

Academic Department Student Success Plan Update 2015-2018

Program: Philosophy

Department: Multidisciplinary Studies

Department Chair: Donna Selman

Program Mission: The Philosophy program at Indiana State University is essential to the College of Arts and Sciences mission of providing students with a strong, contemporary education in the liberal arts and sciences. The Philosophy program plays a distinctive role within the College, enabling women and men to engage critically and creatively with significant philosophical and social problems, to develop a heightened sensitivity to the origin and development of important ideas across times and cultures, and to deepen their understanding of the connection between theoretical reflection and social action. The Philosophy program achieves these goals through creative curricular development, excellence in teaching, scholarly activity of faculty, and promotion of service to the university and community. The unique set of skills acquired through philosophical study contributes to students' success in other academic disciplines and fosters an integrative view of their academic work and service to the community.

Department Freshman (1st year) Retention Goals:

- (1) Increase Philosophy retention to 80% by 2018
- (2) Assist with retention at the University by working closely with University College advisors to advise students who might want to choose a Philosophy major in their sophomore year (possible to complete within a 6 semester plan)

Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible)

- (1) Require all first-year philosophy students to meet with Academic Advisor twice a semester to discuss student and program goals, student progress, and other pertinent issues (Namita Goswami; Fall 2015).
- (2) Continue work with Student Services to identify Philosophy tutors (All Philosophy faculty; Fall 2015)
- (3) Identify philosophy courses with high D/F drop rates. Strongly encourage philosophy faculty to attend professional development workshops focused on improved teaching and pedagogical innovation. Provide program specific meetings with Instructional Designers and FCTE (Donna Selman; beginning Spring 2015).
- (4) Secure funding for and hold welcoming reception for all first-year philosophy students and new majors during Fall semester (Donna Selman and Philosophy faculty; beginning Fall 2016).
- (5) Request information from IR and University College to assist in advising students in the sequencing of both Foundational Studies and major courses to improve the preparation of students for Philosophy courses (Donna Selman and Namita Goswami; Spring 2015)

<i>Retention</i>	Fall 2013 official:	Fall 2014 official:	Fall 2015 official:
<i>Benchmarks</i>	67%	69%	
	Fall 2016 target:	Fall 2017 target:	Fall 2018 target:
	73%	75%	80%

Department Persistence to Completion Goals:

- (1) Maintain six-year completion rate for Philosophy at 100%
- (2) Continue active support of Philosophy students through duration of their studies
- (3) Provide career support and advising for philosophy students beginning in their third year. Develop Internships as part of the process.
- (4) Increase 4 year graduation rate to 67% in 2016 and 75% in 2017

Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible)

- (1) Require all philosophy majors after first year to meet with academic advisor once a year to discuss academic progress and time to completion (Namita Goswami; Fall 2015)
Required audit at 60 credits and 90 credits (Namita Goswami Fall 16)
- (2) Encourage philosophy students to participate regularly in supportive undergraduate philosophy activities; e.g., philosophy club meetings (All Philosophy faculty; beginning Fall 2015)
- (3) Advertise philosophy club activities through email and posters on campus (Joe Grcic and office staff; Fall 2015)
- (4) Create updated bulletin board for posting employment and education opportunities of potential interest to philosophy students (All Philosophy faculty and office staff; beginning Spring 2016)
- (5) Conduct annual application advising session for philosophy students interested in post-graduate academic programs, internships, or fellowships (All Philosophy faculty; every Fall semester)
- (6) Incorporate student use of Career Center and attendance at Career and Graduate School Fairs into already existing courses (All Philosophy Faculty and Academic Advisor; Fall 2016)
- (7) Designate Philosophy Minor Advisor (Michael Deem Fall 2016)

<i>Completion</i>	Fall 2013 official:	Fall 2014 official:	Fall 2015 official:
<i>Benchmarks</i>	100%	100%	
	Fall 2016 target:	Fall 2017 target:	Fall 2018 target:
	100%	100%	100%

Other Goal(s) of focal interest to program:

- (1) Increase number of philosophy majors to 20 by Spring 2017, 25 by Spring 2018
- (2) Increase number of philosophy minors
- (3) Increase visibility of Philosophy program at the University and within region

Action Steps

- (1) Work with admissions on contacting students admitted to ISU who express interest in philosophy (Philosophy faculty; beginning Fall 2016)
- (2) Attend and provide relevant information at the Transfer Open House (Michael Deem, Fall 2016)
- (3) Attend and provide relevant information at the Freshman Orientation (Donna Selman and Michael Deem, Every Semester)
- (4) Develop and establish concentrations in philosophy major/minor based on current faculty strengths, e.g., Philosophy, Politics, and Law (All Philosophy faculty; beginning Fall 2017)
- (5) Increase number of extra-program courses that fulfill major requirements to two courses (Donna Selman and Academic Advisor; Fall 2016)
- (6) Increase number of interdisciplinary opportunities for students, including courses, study groups, and team-teaching (Donna Selman and Philosophy faculty; beginning Fall 2016)
- (7) Continue to work closely with Gender Studies program and The Center for Genomic Advocacy (Chair, Michael Deem, Namita Goswami; Fall 2015) Pursue Learning Community's with above (Michael Deem Fall 2016)
- (8) Redesign and update Philosophy program website (Chair and Philosophy faculty; Spring 2016)
- (9) Build and maintain Philosophy program Facebook page (Michael Deem; Spring 2016)
- (10) Lobby to host meeting of the Indiana Philosophical Association by 2018 (Michael Deem; Fall 2016)