

Master of Arts in Christian Apologetics

Spring 2024

Student Learning Objective 1: Students will demonstrate critical and constructive thought processes in cultural and apologetic engagement.

ATS Degree Program Goal – The capacity for critical and constructive theological reflection regarding the content and processes of the areas of specialized ministry

Alignment to Mission Statement: Proclamation

Measures	Baseline	Results Last Year/Improvement	Last Year's Benchmark / New Benchmark(s)	Action Plan Steps Recommended in 2024
<u>Direct measure(s)</u>	<u>Direct measure(s)</u>	<u>Direct measure(s)</u>	<u>Direct measure(s)</u>	<u>Direct measure(s)</u>
<i>Embedded Assignments</i> - PHIL 6303 - Logic <i>PHIL6370 Supervised Apologetics Ministry Practicum</i> - Mentor's Evaluation of Student Form [Project Design]	3.10 out of 4.0 85% of students receive a score of 'good'	Spring 2023: 3.0 (6) Spring 2024: 3.25 (3) Cumulative: 3.08 (9) Previous course offerings were not run through Canvas; embedded assignments were not retained by the professor of record. There is incomplete data collection for this time period, but professor of record indicates all students 'passed' their project.	3.1 out of 4.0 2023-2024 results fell short of the benchmark; monitor performance and keep benchmark the same. 85% receive 'good' or higher Keep benchmark the same while evaluating the project and practicum project.	Select or create new embedded assignment (2024-2025 academic year: Dr. Anderson). Develop rubric for new embedded assignment that serves both class grading and program assessment. Dr. Anderson will be the new faculty of record for PHIL 6370 beginning Fall 2024. Create rubric to evaluate assignment in Canvas.
<u>Indirect Measure(s)</u>	<u>Indirect Measure(s)</u>	<u>Indirect Measure(s)</u>	<u>Indirect Measure(s)</u>	
<i>Student Evaluations</i> Questions 2 and 7 (combined average) from PHIL 6370) 2. The content of this course expanded my knowledge and skills in this area of study. 7. The assignments in this course were appropriate and helped me learn the subject matter.	4.7 out of 5.0	Question 2 Fall 2021: 4.8 Fall 2023: 5.0 OVERALL: 4.9 Question 7 Fall 2021: 4.8 Fall 2023: 5.0 OVERALL: 4.9	4.7 out of 5.0 Keep benchmark the same for both questions. With new faculty teaching the course starting Fall 2024, monitor student satisfaction with the Apologetics Practicum	Monitor student satisfaction with the Supervised Apologetics Ministry Practicum.

Student Learning Objective 2: Students will be able to design, implement, lead, and assess an apologetic ministry within their contexts.

ATS Degree Program Goal – Skill in the design, implementation, and assessment of ministry in these specialized areas

Alignment to Mission Statement: Proclamation

Measures	Baseline	Results Last Year/ Improvement	New Benchmark(s)	Action Plan Steps Recommended in 2024
<u>Direct measure(s)</u> PHIL6370 Supervised Apologetics Ministry Practicum Mentor's Evaluation of Student Form [Deployment of Project]	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> 85% of students receive a score of 'good'	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> Previous course offerings were not run through Canvas; embedded assignments were not retained by the professor of record. There is incomplete data collection for this time period, but professor of record indicates all students 'passed' their project.	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> 85% receive 'good' or higher Keep benchmark the same while evaluating the project and practicum project.	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> Dr. Anderson will be new faculty of record for PHIL 6370 beginning Fall 2024. Create rubric to evaluate assignment in Canvas.
<u>Indirect measure(s)</u>				
<i>Student Evaluations</i> Questions 2 and 6 (combined average of these two questions from PHIL 6370) 2. The content of this course expanded my knowledge and skills in this area of study. 6. I can take things I learned in this course and apply them to my ministry situation.	4.7 out of 5.0	Question 2 Fall 2021: 4.8 Fall 2023: 5.0 OVERALL: 4.9 Question 6 Fall 2021: 4.8 Fall 2023: 5.0 OVERALL: 4.9	4.7 out of 5.0 Keep benchmark the same for both questions. With new faculty teaching the course starting Fall 2024, monitor student satisfaction with the Apologetics Practicum	Monitor student satisfaction with the Supervised Apologetics Ministry Practicum.

Student Learning Objective 3: Students will demonstrate their understanding of and ability to communicate biblical, theological, and historical truth in settings that require the defense of the Christian faith.

ATS Degree Program Goal – An understanding of the various disciplines that undergird the area of specialized ministry

