

**Department of Philosophy**  
**New Mexico State University**  
**Strategic Plan 2025**  
09 December 2019

**Department Mission Statement**

Consistent with the mission of NMSU, the Department of Philosophy's mission is to develop and impart knowledge and skills necessary for understanding the perennial problems from the history of philosophy as well as the most current philosophical issues, both theoretical and applied. The Department's mission entails four broad and interrelated goals falling into the general areas of teaching, scholarship, service, and outreach. Our teaching and research activities function together to accomplish our mission. We believe that instruction in philosophy is best when professors are involved in serious research and are able to integrate that research into their courses. Professional service is also a vital aspect of the Department's activity.

**Department Vision**

By 2025, the Department of Philosophy will continue to excel in providing an outstanding education in philosophy that promotes the academic success and social mobility of our majors as well as students across NMSU; achieve national and international recognition for our research and scholarly activities; and continue to strengthen our outreach efforts to the community at large.

**Department Core Values**

- **Logic, Argument, and Reason:** We believe that the development and refinement of critical reasoning skills, the careful use of the methods of argument, and knowledge of the tools of logic is necessary to successful inquiry, the statement of questions and the formulation of their answers, both theoretical and applied.
- **Philosophical Education:** We believe in the importance of an education in philosophy and believe that the basic skills that such an education instills are indispensable tools that will help promote the academic success and social mobility of our students.
- **Philosophical Research and Scholarship:** We are committed to making nationally and internationally recognized contributions to philosophical research, and to the importance such research has to the statement and solution of theoretical and practical problems that range across a wide variety of interdisciplinary concerns.

**Goal 1: Enhance Academic Student Success and Social Mobility**

**Objectives:**

- 1.1 Increase the number of philosophy majors in our programs
- 1.2 Increase the number of philosophy majors who double-major in another program or department
- 1.3 Continue to improve student learning, graduation, and post-graduation career success

- 1.4 Strengthen career pathways through service learning, experiential learning, and research engagement
- 1.5 Promote and elevate the Department's programs

**Actions:**

- 1.1 Increase the number of philosophy majors in our programs
  - (i) Add more sections of PHIL 100 G Philosophy, Ethics, and Law through the use of qualified adjuncts or hiring of post-docs
  - (ii) Develop relationships with and work with liaisons in the local high schools to make high students aware our programs
  - (iii) Work with liaisons and teachers in the local high schools to begin to integrate philosophy into their curriculum
  - (iv) Continue to promote and increase the visibility of our Philosophy Department scholarships
  - (v) Continue to sponsor, advise, and foster the development of the undergraduate club *Sophia*.
- 1.2 Increase the number of philosophy majors who double-major in another program or department
  - (i) Work with other relevant departments on campus to facilitate the possibility of share credit to increase the possibility of and motivation for double majors
  - (ii) Actively advise students to double major
  - (iii) Use our Minor programs to encourage students to double major
- 1.3 Continue to improve student learning, graduation, and post-graduation career success
  - (i) Continue to develop and improve pedagogic techniques such as the use of team-based learning, Socratic note-taking, Socratic Teaching to Learn, the PEE-ing procedure, and as well as others
  - (ii) Continue to use qualified undergraduate peer teaching in assistants in our classes
  - (iii) Continue to play an active role in mentoring students who apply to graduate schools, law schools, and other professional programs
  - (iv) Continue to improve and refine our outcomes assessment techniques to evaluate and improve our programs
- 1.4 Strengthen career pathways through service learning, experiential learning, and research engagement
  - (i) Continue to mentor students, encouraging them to develop their work and submit it to professional conferences, student and professional journals, and other professional venues
  - (ii) Work with lawyers in the local community to develop internships for our Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law majors
  - (iii) Help provide financial support to students whose work is accepted for presentation at professional conferences or other professional venues
  - (iv) Encourage students to apply for travel grants to attend professional meetings and colloquia
  - (v) Continue to recruit and increase the number of qualified undergraduate peer teaching in assistants in our classes
- 1.5 Promote and elevate the Department's programs

- (i) Develop relationships with and work with the liaisons in the local high schools to make high students aware of the our programs
- (ii) Do a direct mail campaign to local high school informing them about our major in Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law
- (iii) Work with relevant other departments on campus to facilitate interdisciplinary programs, degrees, and student opportunities
- (iv) Continue to develop and refine our Departmental website and our use of other social media tools

