

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR
College of Liberal Arts
Philosophy**

STRENGTHS:

- Philosophy teaches core critical thinking skills that are vital for all students.
- This foundation also prepares students to be lifelong learners and to think critically and innovatively about emerging problems like climate change.
- Philosophy allows students to become novel and creative interdisciplinary thinkers.
- Program has successfully collaborated with UAA Philosophy to reopen the major.

WEAKNESSES:

- Loss of faculty has led to limited offerings
- “Negative press’ from the previous suspension has resulted in a slower growth post-reinstatement.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Philosophy students nationwide will be in demand in a wide variety of fields in the rapidly changing marketplace.
- Employers increasingly recognize the skills taught through Philosophy.
- The program has developed a unique collaboration with UAA and UAS that could be strengthened
- Courses for high school seniors and volunteer classes for Lifelong Learning and interviews for local TV and radio stations and print media raise UAF’s profile.

THREATS:

- According to the program’s report, some academic advisors steer students away from PHIL classes.
- Philosophy is a discipline with a lack of opportunities for external funding.
- There is a common misunderstanding about what philosophy is and why it is important.

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

- PHIL 101 is a GER course and the skills they teach are central to our learning outcomes.
- The study of Philosophy prepares students to be lifelong learners and to think critically and innovatively about emerging problems like climate change.

INDICATORS OF QUALITY:

- The program has high academic standards that meet a number of UAF general education learning outcomes.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

SCH

Metric	Detail	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
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SCH	HUM - Lower	87	93	90	51	75
SCH	PHIL - Lower	297	273	432	408	354
SCH	PHIL - Upper	453	417	324	237	207
SCH	PHIL - External	273	207	231	240	225

Majors

Metric	Detail	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Majors	BA Philosophy	13	8	9	11	11
Majors	BI Premajor - Philosophy	1	0	0	0	0

Degrees

Metric	Detail	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Degrees	BA Philosophy	0	0	3	1	1

FTEs

Metric	Detail	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
FTEs	Faculty FTEs	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5
FTEs	Staff FTEs	0.4	0.4	0	0	0

Expenditures

Metric	Program	Detail	FY20
Instructional Expenditures	CLA Philosophy and Humanities	Unrestricted	184851.8
Salaries and Benefits	CLA Philosophy and Humanities	Unrestricted	182918.6

Philosophy BA

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation: 2 votes		
Continuation w/ improvement plan: 2 votes		
Deletion: 4 votes		

Split vote: The program needs an improvement plan for enrollment and graduation rates. If the program continues, there should be a 2-year follow-up.