

Ethics and Public Policy, BA

Ethics and public policy is an interdisciplinary major that presents perspectives on intersecting issues that connect the study of philosophy, economics, law, political science, sociology, and public affairs. All of these disciplines involve a focus on practical questions concerning how individuals ought to behave and how they ought to regulate the behavior of others.

Students choose one field of specialization for the major and may find it easy to pursue a second major in another of the major's specialization fields, thus broadening their prospects for choosing graduate schools or beginning professional careers.

The departments of Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology and Criminology (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), the Department of Economics (Tippie College of Business), and the School of Planning and Public Affairs (Graduate College) collaborate to present the major in ethics and public policy; the major is administered by the Department of Philosophy.

Learning Outcomes

The general goals of the major in ethics and public policy are to:

- give students familiarity with the subject matter and methods of four closely related, but distinct disciplines—philosophy, economics, sociology, and political science—acquaintance with which is particularly important for those entering law, government and public service, and related fields;
- teach students to think critically, understand important distinctions, and present and defend positions;
- allow students to see the connections between problems that arise in the four fields that make up the cross-disciplinary major;
- encourage students to solve problems by drawing insights from different fields; and
- prepare students for postgraduate work in one or more of the fields, law school, or any of the many careers where the skills fostered in the major will be invaluable.

Ethics and Public Policy Initiatives

- Increase interactions among majors through events such as clubs and movie nights cosponsored by the Department of Philosophy and the ethics and public policy major.
- Encourage promising students to work individually with faculty on honors projects.
- Continue to improve advising.
- Continue to offer a 1 s.h. course that gives credit to students for participation in some of the programmed lectures, clubs, and film screenings, among other events.
- Advertise and encourage students to enroll in a 2-3 s.h. course that involves relevant internships.
- Review the department's current survey, which can provide more useful and fine-grained advice to improve the ethics and public policy major.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in ethics and public policy requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 37 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

In planning coursework, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a BA may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the coursework is accepted toward requirements for the major; students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average, but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Students who are earning two majors from the same department (e.g., a BA in ethics and public policy and a BA in philosophy) may apply more than 56 s.h. from their home department toward their degree, but they must earn at least 56 s.h. of credit in courses outside their home department in order to graduate.

The curriculum includes foundation courses and the work for one field of specialization.

The BA with a major in ethics and public policy requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Philosophy Foundation Courses	6
Economics Foundation Courses	7-8
Political Science Foundation Courses	6
Sociology Foundation Courses	6-7
Field of Specialization Courses	12

Foundation Courses

Foundation courses introduce students to each of the disciplines that participate in the major: philosophy, economics, political science, and sociology. These courses provide students with the basic reasoning skills they will need for advanced study. The foundation courses also help students make an informed selection of their specialization field.

Some courses may be listed in both a foundation area and a specialization field; students may use a course to fulfill only one requirement for the major.

Philosophy Foundation

Reasoning

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
PHIL:1636	Principles of Reasoning: Argument and Debate	3
PHIL:2603	Introduction to Symbolic Logic	3

Value Theory

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
PHIL:1034	Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness	3
PHIL:1401	Matters of Life and Death	3
PHIL:2402	Introduction to Ethics	3
PHIL:2422	Feminist Ethics	3
PHIL:2432	Introduction to Political Philosophy	3
PHIL:2435	Philosophy of Law	3
PHIL:3430	Philosophy of Human Rights	3

Economics Foundation

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
ECON:1100	Principles of Microeconomics	4
One of these:		
ECON:1200	Principles of Macroeconomics	4
ECON:3380	Business and Government	3
ECON:3650	Policy Analysis	3
ECON:3760	Health Economics	3

Political Science Foundation

Foundation

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
POLI:1100	Introduction to American Politics	3
POLI:1300	Introduction to Political Thought and Action	3
POLI:1400	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
POLI:1700	Introduction to Political Analysis	3

Policy

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
POLI:1501	Introduction to American Foreign Policy	3
POLI:3111	American Public Policy	3

Sociology Foundation

Theory

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
SOC:1010	Introduction to Sociology	3-4
SOC:1030	Contemporary Social Problems	3-4

Law, Sociology, and Criminology

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
CRIM:1410	Introduction to Criminology	3
CRIM:1447	Introduction to the Criminal Justice System	3

CRIM:2430	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems	3
CRIM:2460	Policing in Modern Society	3
CRIM:3425	Women, Crime, and Justice	3
SOC:2130	Sociological Theory	3
SOC:2810	Social Inequality	3
SOC:3510	Medical Sociology	3

Fields of Specialization

Students select one of the following fields of specialization: philosophy, economics, political science, public affairs, or sociology. Students must complete four courses in their field (12 s.h.), selected from one of the following course lists.

Some courses may be listed in both a foundation area and a specialization field; students may use a course to fulfill only one requirement for the major.

