

GRADUATING SENIOR SURVEY
FOR PHILOSOPHY MAJORS

Name: _____

Today's date: _____

Congratulations for your forthcoming graduation from ISU as a philosophy major! The purposes of this survey are to enable you to reflect on your experiences in the philosophy program at ISU, and to have you evaluate the program and suggest ways to improve it. Thank you in advance for filling in the survey, and good luck with your career plans.

PART A

1. What do you take to be the three greatest strengths of the philosophy program? (a) (b) (c)
2. Please list three aspects of the philosophy program that need improvement. (a) (b) (c)
3. What changes would you recommend in the set of <i>required</i> courses for the philosophy major? More specifically: (a) Please list any currently required courses that you think should not be required. Why shouldn't these courses be required? (b) Please list any currently non-required courses that you think should be required. Why should these courses be required? (c) Should there be <i>more</i> or <i>fewer</i> required courses? (d) Other recommended changes:
4. What <i>new</i> philosophy courses would you suggest that the department create?

5. Please comment on the philosophy faculty in general and, if you wish, on particular faculty members.
6. Please comment on the Philosophy Club. How frequently did you attend its meetings?
7. In what ways did the philosophy program improve your life?
8. What are your plans after graduation, and how does your philosophy education help you realize these plans?

PART B

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements by using the following scale:

5 (strongly agree), 4 (agree), 3 (neutral),
2 (disagree), 1 (strongly disagree).

Overall, the philosophy program at ISU is excellent	5	4	3	2	1
The philosophy faculty and staff are very accessible.	5	4	3	2	1
The social environment in the department is very friendly	5	4	3	2	1
The major should require a course on how to write philosophy papers . . .	5	4	3	2	1
The range of electives offered in the philosophy program is adequate. . .	5	4	3	2	1
There should be more required papers in the philosophy program.	5	4	3	2	1
There should be more essay exams in the philosophy program.	5	4	3	2	1
There should be more multiple-choice or true-false tests.	5	4	3	2	1
The philosophy classes are too large.	5	4	3	2	1
My philosophy advisors have been very helpful	5	4	3	2	1
I received adequate training on the use of bibliographic resources. . . .	5	4	3	2	1
I am familiar with the learning outcomes for the philosophy major	5	4	3	2	1

PART C

Please evaluate the extent to which the learning outcomes for the philosophy major have been achieved by indicating the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. **Please write to the left of each statement an integer from 1 to 5**, using again the following scale:

5 (strongly agree), 4 (agree), 3 (neutral),
2 (disagree), 1 (strongly disagree).

- I am now able to distinguish some of the major areas of philosophy from each other by identifying the major questions addressed in each area.
- I am now able to explain the gist of the views of some historically important philosophers and the main ideas underlying some major philosophical movements and positions.
- I am now able to use some basic philosophical vocabulary, distinctions, and concepts.
- I am now able to translate simple English sentences into first-order logical notation.
- I am now able to read texts actively rather than passively, by asking clarification questions, disagreeing with the author by raising objections, attempting to improve the author's reasoning, and integrating the text with my prior knowledge.
- I am now able to analyze argumentative passages by identifying arguments and subarguments, formulating them in standard (i.e., premise/conclusion) form, and evaluating them in terms of soundness (including deductive validity) and cogency (including inductive strength).
- I am now able to identify common reasoning fallacies.
- I am now able to write an argumentative paper that defends a thesis, raises objections, and replies to the objections.
- I am now able to participate in a philosophical discussion by defending a thesis and replying rationally to the other participants.
- I am now able to write/present a summary of a philosophical text.
- I am now able to write/talk clearly, precisely, and concisely.
- I am now able to locate bibliographic sources relevant to a philosophical position and assess the quality of the sources.
- I am now able to explain how and why some philosophical views are better justified than others (i.e., philosophy is not merely a matter of opinion).
- I am now able to explain how and why some of my most cherished views may be mistaken.

- I now habitually seek and address objections to my own views.
- I now habitually interpret arguments opposed to my own views in a charitable way.
- I am now able to explain the complexity of real-world ethical and social issues, and to evaluate such issues from more than one point of view.