

LSC Use Only Proposal No: \_\_\_\_\_ LSC Action-Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 UWUCC Use Only Proposal No: 11-70a UWUCC Action-Date: App-2/28/12 Senate Action Date: App-3/20/12

Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Contact Person(s) Rives, B.; Rubenstein, E.	Email Address rives; erubens
Proposing Department/Unit PHIL	Phone x2310

Check all appropriate lines and complete all information. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and/or program proposal.

1. Course Proposals (check all that apply)

New Course       Course Prefix Change       Course Deletion  
 Course Revision       Course Number and/or Title Change       Catalog Description Change

Current course prefix, number and full title: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Liberal Studies Course Designations, as appropriate

This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course (please mark the appropriate categories below)

Learning Skills     Knowledge Area     Global and Multicultural Awareness     Writing Across the Curriculum (W Course)  
 Liberal Studies Elective (please mark the designation(s) that applies – must meet at least one)  
      Global Citizenship       Information Literacy       Oral Communication  
      Quantitative Reasoning       Scientific Literacy       Technological Literacy

3. Other Designations, as appropriate

Honors College Course       Other: (e.g. Women's Studies, Pan African)

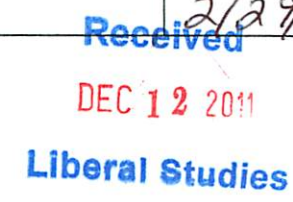
4. Program Proposals

Catalog Description Change     Program Revision     Program Title Change     New Track  
 New Degree Program     New Minor Program     Liberal Studies Requirement Changes     Other

Current program name: BA Philosophy, BA Philosophy/Pre-Law Track, Minor-Philosophy, Philosophy Honors Track

Proposed program name, if changing: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Approvals	Signature	Date
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	<i>Eric Rubenstein</i>	10/31/11
Department Chairperson(s)	<i>Ernie Pini</i>	11/17/11
College Curriculum Committee Chair	<i>Andy Terak</i>	11-30-11
College Dean	<i>A. ...</i>	11/20/11
Director of Liberal Studies (as needed)		
Director of Honors College (as needed)		
Provost (as needed)	<i>Geoff W. Deman</i>	6/6/12
Additional signature (with title) as appropriate		
UWUCC Co-Chairs	<i>Gail Sedquist</i>	2/29/12





## **Part II. Description of Curriculum Change**

### **Change of Department of Philosophy Catalog Description**

We are submitting here a change to the catalog description of the Department of Philosophy. Changes to the 'LS Free Elective' category have already been handled in a separate submission, with a separate cover sheet. The revised description below does mention changes to our Honors Track, but a separate proposal with details and justification for a new Honors program is submitted independently. This document simply proposes a new catalog description, and merely notes the differences between our current Honors Track and our proposed Honors in Philosophy. No changes to the requirements for the Philosophy major or Philosophy/Pre-Law major are made, but a different number of credits is now required for Honors in Philosophy.

### **Part II.1. Revised Catalog Description**

#### **Department of Philosophy**

Website: [www.iup.edu/philosophy](http://www.iup.edu/philosophy)

**Mary MacLeod, Chairperson**, Caraway, Pedersen, Rives, Rubenstein, and professors emeriti Boone and Bouffard

The discipline of philosophy involves sustained, rigorous focus on some of the deepest questions human beings ask, questions about the nature of reality, thought and consciousness, the scope and limits of human knowledge, the value and essence of art, and the foundations of ethics and justice. Philosophy distinguishes itself by its methods: unpacking concepts, questioning beliefs, evaluating arguments, and examining the methods and assumptions of other disciplines, including natural science, social science, law, and fine arts. Interdisciplinary focus is inherent in philosophy, and most courses offered by the Department of Philosophy are designed to be accessible to a broad range of students, not just those majoring in Philosophy.

Students of philosophy learn to read carefully, think independently, communicate clearly, argue cogently, spot fallacies, clarify muddled reasoning, and identify questionable assumptions. Surveys show that critical reasoning and analytical writing skills are those most sought by potential employers. Standardized exams for Graduate, Business, and Law School test for such skills, and the data demonstrate that philosophy majors do extraordinarily well on them. Historically, according to Educational Testing Service data, philosophy majors have outperformed all other majors on both the Verbal Reasoning section and the Analytical Writing section of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Two degree programs are available: a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Philosophy and a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Philosophy/Pre-Law. A minor in Philosophy is also offered. The Philosophy B.A. is best suited to students intending a broad education in philosophy. Some Philosophy majors earn advanced degrees and pursue academic careers, but most pursue careers in law, medicine, public service, business, or information technology. The Philosophy Pre-Law Track is designed for students intending to pursue an advanced degree in law, and provides ideal training in the skills required for close, critical reading of legal texts, a fact borne out by law school admissions rates and LSAT performance data.

