needs of future engineers, teachers, surveyors, lab technicians, nurses, doctors, and scientists.

Actions steps:

Putting Students First

1. The Department will continue implementation of its newly drafted Mentorship and Advising Plan (AY22). This plan identifies goals for (i) regular communication to all majors, (ii) meeting with majors each semester, (iii) close coordination with the Humanities Advisor, and (iv) the development of career and graduation events.
2. In AY23, the Department will develop an Alumni Outreach Plan.

Embracing Diversity and Inclusion

3. In AY22, the department lost its expert in Indigenous and other western philosophies and religions, which also had a negative impact on gender diversity. The department needs to fill this gap and proposes that UAA consider supporting a joint appointment in this area with Alaska Native Studies.

Community Partner

4. The department is assisting with the development of a new dual credit Civics Program at South High School in Anchorage. In AY23, it will help pilot a course that will count for dual credit, it will provide instruction during the first year and host South High students at UAA.
5. The department will enhance its annual publicizing events (the Philosophy conference and Alaska Ethics Bowl), integrating them with other initiatives. These events are cost and labor intensive and would benefit greatly from college and university level financial and staff support.

Excellence Through Continuous Improvement

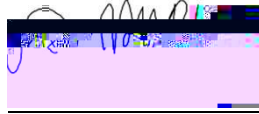
6. AY23, the department will complete revision

8. Many of the initiatives above can be viewed as integrated aspects of a more comprehensive action step: the revitalization and strengthening of the UAA Ethics Center.

Funding for a one-course buy-out per semester for a Director of the Center is the single most important step for the development of the Ethics Center. In addition to supporting the related initiatives already identified, this would provide a faculty member with the time needed to form an advisory board for the center, create and advertise professional development courses, and build the center's capacity for community dialogues and public ethics consulting.

After completing the Program Section above, the program review committee chair should sign, date, and email this form to the dean, copying the committee members. If the program is fully delivered on a community campus, copy the appropriate community campus director(s).

Committee chair's signature:



Date: 3/6/2022

END OF PROGRAM SECTION

DEAN SECTION (Due on April 1)

If the program is fully delivered on one or more community campus, the dean should consult with the director(s) of the campus. After completing the Dean Section below and signing it, the dean should email this form to the committee, and to uaa.oaa@alaska.edu if the program is delivered on a community campus, copy the appropriate community campus director(s). The program has one week to provide an optional response to the Dean Section using the Program Optional Response section of this form.

Evaluation of Progress of Previous Recommendations

For each recommendation from the last program review, indicate if the recommendation has been met or has not been met and provide commendations and guidance as appropriate.

Recommendation has been met.

The department has a sufficient number of faculty members needed to deliver the curriculum at this time.

community campus director(s). The program has one week to provide an optional response to the Dean Section using the Program Optional Response section below

Dean's signature:



Date: 4/1/2022

END OF DEAN SECTION

PROGRAM OPTIONAL RESPONSE (Due within one week of receiving dean's review)

Programs have the option to submit to the provost a response to the dean's evaluation within one week of receiving the dean's review, using the narrative box below.

Optional responses should be submitted to toaa.oaa@alaska.edu with a copy to the dean. If the program is fully delivered on a community campus, copy the appropriate community campus director(s) as well.

Optional Response (10,000 characters or less)

I wish to express my appreciation to Dean McNulty for her evaluation and feedback on our program. We are proud of the work we did and excited about new opportunities for growth and improvement in the coming years. In the next year, the department plans to explore a variety of funding models for the Ethics Center. We will also look into the possibility of offering credit fee based courses in professional ethics through the Center.

Program Signature:



Date: 4/8/2022

END OF PROGRAM OPTIONAL RESPONSE SECTION

PROVOST SECTION (Due on August 1)

After completing, signing, and dating the Provost Section of this form, email the completed form to the program review committee and dean, with a copy to toaa.oaa@alaska.edu for posting. If the program is delivered on a community campus, copy the appropriate community campus director(s) as well.

Provosts signature:



Date: 5/4/2022