I. Program Overview

Mission and Vision

The Philosophy Department is committed to excellence in teaching, research, and service; providing the core of a liberal arts education for all undergraduate students of the University; and contributing to specialized programs for undergraduate and graduate students within the Philosophy Department and other units. Expected student learning outcomes include learning to evaluate basic assumptions, learning to critically evaluate theories, developing the ability to communicate complex thoughts in a clear manner, developing the ability to construct philosophical arguments, and developing the ability to write clearly about issues.

Our vision is to be recognized as one of the very best Masters-only departments in the country; be recognized nationally for excellence in philosophical scholarship and undergraduate education; be important to the larger mission of the university especially through our Ethics scholarship and teaching. We also intend to continue to contribute to the University’s mission through Honors College courses; courses that contribute to Women's Studies, Religious Studies, and Asian Studies; and close involvement with the Fine Arts doctoral program.

Faculty

Since 2005, we have consistently had ten full-time faculty, and though the personnel have changed, we have maintained a highly qualified faculty able to offer graduate education on a wide range of subfields. As a result, we have consistently attracted high-quality applicants to our MA program. There are some areas we are unable to cover, and have so lost some applicants to other programs, but in most areas of analytic philosophy we are very competitive.
In addition to serving to educate MA students in philosophy, in order to prepare them for PhD programs and professional schools, we also participate in the Fine Arts doctoral program, providing required seminars for all Fine Arts PhDs.

**Trends**

Since the MA program began back in the early 1980s, it has steadily grown in size and quality. In the last six years it has consistently appeared in the Philosophical Gourmet’s list of top ten or twelve MA-only programs in Philosophy. We are committed to continuing to grow and provide excellent graduate education in philosophy. One of our goals is to move up in the Philosophical Gourmet rankings by continuing to recruit highly visible young scholars into our faculty, and continuing to place more of our graduates in highly ranked PhD programs.