**Key Performance Indicators:**

- 1.1 Increase the number of philosophy majors in our programs
  - Enrollment numbers for Philosophy and Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law majors and minors
  - Number of students recruited directly from local highs into our programs
  - Number of students who apply for our Departmental Scholarships
  - Number of students who participate in *Sophia*
- 1.2 Increase the number of philosophy majors who double-major in another program or departments
  - Enrollment numbers for Philosophy and Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law who have a second major
  - The number of interdisciplinary programs that share or use Philosophy courses for academic course credit in their programs
- 1.3 Continue to improve student learning, graduation, and post-graduation career success
  - Number of course that employ pedagogic techniques such as the use of team-based learning, Socratic note-taking, Socratic Teaching to Learn, the PEE-ing procedure, and/or develop and employ new pedagogic techniques
  - Number of courses that use pedagogic techniques such as the use of team-based learning, Socratic note-taking, Socratic Teaching to Learn, the PEE-ing procedure, and as well as others
  - Number of students who apply to graduate schools, law schools, and other professional programs
  - Number of students who are admitted to graduate schools, law schools, and other professional programs
  - Results of our annual outcomes assessment
- 1.4 Strengthen career pathways through service learning, experiential learning, and research engagement
  - Number of students who submit their work to professional conferences, student and professional journals, and other professional venues
  - Number of students who receive grant funding to attend and/or present their work at professional conferences, student and professional journals, and other professional venues
  - Number of students who receive financial support for the Philosophy Department to attend and/or present their work at professional conferences, student and professional journals, and other professional venues

- the number of qualified undergraduate peer teaching in assistants in our classes
- 1.5 Promote and elevate the Department's programs
- Number teacher, advisors, or administrators who are liaisons with the Department of Philosophy
  - Number of teachers in the local high schools we receive feedback from in our mailout campaign
  - Number of other NMSU departments or programs that share or use philosophy course credit to support their majors, concentrations, or programs

**Goal 2: Elevate Research and Creativity**

**Objectives:**

- 2.1 Increase the number of papers/book proposals submitted to peer-reviewed professional journals/publishers
- 2.2 Increase the number of papers accepted for publication in peer-reviewed professional journals/book contracts signed with publishers
- 2.3 Increase the number of papers submitted for presentation at peer-reviewed professional conferences
- 2.4 Increase the number of papers accepted for presentation at peer-reviewed professional conferences
- 2.5 Increase the number grant proposals submitted
- 2.6 Increase the number of invited speakers that come to NMSU to present their work at our Departmental Colloquium
- 2.7 Work to create a bi-annual philosophy conference on a special topic to be hosted by the Philosophy Department and held at NMSU
- 2.8 Publish the proceedings of our bi-annual conference in an internationally recognized venue
- 2.9 Create an online philosophy journal edited and published by the Philosophy Department

**Actions:**

- 2.1-2.2 Increase the number of papers submitted to and accepted for publication in peer-reviewed professional journals
- (i) Submit more papers to peer-reviewed professional journals/book proposals to publishers
  - (ii) Share our ongoing projects with other members of the Department and work together as a department to read and provide feedback on each other's work and mentor each other in the development of our projects
  - (iii) Share our ongoing projects with other departments both at NMSU and elsewhere to received valuable feedback
- 2.3-2.4 Increase the number of papers submitted for presentation at peer-reviewed professional conferences
- (i) Submit more papers to peer-reviewed professional conferences
  - (ii) Share our ongoing projects with other members of the Department and work together as a department to read and provide feedback on each other's work and mentor each other in the development of our projects

**2.5 Increase the number grant proposals submitted**

- (i) Work together as a department submit grant proposals, whether small travel grants or larger research grants
- (ii) Work with other relevant departments on campus to submit interdisciplinary grant proposals
- (iii) Work with the Associate Dean of research in the College of Arts and Sciences and the VPR to help us submit grants and develop a cultural of searching for external funds to support our projects

**2.6 Increase the number of invited speakers that come to NMSU to present their work at our Departmental Colloquium**

- (i) Work together as a department to invite speakers on a regularly scheduled basis
- (ii) Use our professional connections to bring more guest speakers to campus
- (iii) Continue to foster the imagine of NMSU's Philosophy Department as an enriching, engaging, productive, and fun place to visit and receive feedback on one's work

**2.7 Create the first bi-annual philosophy conference to be held at and hosted by NMSU**

- (i) Work with other philosophers outside NMSU to bring nationally and internationally recognized experts to participate in our conference
- (ii) Focus the conference on an important and hot topic in which members of the NMSU department have and recognized expertise
- (iii) Use Philosophy Department endowment funds to help support the conference

**2.8 Publish the proceedings of our bi-annual conference in an internationally recognized Venue**

- (i) Work with other philosophers outside NMSU to help us make connections with publishers and to support the publication of the proceedings of our conference
- (ii) Have internationally recognized cutting-edge scholars who are already sought after by publishers participate

