

Applied Ethics and Philosophy of Art and Culture Assessment and Curriculum Matrix

Learning outcomes

Since the Applied Ethics and the Philosophy of Art and Culture programs have a good deal of overlap and are managed on a combined curriculum map or matrix by the Philosophy Department, they are discussed here together. This matrix has 200 assessable items, which have evolved over a period of more than two years and now is in its final development phase. Given the vastness of this curriculum matrix, please consult

http://www.salemstate.edu/assets/images/ACA_soas/GOALS_AND_OBJECTIVES_ASSESSMENT_MATRIX_2009_spring_4.2.pdf

for detailed information. The inclusive global goals on this matrix from which each program's goals are drawn are (1) critical thinking, (2) knowledge of central areas of philosophy, (3) communication and research skills, (4) knowledge of and appreciation for ethics and aesthetics, (5) understanding of intersection of religion and culture, and (6) knowledge and care about issues of difference such as race, sex, and ethnicity.

Assessment methods

Each year seniors in the Applied Ethics and the Philosophy of Art and Culture programs, and in the Philosophy minor are surveyed. In addition every semester, in sections of the Medical Ethics course and the Business Ethics course, a pre- and post-test are administered. A rubric was created based on the curriculum matrix, which was used to assess the work of the 2010 graduating seniors in the Applied Ethics and Philosophy of Art and Culture programs. The department collected the seniors' best academic work--essays. These essays were read and evaluated according to the rubric.

Use of assessment data

Key findings and recommendations derived from the senior surveys are used to influence departmental courses and department activities. Results from the pre- and post-tests are used for course improvements, especially to address areas of weakness. Based on assessment data, the department introduced the new course Critical Reasoning and deleted Principles of Logic from the left hand side of the flow sheet, Division I Distribution requirement for the Applied Ethics and the Philosophy of Art and Culture programs.