A significant number of students, interested in exploring interdisciplinary connections, choose Philosophy as a second major, both for its flexibility and the new perspective it provides

on the primary major. Coursework in metaphysics (PHIL 420), the philosophy of science (PHIL 330), and the theory of knowledge (PHIL 421) deepens students' understanding of the methods and assumptions of natural science and social science. Coursework in the history of ideas deepens students' appreciation of the Western intellectual tradition and their understanding of academic pursuits, generally (PHIL 324, 325, 326, and 410). Coursework in ethics (PHIL 222) and political philosophy (PHIL 323) provides orientation for work in social science, business, law, criminology, or safety science. Philosophers also take a distinctive perspective on aesthetic questions of interest to fine arts majors (PHIL 223), and questions about the nature of the mind of interest to psychology majors (PHIL 360).

### **Honors in Philosophy**

---

The Department offers students an opportunity to graduate with Honors in Philosophy. The option is encouraged for students intending to pursue graduate or advanced professional degrees. Philosophy majors and Philosophy/Pre-Law majors may be invited to apply or may nominate themselves. In either case, to be considered for Honors in Philosophy, students must have earned at least 60 credits in total, with a minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA and a minimum 3.5 GPA in Philosophy courses. Honors in Philosophy requires completion of a two-semester, 6.0 credit, Honors Thesis Independent Study. The honors thesis is completed individually under the direction of a Department professor who specializes in the student's area of interest and is approved by a thesis committee comprising the director and two other readers. To determine how Honors will be integrated into existing requirements for the Philosophy or Philosophy Pre-Law major, students should consult their assigned advisors. Students completing the Departmental Honors program are recognized at Departmental commencement ceremonies.

---

## **Part II.2.a.**

The changes submitted are simply ones to the catalog description. Below we compare the old catalog description with our new proposed description. Our catalog description change does include new language for our Honors program. A proposal for a revised Honors program has been submitted separately.

### **Old Catalog Description**

The program in philosophy is designed to provide the student with a capacity for thinking clearly, with a critical attitude, and with the ability to reason theoretically.

#### **Major**

The major offers the background required for graduate work in philosophy. Those whose primary interests are in other disciplines will find philosophy courses that relate directly to their fields on a theoretical level. Both the minor and double major are especially desirable for their reflective benefits and because of the essentially interdisciplinary nature of philosophy.

#### **Individually Designed Philosophy Minor**

As a minor, philosophy has much to offer in helping individuals of various backgrounds better understand the fundamental assumptions of their disciplines. For that reason, the minor in philosophy will be individually designed to meet special career needs and personal interests. Selection of courses will be accomplished through discussions with and approval of the department advisor. Students must expect careful planning in any program approved. For further explanation and suggestions, see explanation under Philosophy Minor program requirements and consult department advisor.

#### **Liberal Studies Offerings**

The Philosophy program's Liberal Studies courses are all introductory in nature; none of them presupposes any philosophical background. The student may choose from PHIL 101, 110, 120, 221, 222, and 223.

#### **Pre-Law Track**

The Department of Philosophy participates in the University Pre-Law Track program whereby a student majors in one of several academic disciplines including philosophy and also meets the pre-law track requirements. Students interested in the philosophy major/pre-law track should consult the departmental pre-law advisor. Philosophy courses included in the pre-law track program are PHIL 101 or 110, 222, and 450. Philosophy/Pre-Law Track majors are required to take PHIL 101 or 110 and 222.

#### **Philosophy Honors Program**

The honors program is open by departmental invitation to Philosophy and Philosophy/Pre-Law majors with a minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA and a 3.5 GPA in Philosophy courses. Students complete PHIL 480/HI, 483/HI, and HNRC 499, which fulfills the Liberal Studies Synthesis requirement. To determine how honors track courses will be integrated into existing requirements for the Philosophy or Philosophy Pre-Law major, students should consult their advisors.

### **New Catalog Description**

The discipline of philosophy involves sustained, rigorous focus on some of the deepest questions human beings ask, questions about the nature of reality, thought and consciousness, the scope and limits of human knowledge, the value and essence of art, and the foundations of ethics and justice. Philosophy distinguishes itself by its methods: unpacking concepts, questioning beliefs, evaluating arguments, and examining the methods and assumptions of other disciplines, including natural science, social science, law, and fine arts. Interdisciplinary focus is inherent in philosophy, and most courses offered by the Department of Philosophy are designed to be accessible to a broad range of students, not just those majoring in Philosophy.

