

Program Review: Action Plan - Progress Report

Philosophy - All Programs

February 28, 2026

Curriculum and Assurance of Learning			
Goal 1: Discontinue Extended Minor			
Rationale: ERR Recommendation #1: Eliminate the extended minor. The extended minor appears to offer students no advantage over the regular minor, as it does not credentialise distinctive student achievement.			
Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
Submit proposal for discontinuance to College of Arts Council			
Submit proposal for discontinuance to APPC		The extended minor was discontinued in September 2024	
Goal 2: Submit PHIL courses to satisfy BA requirements (Written, oral, or visual communication; Quantitative literacy; Civic engagement; Inter-cultural engagement)			
Rationale: EER Recommendation #2: Consider whether there are additional courses that would be suitable candidates for meeting BA competencies in the following areas: Writing; Quantitative literacy; Civic engagement; and Intercultural engagement.			
Especially after the recent revisions made to Philosophy's curriculum, there are PHIL courses that should be designated as alternates for meeting core competencies. This would be in line with practices in many other institutions in British Columbia, where philosophy courses are relied upon not only for education in Critical Thinking, but also for core Writing, Communication, and Quantitative Literacy skills, and in some cases for Science Literacy as well. This enables more students to meet their core requirements by taking courses in philosophy and as a result indirectly supports enrolment in upper-year courses.			
Possible requirements:			
- Written, oral, or visual communication: PHIL 101 (Introduction to Philosophy), PHIL 110 (Introduction to Ethics and Moral Problems), PHIL 120 (Knowledge and Reality) - Quantitative literacy: PHIL 300 (Symbolic Logic in Context) - Civic engagement: PHIL 365 (Teaching Children Philosophy) - Inter-cultural engagement: PHIL 311 (Contemporary Political Philosophy: Recognition and Resurgence), PHIL 353 (Classical Indian Philosophy), PHIL 354			

(Classical Chinese Philosophy), PHIL 355 (Indigenous Philosophy)			
Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
Write memos justifying the designations			The department will revisit the submission of courses for the core competencies starting fall 2026
Submit courses to CACC	Philosophy 300 is being converted into a second-year course in order to be submitted for consideration for the quantitative reasoning requirement.	The revised course is on the agenda for the March CACC meeting	
Goal 3: Create Associate Certificates (pre-law, cognitive science, philosophy for children) Rationale: ERR Recommendation #3: Create certificates credentials for achievement in small clusters of related PHIL courses, such as ethics and/or philosophy for children. The possibility of gaining a certificate in a subarea of philosophy would help students showcase their unique educational journey to future employers. Given that a large proportion of UFV students pursue careers in education, such certificates would be relevant to their career path. Moreover, if such a program were created as an Associate Certificate, it would require few additional courses from students. As such, small certificate credentials could be an effective incentive for students to take more philosophy courses.			
Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
Create Program Working Group for Pre-Law Certificate	Submission of Pre-Law Certificate to PDQA	The working group is in place and a proposal is being developed.	
Create Program Working Group for Cognitive Science	Submission of Cognitive Science Certificate to PDQA	A proposal has been generated and it is working its way through the institutional approval processes.	
Create Program Working Group for Philosophy for Children	Submission of Philosophy for Children Certificate to PDQA		Formation of a working group.
Goal 4: Create 100-level special topics Rationale: ERR Recommendations #4 and #5: Develop more courses in applied philosophy, especially in applied ethics, with the objective of serving the needs in ethical studies for students in other disciplines and of attracting students by means of courses that have proved popular in other institutions. Create a new			

first-year course with changing topics and titles that are attractive to students who may not otherwise take a philosophy course.

Many other departments have successfully adopted this strategy in other departments across Canada. Topics for such a course are meant to be on the lighter side of philosophical theory and be directly attractive to students starting college who otherwise would be daunted even by an introductory course in philosophy. Rotating topics that have frequently been used for such a course in other institutions include philosophy of sex and love, philosophy of science fiction, philosophy of food, philosophy of death, philosophy of conspiracy theories, philosophy of witchcraft, etc.

Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
Create 199 Course outline + memo	Course has been created and approved		
Implement PHIL 199	First section of PHIL 199 will be offered in 2026-27		

Student Achievement

Goal 7: Maintain admission to the major as is, after completion of 30 credits

Rationale: ERR Recommendation #1: Maintain the current admissions practice.

There currently is no direct admission of first-year students to the philosophy major. The external review panel and the department agree that there would be very little gain from a direct admission of first-year students to the philosophy major. Although the new Philosophy 12 course has become one of the most popular Social Studies electives according to BCSSTA numbers, it remains the case that comparatively few students have encountered philosophy in high school. As a result, it is to be expected that few students would find direct admission in philosophy attractive. The Dean notes that direct admission to the majors in the BA will be under discussion and that adding this option to the Philosophy major, while maintaining the option for students to declare after 30 credits, might be advantageous.

Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
No action needed at this point	NA	NA	NA

Goal 8: Create space for Philosophy Student Association to meet.

Rationale: ERR Recommendation #2: Seek ways to make the new physical space of the department more functional for students.

Student suggested that having a more readily accessible space to philosophize together would improve the cohorts' cohesion. They also suggested that the space would benefit from having a hallway board dedicated to posting ads about philosophical events would make the space more appealing. On the other

hand, the shared faculty office (D3119) has led to students pointing out that, during meetings with their professors or instructors, it is more difficult to have a sustained philosophical discussion than it was in the old space.

Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
Reach out to Humanities Student Associations			Department will revisit this item in fall 2026.
Find space on campus for multiple student associations to use	The Philosophy Students Association can access the department's small meeting room.		

Goal 9: Develop sustained speakers' series

Rationale: ERR Recommendation #3: Develop a more sustained speaker series.

Academic talks are an important resource both for students and faculty, as it builds connections, stimulates the exploration of underappreciated ideas, and supports a shared sense of the current state of the discipline. Accordingly, the review panel encourages the department to have a more developed speakers' series.

Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
Designate a faculty member as Event Coordinator	A faculty member has been designated as event coordinator		
Secure financial support for speakers	In the current fiscal environment, it seems difficult to secure additional funding for such events.		
Start planning for speakers for 2024-2025	The department has and will continue to invite guest speakers		

Governance and Resources

Goal 10: Increase Departmental Coordinator support

Rationale: ERR Recommendation #1: Increase departmental coordinator support from 30% to 100% to support activities meant to make students more aware of the programs and events Philosophy offers.

Recent changes to the department's curriculum and the structure of its major bode well for its adaptation to future trends in philosophy. The recent changes together with plans to advertise opportunities in philosophy to more students should help draw more students into the program. Some of the planned actions include creation of a philosophy newsletter and blackboard page to provide students with more information about upcoming courses, events, research and employment opportunities, fostering of the UFV philosophy student association, advising support for students, and sustaining a speaker's series to highlight philosophical research in the Fraser Valley. Staffing increase will be explored, along with other alternatives, including work study position(s).

Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
Assess workload of Philosophy coordinator and resources needed to support activities and events described above (speaker series + Brightspace + social media + event coordination + course promotion)			Work on this item will continue. In the current fiscal environment, it is hard for the department to gauge how to do this effectively.

Goal 10: Succession planning for junior faculty

Rationale: ERR #3: Seek to limit the administrative burden imposed on junior faculty members so as to enable them to pursue their research agenda in their most productive years.

Placing too much administrative burden on more junior faculty members unavoidably makes it difficult to pursue an active research agenda

Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
Succession-planning to not consider pre-tenured faculty for Head			The department continues to work on succession planning.

Planning and Sustainability

Goal 11: Adding a new hire line in applied philosophy (applied ethics and philosophy of law)

Rationale: ERR Recommendation #1: Create a new full time equivalent position, potentially in applied ethics or some area of applied philosophy.

Further program development in applied philosophy will improve the robustness of the program. The fact was recognized in the previous program review,

which recommended adding a faculty position in applied ethics, and the current review panel agrees with the previous reviewers. A propitious area in which a student majoring in another field would want to take one or more courses would be applied ethics. Applied ethics is highly valued on the current job market and courses in applied ethics are readily accessible to students with few prerequisites. Applied ethics (and applied philosophy more generally) provides opportunities for multidisciplinary study and employment opportunities. Students with whom we spoke expressed an interest in studying with future faculty members with cross disciplinary expertise, and specialists in applied ethics often fit this description. For many people the ethical quandaries that draw them to philosophy arise after they become familiar with a context like health care, business, engineering, agriculture or technology. The department has recently developed a course in environmental ethics, but there are many more appealing options to explore, including courses in bioethics, business ethics, food ethics, engineering ethics, AI ethics, as well as topics at the intersection of ethics and the law.

Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
Monitor growth in Philosophy course enrolment with Dean and request a new position in applied ethics			It is difficult to imagine that progress on this item can be made in the current fiscal environment.

Goal 12: Create more work-integrated learning (WIL) possibilities

Rationale: ERR Recommendation #3: Explore WIL possibilities in environmental ethics and in Indigenous ways of knowing.

The program's curriculum provides work-integrated learning, something that was remarked upon and appreciated by students interviewed as part of the program review process. We would encourage consideration of these other opportunities for work-integrated learning, given that most philosophy majors seek career paths outside of graduate education in philosophy.

Task	Key Milestone/Measurable Outcome	Progress Made	Planned Action
Work with the Partnership Development and Practicum Coordinator to identify practicum opportunities for Philosophy students			The department will revisit this item in fall 2026. The fact that a number of regular faculty members retired, and have been recently replaced, has made it difficult for the department to sustain work on such matters.
Create External Advisory Board			To be revisited in fall 2026