

Academic Placement Data and Analysis Data Entry Notes

Entering graduates into the APDA database is fairly intuitive—all you need to do is complete one entry per graduate for whatever academic program you're working on. Mostly, this means searching "FirstName LastName philosophy" in your search engine of choice and sifting through the results until you find the info you need. Many of the necessary fields can often be filled by the placement page at the institution, but these pages will often be missing important information. Sometimes they're out of date, sometimes they don't think it's important to list areas of specialization, things like that; many universities will not list an email for each graduate at all, leaving it up to you to find one.

All this to say, it's important to search beyond the placement page provided by any graduate program if you want to get accurate, current information on its graduates. These notes are meant to help you figure out where to look for this information. It can seem overwhelming at first, but it gets much easier with time!

What to Look For

The best source for a graduate's information is a *recent CV*. There are a couple ways to find one: they are usually easy to find on someone's personal website, and sometimes are also included on their PhilPeople profile, Academia.edu profile or faculty profile at the university they work at. A CV should have most if not of all the information you need, so it's good to look for one of those first. Even when someone has gone into a nonacademic job, it's worth a search for their CV.

If the information on someone's CV conflicts with the information on their program's placement page, prioritize the information on the CV. It's a better source for what a graduate feels their area of study is, and often includes information not on the program's placement page.

Good Places to Find a CV Include: Personal Websites, PhilPeople Profiles, Academia.edu Profiles, Faculty Profiles (sometimes)

Sometimes, you won't be able to find a CV or the one you *do* find will be fairly out of date. When this happens, there are a few ways to piece together a graduate's information. Below, I'm splitting them up by section for ease of reading. There will be a lot of crossover between these sections, so if you're looking for something specific you can just jump right to it instead of reading through all of them.

Personal Details

Here are places where people will list personal details like their name, their year of graduation, and their email address:

- *On the Program's Placement Page:* usually, a placement page will list a graduate's name and the year they graduated. Sometimes the page will even list an email, though this is less common. On some rare occasions, a placement page will be completely anonymous. When this happens, you need to look up a list of recent dissertations either through that institution's library or through ProQuest.
 - If you're doing a ProQuest search, make sure to do an Advanced Search. That way, you can make sure you're only looking at results from one specific program (by entering one in the Universities/institutions section), in the subject of philosophy (by entering it into the Subjects section). Also, be sure to check the box that specifies Doctoral dissertations, or else Master's theses will be included in your results. *When you're doing a ProQuest search* make sure to click through to the details of each dissertation. Some are listed under philosophy but can actually be things like literature or political science.
- *On their Personal Website:* there's often a 'Contact Me' page on someone's personal website that lists their email.
- *On their Academia.edu Profile:* there's often an email listed on someone's profile on Academia.edu.

Areas of Specialization

Here are a few places where people will list their AOS:

- *On the Program's Placement Page:* it's not uncommon for a program to list the broad term (like LEMM, Value Theory, History and Traditions, or Science/Logic/Math) for someone's AOS on the placement page itself. You can often extrapolate a graduate's primary area from the title of their dissertation, if that's available, or you can find it in another place.
- *On their Personal Website:* most personal websites have a blurb on their homepage or under an 'About Me' section. These areas usually list someone's area of study.
- *On their PhilPeople Profile:* on PhilPeople, many graduates have listed areas of interest. These are usually a really good guide to finding both someone's primary area and the overall category of their study. When someone has 'Logic' listed in their area of interest, you know that they belong to the Science/Logic/Math category and that their primary area is Logic. Again, it's good to check this against their dissertation, but that is sometimes not possible.

- *On their Academia.edu Profile:* here it can get a little murky. On Academia.edu, graduates can tag their profile with a variety of interests. When someone only has one or two, you can usually get a good idea of their AOS, but it gets harder when they have many interests tagged.
- *On LinkedIn:* this is a little rarer, but people will sometimes list their AOS on their LinkedIn profile, either next to their degree in the Education section or beneath their name at the top.

Sometimes there's no shortcut, and you will have to read someone's dissertation abstract to understand what they studied. While this can get confusing, even theses are often tagged in whatever library they're archived in.

Placements

Here are some places where you can find a graduate's placement:

- *On the Program's Placement Page:* this is what the placement page is for, though it's always worth double checking the information there. If it lists a graduate as having a tenure-track job at X University, look up that graduate's name along with the university's name to be sure that it's accurate.
- *On their Personal Website:* even when someone doesn't have a CV available, they can sometimes list at least their current placement somewhere on their website. This information can really be anywhere; it might be with their research, it might be in an 'About Me' section, it might be on their contact page. While it can be more difficult to get the year of someone's placement from this, it's good to still list whatever they mention.
- *On their Academia.edu Profile:* people will often list departmental affiliations on their Academia.edu profiles. These affiliations take the format "X University, Philosophy, JobTitle" and can be okay sources for someone's placement.
- *On LinkedIn:* this can be a good source for the years of people's placements, as LinkedIn is usually a chronological list, but it can be tough to find out what someone's position at a university was from their LinkedIn page.
 - LinkedIn is often your *best* source for someone who has gone into nonacademic work, especially if they don't have a CV available on a personal website somewhere. Just remember to look for their degree under the Education section to be sure that the person you are looking at on LinkedIn is the graduate you are looking for.