**2.9 Create an online philosophy journal edited and published by the Philosophy Department**

- (i) Become acquainted with the tools and techniques of online publishing
- (ii) Create a title and develop an editorial mission statement and vision for the journal
- (iii) Publicize the journal and advertise a call for papers

**Key Performance Indicators**

**2.1 Increase the number of papers/book proposals submitted to peer-reviewed professional journals/publishers**

- Number of papers/book proposals submitted to peer-reviewed professional journals/publishers

**2.2 Increase the number of papers accepted for publication in peer-reviewed professional journals/book contracts signed with publishers**

- Number of papers accepted for publication in peer-reviewed professional journals
- Number of book proposals signed with publishers

**2.3** Increase the number of papers submitted for presentation at peer-reviewed professional conferences

- Number of papers submitted for presentation at peer-reviewed professional conferences

**2.4** Increase the number of papers accepted for presentation at peer-reviewed professional conferences

- Number of papers accepted for presentation at peer-reviewed professional conferences

**2.5** Increase the number grant proposals submitted

- Number grant proposals submitted

**2.6** Increase the number of invited speakers that come to NMSU to present their work at our Departmental Colloquium

- Number of invited speakers that come to NMSU to present their work at our Departmental Colloquium

**2.7** Work to create a bi-annual philosophy conference on a special topic to be hosted by the Philosophy Department and held at NMSU

- Date and topic set and publicized for the conference
- Nationally and internationally recognized scholars solicited to participate and number of those who have accepted

**2.8** Publish the proceedings of our bi-annual conference in an internationally recognized venue

- Book contracts signed for publication of the conference proceedings

**Goal 3:** Amplify our Outreach to the Community

**Objectives:**

**3.1** Foster relationships with local high schools to integrate philosophy into their curriculum

**3.2** Provide lectures and educational programs in philosophy for the community at large

**Actions:**

**3.1** Foster relationships with local high schools to integrate philosophy into their curriculum

(i) Create development programs for local high school teachers that encourage them to integrate philosophy into their courses

(ii) Develop relationships with particular high school teachers/administrators who will serve as liaisons with the NMSU Philosophy Department

(iii) Support and advise the Philosophy clubs at local high schools

**3.2** Provide lectures and educational programs in philosophy for the community at large

(i) Continue to provide lectures to the Academy for Learning in Retirement as well as for other community organizations and public venues such as radio and television programs, and YouTube

(ii) Provide development programs for high school teachers

**Key Performance Indicators:**

**3.1** Foster relationships with local high schools to integrate philosophy into their curriculum

- Number of high schools for which we have established philosophy liaisons with our department
  - Number of development programs we provide for local high schools
- 3.2 Provide lectures and educational programs in philosophy for the community at large
- Number of lectures or other programs we provide to community organizations
  - Number of development programs we provide for local high schools

## 2020 Activities

### Goal 1

#### Objectives:

- 1.1 Increase the number of philosophy majors in our programs
- 1.2 Increase the number of philosophy majors who double-major in another program or departments
- 1.3 Increase the number of students we mentor and encourage to develop their work and submit it to professional conferences, student and professional journals, and other professional venues

#### Targets:

- Increase the total number of majors in our department, including Philosophy majors and Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law majors, by 50% by the end of 2020
- Develop relationships with liaisons in all four local high schools by the end of 2020
- Increase the number of double majors across both our B.A. programs by 50% by the end of 2020
- Double the number of students who submit work to professional conferences, student and professional journals, and other professional venues

### Goal 2

#### Objectives:

- 2.1 Increase the number of papers/book proposals submitted to peer-reviewed professional journals/publishers
- 2.2 Increase the number of papers submitted for presentation at peer-reviewed professional conferences
- 2.3 Increase the number grant proposals submitted
- 2.4 Create the first bi-annual philosophy conference to be held at and hosted by NMSU

#### Targets:

- One paper/book proposal submitted to peer-reviewed professional journals/publishers per faculty member in 2020
- One paper submitted for presentation at peer-reviewed professional conferences per faculty member in 2020
- One significant grant proposal submitted by the department in 2020

- Set dates for bi-annual conference, invite and confirm attendees, set the agenda and program

### **Goal 3**

#### **Objectives:**

- 3.1** Create development programs for local high school teachers that encourage them to integrate philosophy into their courses
- 3.2** Develop relationships with particular high school teachers/administrators who will serve as liaisons with the NMSU Philosophy Department

#### **Targets**

- Create and offer at least one day-long development program for Las Cruces high school teachers on integrating philosophy into their curriculum
- Develop relationships with liaisons in all four local high schools by the end of 2020