Students of philosophy learn to read carefully, think independently, communicate clearly, argue cogently, spot fallacies, clarify muddled reasoning, and identify questionable assumptions. Surveys show that such critical reasoning and analytical writing skills are those most sought by potential employers. Standardized exams for Graduate, Business, and Law School test for such skills, and the data demonstrate that philosophy majors do extraordinarily well on them. Historically, according to Educational Testing Service data, philosophy majors outperform all other majors on both the Verbal Reasoning section and the Analytical Writing section of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Two degree programs are available: a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Philosophy and a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Philosophy/Pre-Law. A minor in Philosophy is also offered. The Philosophy B.A. is best suited to students intending a broad education in philosophy. Some Philosophy majors earn advanced degrees and pursue academic careers, but most pursue careers in law, medicine, public service, business, or information technology. The Philosophy Pre-Law Track is designed for students intending to pursue an advanced degree in law, and provides ideal training in the skills required for close, critical reading of legal texts, a fact borne out by law school admissions rates and LSAT performance data.

A significant number of students, interested in exploring interdisciplinary connections, choose Philosophy as a second major, both for its flexibility and the new perspective it provides on the primary major. Coursework in metaphysics (PHIL 420), the philosophy of science (PHIL 330), and the theory of knowledge (PHIL 421), deepens students' understanding of the methods and assumptions of natural science and social science. Coursework in the history of ideas deepens students' appreciation of the Western intellectual tradition and their understanding of academic pursuits, generally (PHIL 324, 325, 326, and 410). Coursework in ethics (PHIL 222) and political philosophy (PHIL 323) provides orientation for work in social science,

business, law, criminology, or safety science. Philosophers also take a distinctive perspective on aesthetic questions of interest to fine arts majors (PHIL 223), and questions about the nature of the mind of interest to psychology majors (PHIL 360).

**Honors in Philosophy**

The Department offers students an opportunity to graduate with Honors in Philosophy. The option is encouraged for students intending to pursue graduate or advanced professional degrees. Philosophy majors and Philosophy/Pre-Law majors may be invited to apply or may nominate themselves. In either case, to be considered for Honors in Philosophy, students must have earned at least 60 credits in total, with a minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA and a minimum 3.5 GPA in Philosophy courses. Honors in Philosophy requires completion of a two-semester, 6.0 credit, Honors Thesis Independent Study. The honors thesis is completed individually under the direction of a Department professor who specializes in the student's area of interest and is approved by a thesis committee comprising the director and two other readers. To determine how Honors will be integrated into existing requirements for the Philosophy or Philosophy Pre-Law major, students should consult their assigned advisors. Students completing the Departmental Honors program are recognized at Departmental commencement ceremonies.

**Summary of Current and New Honors Programs (as developed in separate submission)**

<b>Current Program</b>	<b>New Version</b>
<p><b>Philosophy Honors Track</b> 12cr</p> <p><b>Required Courses:</b></p> <p>HNRC 499 Honors Senior Synthesis *cr (1)</p> <p>PHIL 480/H/ Honors Seminar in Philosophy 3cr</p> <p>PHIL 483/H/ Honors Thesis in Philosophy 6cr</p> <p>(1) Credits for HNRC 499 are counted in the Liberal Studies Synthesis requirement.</p>	<p><b>Honors in Philosophy</b> 6cr</p> <p><b>Required Courses:</b></p> <p>PHIL 483/H/ Honors Thesis in Philosophy 6cr</p>

**Part II.2.b**

There are no changes to the course requirements for the PHIL major or PHIL pre-law major. This revised description includes new language for the revisions to our Honors Program, which have been submitted under separate cover. HNRC 499 and PHIL 480 have been deleted as Honors requirements.

**Part II.3. Rationale for Description Change**

The catalog description for the Department of Philosophy has gone unrevised for at least two decades. With a new set of faculty members and a new vision for our department, it was well past time to revisit the catalog language.

**Parts III.1**

The proposed description revision will not affect students in the program. Changes to the Honors program that will affect students are addressed in the separate submission.

**Part III.2**

Faculty resources are adequate.

**Part III.3**

All resources are adequate.

**Part III.4**

We do not expect these changes to affect the number of students in our programs.

**Part IV.1**

Our program is evaluated as part of our Departmental self studies.

**Part IV.2**

Departmental self studies are conducted every five years.

**Part IV.3**

Philosophy faculty, along with an outside evaluator, conduct the evaluation.

**Parts V-VI**

N/A