ETHICS, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

This interdisciplinary minor, housed in the Department of Philosophy, is designed to provide students with training in ethical reasoning, frameworks, and methods, as well as offer the opportunity to work in various fields of applied ethics. In addition to the requirements for the student’s major department the minor consists of 18 credits selected from a wide range of disciplines (e.g., philosophy, communication, engineering, law, psychology, sociology, anthropology, public policy, international studies, and environmental studies). Courses deal with ethics from various perspectives, for example research ethics, media ethics, environmental ethics, bioethics, and business ethics.

Students in the minor will choose from a broad range of 0-, 100-, and 400-level ethics-related courses offered in the Philosophy Department, and will have the chance to take up to two ethics-related courses outside the department. Some Philosophy ethics-related courses cover prominent and powerful historical and contemporary approaches to ethical decision-making and leadership; others cover specific problems in ethical thinking or applications to concrete areas of life. The minor will be suitable for students in almost any major, especially students going on to further academic work or careers in medicine, teaching and education, communication, business, law, the health or life sciences, health administration, public policy, politics, computer science, or engineering.

What is Ethics?

The interdisciplinary Ethics minor at Penn State University includes fields such as philosophy, communication, engineering, law, psychology, sociology, anthropology, public policy, international studies, and environmental studies. Students will have the opportunity to learn about various ethical perspectives and challenges that relate to research ethics, business ethics, bioethics, media ethics, and more.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to learn about ethical frameworks and methods to guide successful execution of both professional and personal endeavors.
- You want to understand ethical issues involved in global situations such as the collapse of the stock market and global financial systems.

Program Requirements

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Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student’s major(s).

What is Ethics? (Continued)

Additional Courses

Select 0-6 credits from the following PHIL 0-level ethics-related courses:

- PHIL 2 Individuals in Society
- PHIL 3 Ethical Life
- PHIL 8 Gender Matters
- PHIL 9 Race, Racism, and Diversity
- PHIL 14 Love and Sex

Select at least 6 credits from the following PHIL 100- or 200-level ethics-related courses:

- PHIL 103 Ethics
- PHIL 103W Ethics
- PHIL 105 Philosophy of Law
- PHIL 106 Business Ethics
- PHIL 108 Social and Political Philosophy
- PHIL 108W Social and Political Philosophy
- PHIL 115 Philosophy and Education
- PHIL 118 Environmental Philosophy
- PHIL 119 Ethical Leadership
- PHIL 120N Knowing Right from Wrong
- PHIL 123 Media Ethics
- PHIL 132 Bioethics
- PHIL 133N Ethics of Climate Change
- PHIL 134 Food, Values, and Health
- PHIL 135 Ethics in Jewish Tradition and Thought
- PHIL 242N Happiness and Well-Being

Select at least 3 credits from the following PHIL 400-level ethics-related courses (Students need at least one other 400-level ethics related course, from PHIL or another department):

- PHIL 403 Seminar in Environmental Ethics
- PHIL 405 Seminar in Philosophy of Law
- PHIL 406 Seminar in Philosophy of Technology
- PHIL 408W Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy
- PHIL 418 Seminar in Ethical Theory
- PHIL 418W Seminar in Ethical Theory
- PHIL 432 Medical and Health Care Ethics
- PHIL 460 African American Philosophy
- PHIL 478 Ethics After the Holocaust

Select 0-6 credits from the following non-PHIL ethics-related courses:

- AFAM 103 Racism and Sexism
- AFAM 409 Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
- AFAM 445Y Politics of Affirmative Action
- AG 160 Introduction into Ethics and Issues in Agriculture
- ANTH 45N Cultural Diversity: A Global Perspective
- APLNG 310 Language Rights, Policy, and Planning
- AYFCE 438 Living in an Increasingly Diverse Society
- ASIA 418 Confucius and the Great Books of China
- BA 242 Social and Ethical Environment of Business
- BA 243 Social, Legal, and Ethical Environment of Business
Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and-out of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

University Park
Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

Career Paths

Philosophy students learn the kinds of critical, interpretive, analytical, and argumentative skills highly prized by employers in a wide variety of fields, including publishing, non-profit work, consulting, information technology, law, business, education, journalism, medicine, and public service.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A MINOR IN ETHICS (https://philosophy.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Philosophy students score consistently higher than other majors on LSAT, MCAT, and GMAT exams. The study of philosophy provides students with an outstanding preparation for law school, medical school, and other advanced degrees.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (https://philosophy.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/)

Contact

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University Park, PA 16802
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https://philosophy.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/ethics-minor/