

**CWRU Action Form for Majors/Minors/Programs/Sequences/Degrees**  
(instructions on back)

Docket # \_\_\_\_\_

College/School: Arts and Sciences

Department: Philosophy

PROPOSED:  major  
 minor  
 program  
 sequence  
 degree

TITLE: Minor in Ethics

**APPROVED**

*A.S. Exec. Comm 10-11-12*

*A.S. Faculty 10-19-12*  
*A.S. CEP 10-31-12*

EFFECTIVE: Fall (semester) 2012 (year)

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Philosophy Department's Minor in Ethics allows undergraduate students in any field to pursue a concentration of studies in Ethics from multiple perspectives: theoretical and practical, philosophical and empirical/ interdisciplinary. The goal is to encourage analytical reflection on the principles and situations of ethical action, social, interpersonal, or individual, in historical and contemporary contexts.

The existing minor in philosophy requires PHIL 101 (Introduction to Philosophy) and four other PHIL courses at the 200-300 level. The Ethics minor differs from the existing minor in that PHIL 305 (Ethics), PHIL 205 (Contemporary Moral Problems) and one of several identified courses in a field other than Philosophy are required, in addition to PHIL 101.

Justification/Learning outcomes:

Students learn to identify ethical problems and opportunities. At the end of their study, they should be able to state principles for resolving those problems, identify philosophical drawbacks to those principles, and situate them with respect to the history of Western ethical traditions and cross-disciplinary or cross-cultural responses to those problems. They should learn to distinguish between philosophically normative and empirical or sociological justifications for action.

Structure of the minor:

Like the existing minor in Philosophy, the minor in Ethics would consist of five courses:

1. PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy
2. PHIL 305 Ethics (history and problems) (requires PHIL 101 or instructor consent)
3. PHIL 205 Contemporary Moral Problems
  - a. PHIL 206 Experiential Contemporary Moral Problems also satisfies.
4. One course approaching an ethical problem/topic in greater depth, chosen from:
  - a. PHIL 330 Topics in Ethics
  - b. PHIL 271 Bioethics: Dilemmas
  - c. PHIL 304 Science and Engineering Ethics
  - d. PHIL 315 Topics in Philosophy (significant ethics content)
  - e. PHIL 317 War and Morality
  - f. PHIL 334 Political and Social Philosophy
  - g. PHIL 356 Comparative Philosophy
  - h. PHIL 399 Capstone (topic in Ethics)
5. One course approaching ethics from an interdisciplinary or empirical perspective, chosen from:
  - a. BETH 315 Short-Term Study Abroad
  - b. RLG 115 Ethical Problems in Local Perspective
  - c. RLG 315 Justice, Religion, and Society
  - d. RLG 350 Jewish Ethics
  - e. COGS 272 Morality and Mind (RLG 272)
  - f. COGS 305 Moral Boundaries and the Limits of Science
  - g. COGS 363 Philosophy and Social Neuroscience
  - h. SOCI 349 Social Inequality
  - i. Select University Seminars

Note: Some of these courses may have their own prerequisites  
We anticipate that this list will grow and change over time

Some students may wish to earn a minor in Ethics as well as in Philosophy, or in addition to a major in Philosophy. A student in this minor program may count no more than six credit-hours to another major or minor.

Is this major/minor/program/sequence/degree:  new  
 modification  
 replacement

If modification or replacement please elaborate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Does this change in major/minor/program/sequence/degree involve other departments?  Yes  No

If yes, which departments? Religious studies, Sociology, Cognitive Science, Bioethics  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person/committee: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURES:**

	DATE
Department Curriculum Chair(s)/Program Directors: <u>Peter J. Hosen (CRSN)</u>	<u>24 Feb 2012</u>
Department Curriculum Chair(s)/Program Directors: <u>[Signature]</u>	<u>3/2/12</u>
Department Curriculum Chair(s)/Program Directors: <u>[Signature]</u>	<u>3/2/12</u>
Department Curriculum Chair(s)/Program Directors: <u>[Signature]</u>	<u>3/2/12</u>
Department Chair: <u>Laura E. Hunsicker</u>	<u>3/2/12</u>
College/School Curriculum Committee Chair: <u>[Signature]</u>	<u>10-3/12</u>
College/School Dean(s): <u>[Signature]</u>	<u>10-3/12</u>
UF Curriculum Committee Chair: _____	

File copy sent to:  Registrar  Office of Undergraduate Studies/Graduate Studies  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY MINOR IN ETHICS PROPOSAL**

Description: The Philosophy Department's Minor in Ethics allows undergraduate students in any field to pursue a concentration of studies in Ethics from multiple perspectives: theoretical and practical, philosophical and empirical/interdisciplinary. The goal is to encourage analytical reflection on the principles and situations of ethical action, social, interpersonal, or individual, in historical and contemporary contexts.