Alignment to Mission Statement: Proclamation

Measures	Baseline	Results Last Year/Improvement	New Benchmark(s)	Action Plan Steps Recommended in 2024
<u>Direct measure(s)</u> Embedded Assignments PHIL6305 - Problem of Evil (moral argument for God essay)	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> 3.0 out of 4.0	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> 2.9 (Sp '24) Short of benchmark, but 2 papers were incomplete, while 4 were late (out of 9), skewing the data.	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> 3.0 out of 4.0 Since benchmark was nearly met despite skewed data, benchmark should be retained.	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> Require earlier due date for embedded assignment, with more wiggle room for late completion and submission. Revise essay guidelines (Dr. Anderson – Fall 24) to incorporate 'biblical, theological, and historical truth' language. Develop new rubric for grading the assignment which corresponds precisely to the Assessment benchmark numbering (Dr. Anderson – Fall 24).
<u>Indirect measure(s)</u> Student Evaluations Question 2 (from PHIL5301 and PHIL6305) 2. The content of this course expanded my knowledge and skills in this area of study.	<u>Indirect measure(s)</u> 4.7 out of 5.0	<u>Indirect measure(s)</u> PHIL 5301 Avg 4.6 - Spr 21 Hyb 5.0 - F 21 Flex 4.4 - Sp 22 Hyb 5.0 - F 22 NOBTS 3.6 - F 22 OnL 4.9 - Sp 23 NOBTS 3.8 - F 23 Hyb 4.8 - F 23 Hyb 5.0 - F 23 NOBTS 5.0 PHIL 6305 No data for the time period	<u>Indirect measure(s)</u> 4.7 Average fell shy of benchmark. Two classes stood out as below benchmark – the on-campus iterations in the 2022-2023 academic year. Keep the benchmark in place.	<u>Indirect measure(s)</u> The assessment jury deliberated over possible explanations for the variation in results, but noted that the Course Evaluations improved toward the benchmark as we moved into 2023-2024. Seek to establish standardized syllabus for all sections of PHIL 5301 from Fall 2024 onward.

Student Learning Objective 4: Students will show personal and spiritual maturation in their development as Christian apologists.

ATS Degree Program Goal – Growth in personal and spiritual maturity

Alignment to Mission Statement: Servanthood and Devotion

Measures	Baseline	Results Last Year/ Improvement	New Benchmark(s)	Action Plan Steps Recommended in 2024
<u>Direct measure(s)</u> <i>Embedded Assignments</i> PHIL 6305 – Problem of Evil Suffering: Personal Reflection Paper	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> 3.10 out of 4.0	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> 3.15 (Sp 24) Data skewed by one 0 (out of 9 students). Benchmark still met.	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> 3.25 out of 4.0 Given nature of assignment, and the skewed Sp 24 data still meeting benchmark, the benchmark should be raised.	<u>Direct measure(s)</u> Develop an assignment rubric that will equally serve the course grading and program assessment purposes (Fall 2024: Dr. Anderson).
<u>Indirect measure(s)</u> <i>Graduate Student Questionnaire</i> Questions 17k, 18i, 23f 17k. How effective was your program or degree in facilitating your Ability to live your faith in daily life? 18i. How effective was your education in facilitating your ability to interact effectively with those of religious traditions other than your own? 23f. In your overall experience during your graduate program, is your faith stronger than when you came?	<u>Indirect measures(s)</u> 4.0 out of 5.0	<u>Indirect measures(s)</u> 17k Avg 4.2 - Sp 22 (5): 4.4 - F 22 (24): 4.71 - Sp 23 (16): 4.6 - F 23 (1): 3 18i Avg 4.5 - Sp 22: 4.2 - F 22: 4.25 - Sp 23: 4.4 - F 23: 5 23f Avg 4.9 - Sp 22: 4.8 - F 22: 4.75 - Sp 23: 4.9 - F 23: 5 Benchmark exceeded for all three questions.	<u>Indirect measures(s)</u> 4.1 out of 5.0 Student satisfaction varies by semester, but is consistently higher than the benchmark. Raise the benchmark slightly and continue to monitor student satisfaction.	<u>Indirect measure(s)</u> Continue to monitor student satisfaction through GSQ

Executive Summary

The Assessment Map for the M.A. in Christian Apologetics was just revised in Fall 2023. In addition, long-tenured professors in the discipline have recently retired, and the new program coordinator has been on faculty for just over a year. It is also worth mentioning that several direct assessment measures have very limited data sets to compile and interpret. Hence, while it appears that assessment benchmarks were met or exceeded, the changing context makes it difficult to draw any significant conclusions from the data.

As leadership of the MACA transitions, there are a number of actionable items stemming from this year's assessment process.

- (1) Revise embedded assignment description for PHIL 6303 (Logic) to better reflect SLO #1. The resulting assignment then needs a new grading rubric to serve the purposes of both Class Grading and Program Assessment. Responsible faculty: Program Coordinator (Dr. Anderson) in consultation with most common faculty of record (Dr. Walker).
- (2) The embedded assignments for PHIL 6370 (Supervised Apologetics Ministry Practicum) need to be significantly revised. New assignment descriptions need to be written for the Project Design proposal (SLO #1) and Project Deployment report (SLO #2) to fit class needs and assessment requirements. Responsible faculty: Program Coordinator (Dr. Anderson), who is also the primary faculty of record.
- (3) The 'Moral Argument' embedded assignment for PHIL 6305 (Problem of Evil) needs to be slightly revised to include language compatible with SLO #3. The resulting assignment then needs a new grading rubric to serve the purposes of both Class Grading and Program Assessment. Responsible faculty: Program Coordinator (Dr. Anderson), who is also the primary faculty of record.
- (4) The 'Personal Reflection' embedded assignment for PHIL 6305 (Problem of Evil) needs to be slightly revised to include language compatible with SLO #4. The resulting assignment then needs a new grading rubric to serve the purposes of both Class Grading and Program Assessment. Responsible faculty: Program Coordinator (Dr. Anderson), who is also the primary faculty of record.