**Department of Philosophy**

**Assessment Plan for the PhD Program**

**Goals for PhD Program**

1. **Knowledge and Expertise:** Students demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of issues central to at least one philosophical area of specialization as well as demonstrating broad knowledge of the problems and research across several sub-fields of philosophy.
2. **Research Competence:** Students conduct original, substantial, and publishable research in their chosen areas of specialization.
3. **Effective Communication:** Students demonstrate the ability to write and speak effectively to both professional and student audiences about issues in their fields of specialization and competence.
4. **Pedagogical Skills:** Students acquire and demonstrate pedagogical skills.
5. **Professional Development:** Students complete a course of professional development training and prepare to seek employment in academic or nonacademic careers.

**Assessment Plan and Schedule**

All of our PhD students are reviewed every year by a meeting of the faculty at the Annual Review of Graduate Students. This review will incorporate all of the following sources of information:

* Faculty reports on student performance in coursework (i.e. Form As)
* Faculty reports on student performance as Teaching Assistant (i.e. Form Bs)
* Reports on the teaching performance of each Graduate Instructor at least once every two years from the Teaching Evaluation Committee
* Reports on each student’s performance in the candidacy examination by the chair of the student’s candidacy examination committee
* Reports on each student’s performance in the dissertation prospectus examination by the chair of the student’s dissertation prospectus examination committee
* Reports on each student’s performance in the dissertation examination by the chair of the student’s dissertation examination committee
* Reports on each student’s performance in the dissertation seminar by the faculty member in charge of the dissertation seminar
* Reports on each student’s performance in the graduate training seminar by the Director of Graduate Studies
* Reports on each student’s performance in the graduate placement seminar by the Placement Director

**Assessment Criteria**

We expect at least 80% of our PhD students to meet or exceed expectations in each of these goals in any given academic year using the following rubric:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Exceeds expectations | Satisfies expectations | Falls below expectations |
| Knowledge and Expertise |  |  |  |
| Research Competence |  |  |  |
| Effective Communication |  |  |  |
| Pedagogical  Skills |  |  |  |
| Professional Development |  |  |  |

In addition, each student will be placed into one of the following three categories by a vote of the faculty at the Annual Review of Graduate Students:

* Category 1: Students who are in good standing.
* Category 2: Students who are not in good standing.
* Category 3: Students who are not in good standing and who will be advised to leave the program at the end of the current academic year.

We expect at least 80% of our PhD students to be in Category 1 and no more than 10% of our PhD students to be in Category 2.