Justification/Learning outcomes:

Students learn to identify ethical problems and opportunities. At the end of their study, they should be able to state principles for resolving those problems, identify philosophical drawbacks to those principles, and situate them with respect to the history of Western ethical traditions and cross-disciplinary or cross-cultural responses to those problems. They should learn to distinguish between philosophically normative and empirical or sociological justifications for action.

### **Proposal: Minor in Ethics (narrative in keeping with CAS guidelines)**

Introduction:

The purpose of a minor in Ethics offered by the Philosophy Department is to give undergraduate students with theoretical or practical interest in ethics the opportunity to take a concentrated series of classes on the subject as an intellectual supplement to their coursework in another discipline or pre-professional program of study. Pre-medicine, pre-law, engineering, business and other majors who would not ordinarily identify themselves as candidates for a minor in "Philosophy" may wish to gain enhanced understanding of the range of ethical approaches and issues as professionals and citizens.

1. How is the proposed program important to the department?

The program will increase enrollments in philosophy courses and allow us to foreground the expertise of our faculty in Ethics, the arrival of a new Beamer-Schneider Professor in Ethics, and our involvement with the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence. We hope that it will also serve as a springboard for further collaboration with Bioethics, the School of Law, the Social Justice Institute, and other bodies on campus, including the identification or creation of suitable undergraduate courses. It will certainly show commitment to the Ethics Alliance portion of the University's Strategic Plan. Finally, it may enhance the department's ability to apply for certain grants in collaboration with those other entities.

## 2. Perceived need or market for the program?

The program will appeal to students who might have chosen a minor in philosophy, but also those outside of Arts and Sciences looking for a coherent way to satisfy breadth requirements that will enhance their preparation for a profession in medicine, engineering, or other fields. However, it would ensure that the Philosophy department continues to provide the core undergraduate instruction in this area.

The existing minor in philosophy requires PHIL 101 (Introduction to Philosophy) and four other courses at the 200-300 level. The Ethics minor differs from the existing minor in that PHIL 305 (Ethics), PHIL 205 (Contemporary Moral Problems) and one of several identified courses in a field other than Philosophy are required, in addition to PHIL 101 and another PHIL course dealing with ethics or moral philosophy.

## 3. Projected costs necessary to mount the program?

No additional resources would be required. It is a matter of packaging existing strengths in a way that will make them recognizable to students as something that fits in their schedule and is intellectually beneficial. We are currently teaching PHIL 305 every year and one or two topical courses every year; Bioethics regularly offers their course as well.

## 4. Projected income associated with the new program?

At the moment, it is not anticipated that this minor would increase revenue in any substantial way.

## Rationale for the College and University

### 5. How does the proposed program

- a. move forward the college's strategic plan in regards to the goals for undergraduate and graduate education?

This minor contributes to the activity of the Ethics Alliance. It also may lay the groundwork for a masters program in Philosophy at some point in the future.

- b. Strengthen the discipline through scholarship?

This minor provides opportunities for specialists in ethics, inside or outside the Philosophy department, to teach on their research topics and to involve undergraduates in their research.

- c. Foster collaboration across disciplines?

This minor provides a structured context for developing long-term commitments to shared research and teaching on topics related to ethics in Bioethics, Law, Religion, the Social Justice Institute, and other fields in which

partners have yet to be identified. It should contribute to the enhancement and consistency of the curriculum available to undergraduate students, and provide outlets for faculty who have been involved in the Ethics Table or Ethics Alliance to develop new courses.

c. Increase attractiveness of the department and the college?

This minor provides students outside the usual clientele for majors and minors in philosophy with a reason to take classes and interact with the philosophy department. It will attract students who wish to pursue further education related to bioethics or public policy. It may enable us to partner more easily with faculty in other fields seeking grants that require an ethics component.

Detailed Description of the Program

Like the existing minor in Philosophy, the minor in Ethics would consist of five courses:

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  - g. PHIL 356 Comparative Philosophy
  - h. PHIL 399 Capstone (topic in Ethics)
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