

**STRATEGIC PLAN  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**March 23, 2011**

**MISSION**

The mission of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies is 1) to preserve and effectively transmit to undergraduate and graduate students knowledge about the philosophies and religions that have shaped and continue to shape the history and cultures of the world; 2) to develop in our students the ability to read, to understand, and to think critically and synthetically; 3) to generate new knowledge and deeper understanding of philosophical and religious matters as a contribution to knowledge in these disciplines; and 4) to make professional expertise in philosophy and religious studies available to meet the needs of the larger community in appropriate ways.

**VISION**

The vision of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies is to be a community of teacher-scholars of the highest caliber who work together effectively to accomplish the mission of the department.

**VALUES:**

- **Discovery:** promoting a climate conducive to generating high-quality scholarly contributions in the faculty's respective areas of expertise.
- **Learning:** inspiring students to be passionate about learning and intellectually self-reliant.
- **Diversity:** fostering cultural and intellectual diversity within the department.
- **Engagement:** encouraging service to the university, the profession, and the community.

**GOALS:**

- **Discovery:** To generate new knowledge in the faculty's respective areas of expertise.

**Performance indicators:**

- Number of publications by faculty, especially in high-quality venues
- Number and amount of research grants received by faculty
- Number of professional presentations by faculty

**Strategies:**

- Make faculty aware of research requirements for promotion and tenure.
- Disseminate announcements of grant opportunities.
- Encourage peer review of grant and sabbatical proposals
- Supply travel money for participation at conferences.
- Conduct an annual review of faculty with respect to research and publication.

- **Learning:** To maintain or increase the number of students receiving education in the disciplines of philosophy and religious studies.

**Performance indicators:**

- Number of Master's degree graduates per year
- Number of students majoring in philosophy or concentrating in religious studies
- Number of graduating majors or concentrators per year
- Number of student credit hours generated per full-time employee per year
- Number of students minoring in philosophy or religious studies

**Strategies:**

- Seek qualified faculty to replace those that have retired or left.
- Seek two more graduate assistantships to bring the Master's program out of its status as a perpetual low-completer program
- Make students in current classes aware of courses offered by department next semester.
- Retain majors by requiring mandatory advising for majors and concentrators.
- Offer at least one large-enrollment class (over 100) in philosophy and one in religious studies each year.

- **Diversity:** To maintain or increase the number of women and minority faculty in the department.

**Performance indicators:**

- Number of women and minority faculty in the department

**Strategies:**

- Continue to pay attention to issues of diversity in future hires.

- **Engagement:** To provide service to the university, the academic community, and the community at large

**Performance indicators:**

- Number of faculty serving on university committees
- Number of faculty serving as editors or on editorial boards for journals
- Number of faculty serving as referees for journals or presses
- Number of faculty with a leadership role in professional associations or societies
- Number of faculty making presentations to or being consulted by community organizations

**Strategies:**

- Encourage faculty to submit their names to the LSU experts list