

Doctor of Philosophy - Apologetics

PLO 1: The student will demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of Christian Apologetics.

ATS Degree Program Goal – 5.13 a gaining a comprehensive knowledge of the discipline(s) studied;

Measures (means of program assessment)	Criteria for Success (benchmark set last cycle)	Results (report, summarize, reflect)—disaggregate by location and semester	Use of Results (make action plan to reach criteria, set new criteria if needed, AND discuss success of previous cycle's plans)
<i>Direct Measures (at least one)</i> 1. Comprehensive Exam Evaluation Rubric – Measure percentage of students who achieve a score of “pass” or above. <i>Indirect Measures (at least one)</i> 1. End of Semester Supervision Report questions: “Are you satisfied with your progress and development as a student?” and “How often did you meet with your supervisor this semester?” Use questions to determine student satisfaction with supervisor.	DM#1. No benchmark set – first cycle using measure. IM#1. No benchmark set – first cycle using measure.	DM#1. NA – No PhD students completed Oral or Comprehensive exams in Apologetics during assessment period. IM#1. 2/3 students surveyed reported a positive interaction with their faculty supervisor for a total percentage of 66.66%. Reflection: - The data for the indirect measure are insufficient to accurately assess the program. Due to changes in the assessment measure, only one semester worth of data (spring 2023) was available for the indirect measure. - The PhD in Apologetics is a small program (6 students as of the 2023-24 AY). While the program is growing, the small number of students limits the sample size for data collection.	- Set benchmark for DM #1 as 80% of students receiving a grade of “pass” or higher. - Set benchmark for IM #1 as a 3.5 for question 3 on the End of Semester Supervision and Program Evaluation. - Revise Indirect Measure to use Question #3 on a new survey to be called “End of Semester Supervision and Program Evaluation PhD Student Survey.” This survey will be administered by the Research Doctoral Office at the end of each semester. See attached survey. Completed.

		The End of Semester survey does not ask students about program satisfaction directly. This measure could be accomplished more directly using a revised survey that asked pointed questions about student satisfaction.	
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PLO 2: The student will demonstrate competence in research and writing by producing original research contributing to scholarship in Christian Apologetics advancing theological understanding within Christian contexts.

ATS Degree Program Goal – 5.13b developing competence to engage in original research and writing that advances theological understanding for the academy and for communities of faith

Measures (means of program assessment)	Criteria for Success (benchmark set last cycle)	Results (report, summarize, reflect)—disaggregate by location and semester	Use of Results (make action plan to reach criteria, set new criteria if needed, AND discuss success of previous cycle's plans)
Direct Measures (at least one) 1. Dissertation Defense Evaluation Rubric– Measure percentage of students who achieve a score of “pass” or above. 2. Based on student reporting to the PhD office via PhD post, measure student participation in professional societies/conferences and publication in the field. Indirect Measures (at least one) 1. End of Semester Supervision Report questions: “What did you discuss or work on with your supervisor during these meetings?” Use questions to determine	DM#1. No benchmark set – first cycle using measure. DM#2. No benchmark set – first cycle using measure IM#1. No benchmark set – first semester using measure.	DM#1. NA – No Apologetics PhD students defended a dissertation in assessment period. DM#2. 1/6 students in program reported activity in a professional society or a publication to the PhD office. IM#1. 1/3 or 33% of Apologetics students surveyed reported discussing their research with a supervisor. Reflection: The data for the indirect measure are insufficient to accurately assess the program. Due to changes in	- Benchmark for DM #1 to be set as “80% of students will achieve a “pass” or higher on their dissertation defense. - Benchmark for DM #2 to be 50% percent of students will have either a published article, book review, or presented at a professional society. - Set benchmark for IM #1 as a 3.0 for question 4 on the End of Semester Supervision and Program Evaluation. - Improve collection of student publication/professional society involvement using

percentage of students discussed research with faculty member.		the assessment measure, only one semester worth of data (spring 2023) was available for the indirect measure. • The PhD in Apologetics is a small program (6 students as of the 2023-24 AY). While the program is growing, the small number of students limits the sample size for data collection. • The End of Semester survey does not ask students directly about their participation in professional societies/publication in the field. This measure could be accomplished more directly using a revised survey that asked pointed questions about student satisfaction.	direct question on End of Semester Survey. • Revise Indirect Measure to use Question #4 on a new survey to be called “End of Semester Supervision and Program Evaluation PhD Student Survey.” This survey will be administered by the Research Doctoral Office at the end of each semester. See attached survey. Completed.
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PLO 3: The student will demonstrate a capacity for a vocation of theological scholarship for research, writing, teaching, and learning whether in the academy, Christian ministry, counseling, or other areas of professional leadership.

ATS Degree Program Goal – 5.13c and demonstrating capacities for the vocation of theological scholarship in research, teaching and learning, and formation.

Measures (means of program assessment)	Criteria for Success (benchmark set last cycle)	Results (report, summarize, reflect)—disaggregate by location and semester	Use of Results (make action plan to reach criteria, set new criteria if needed, AND discuss success of previous cycle’s plans)
Direct Measures (at least one) 1. Teaching in Higher Education Portfolio Rubric 2. Students who have guest lectured and/or have Teaching Contracts	DM#1. No benchmark set – first semester using measure. DM#2. No benchmark set – first semester using measure.	DM#1. No results were gathered due to changes in the teaching in Higher Education Course. DM#2. No results were gathered. DM#3. No results were gathered.	• Set benchmark for criteria for success for next assessment for direct and indirect measures. • Eliminate DM #1.

3. Students serving in vocational ministry, counseling, or other areas of professional leadership Indirect Measures (at least one) 1. End of Semester Supervision Report questions: “What did you discuss or work on with your supervisor during these meetings?” Use questions to determine percentage of students discussed teaching with supervisors.	DM#3. No benchmark set – first semester using measure. IM#1. No benchmark set – first semester using measure.	IM#1. 0/3 or 0% Apologetics Students reported discussing teaching with their supervisor. Reflection: • Changes in staff in the PhD office made collection of data difficult to the point that some key pieces of data were not gathered on behalf of the academic program during the assessment period. • The Research Doctoral Office in concert with the program coordinator for the PhD in Apologetics changed the assessment measures for all PhD programs in the fall semester of 2023. This did not give adequate time to collect data for direct measures #2 and #3. • The data for the indirect measure are insufficient to accurately assess the program. Due to changes in the assessment measure, only one semester worth of data (spring 2023) was available for the indirect measure. • The End of Semester survey does not ask students directly about whether they discussed teaching with their supervisor. This measure could be accomplished more	• Set benchmark for DM#2 to 20% of students report teaching. • Set benchmark for DM #3 at 80% of students serving in vocational ministry, counseling, or other areas of professional leadership. • Set benchmark for IM #1 as a 3.5 for question 7 on the End of Semester Supervision and Program Evaluation. • Revise Indirect Measure to use Question #7 on a new survey to be called “End of Semester Supervision and Program Evaluation PhD Student Survey.” This survey will be administered by the Research Doctoral Office at the end of each semester. See attached survey. Completed.
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