Philosophy

Course #	Title	Hours
12 s.h. from these:		
PHIL:2040	Ethics of Artificial Intelligence	3
PHIL:2402	Introduction to Ethics	3
PHIL:2415	Bioethics	3
PHIL:2422	Feminist Ethics	3
PHIL:2425	Sex, Marriage, Friendship, and the Law	3
PHIL:2429	War, Terrorism, and Torture	3
PHIL:2432	Introduction to Political Philosophy	3
PHIL:2435	Philosophy of Law	3
PHIL:2436	The Nature of Evil	3
PHIL:3342	Multiculturalism and Toleration	3
PHIL:3430	Philosophy of Human Rights	3
PHIL:3604	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	3
PHIL:3920	Philosophy in Public	1-3
PHIL:4375	Rawls's Political Philosophy	3
PHIL:4480	Analytic Ethics	3
PHIL:4481	Issues in Philosophy of Law	3
PHIL:4482	Early Modern Ethics	3
PHIL:4485	Political Philosophy	3
PHIL:4510	Neuroethics	3

Economics

Course #	Title	Hours
12 s.h. from these:		
ECON:3100	Intermediate Microeconomics	3
ECON:3345	Global Economics and Business	3
ECON:3350	Industry Analysis	3
ECON:3380	Business and Government	3
ECON:3620	Economic Growth and Development	3
ECON:3625	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	3

ECON:3640	Regional and Urban Economics	3
ECON:3650	Policy Analysis	3
ECON:3760	Health Economics	3
ECON:4160	Public Sector Economics	3

Political Science

Course #	Title	Hours
12 s.h. from these:		
POLI:2417	Comparative Environmental Policy	3
POLI:3101	American Constitutional Law and Politics	3
POLI:3102	The U.S. Congress	3
POLI:3104	Immigration Politics	3
POLI:3110	Local Politics	3
POLI:3111	American Public Policy	3
POLI:3114	Women and Politics in the United States	3
POLI:3116	The Presidency	3
POLI:3117	Bureaucratic Politics and Public Administration	3
POLI:3118	Interest Groups	3
POLI:3120	The Criminal Justice System	3
POLI:3121	The Judicial Process	3
POLI:3127	Legislative Policy Seminar	3
POLI:3160	Applied Research in Political Science	1-3
POLI:3204	Public Opinion	3
POLI:3306	Problems of Democracy	3
POLI:3350	Games of Politics	3
POLI:3411	Democracy: Global Trends and Struggles	3
POLI:3423	The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy	3
POLI:3424	Global Development	3
POLI:3428	Statecraft, Diplomacy, and World Order	3
POLI:3503	Politics of Terrorism	3
POLI:3509	International Courts: The Intersection of Law and Politics	3
POLI:3512	International Conflict	3
POLI:3516	The Politics of International Economics	3
POLI:3518	Water Wars: Conflict and Cooperation	3
POLI:3530	Diplomacy Lab	3
POLI:3560	Public Policy and Persuasion	3
POLI:3601	Politics of Film	3

Public Affairs

Course #	Title	Hours
12 s.h. from these:		
PBAF:3100	Contemporary Policy Issues	3
PBAF:3117	Bureaucratic Politics and Public Administration	3
PBAF:3560	Public Policy and Persuasion	3
PBAF:3570	Poverty Policy	3

PBAF:3580	Native American Public Policy	3
PBAF:4205	Economics for Policy Analysis	3
PBAF:4233	Public Finance and Budgeting	3
PBAF:4340	Public Policy Analysis	3
URP:2020	Environment and Society: Sustainability, Policy, and Politics	3
URP:4256	Environmental Policy	3
URP:4260	Transportation Policy and Planning	3
URP:4271	Housing Policy	3
URP:4280	Planning for Disaster Mitigation and Recovery	3
URP:4295	Community & Economic Development Policy	3

Sociology

Course #	Title	Hours
12 s.h. from these:		
CRIM:3415	Global Criminology	3
CRIM:3416	Race, Crime, and Justice	3
CRIM:3417	Community Corrections	3
CRIM:3420	Juvenile Delinquency	3
CRIM:3437	American Crime	3
CRIM:3450	Criminal Legal System	3
CRIM:4400	Internship in Criminal Justice and Corrections	3
CRIM:4420	Criminal Punishment	3
CRIM:4430	Interpersonal Violence in Society	3
CRIM:4440	Sociology of White-Collar Crime	3
CRIM:4450	Juvenile Justice: A Sociolegal Perspective	3
CRIM:4460	Sociology of Law	3
SOC:2830	Race and Ethnicity	3
SOC:3171	Drugs and Society	3
SOC:3510	Medical Sociology	3
SOC:3525	Public Opinion	3
SOC:3540	Social Psychology of Good and Evil	3
SOC:3610	Organizations and Modern Society	3
SOC:3650	Education, Schools, and Society	3
SOC:3880	The Sociology of Networks	3
SOC:4200	Sociology of Religion	3
SOC:4540	Political Sociology and Social Movements	3

Student-Designed Field

In rare circumstances, a student may be given permission to design a specialization field. The student specifies four courses (12 s.h.) numbered 3000 or above, or as considered advanced by the department offering the course. Courses should be interconnected and must suggest a coherent interest. The student-designed field may not duplicate any of

the established specialization fields for the major. It also may not include a course that satisfies another requirement for the major.

Students interested in designing their own specialization field should speak with an advisor as early as possible. They must obtain approval from their advisor and from the steering committee of the major in ethics and public policy as soon as possible after they declare the major and before they complete the designated coursework.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Honors students must maintain a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 in work for the major and a cumulative University of Iowa GPA of at least 3.33; the UI cumulative GPA requirement is set by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In order to graduate with honors in the major, students must complete all work for the major and write an acceptable honors thesis on a significant topic related to the major. Students who write their honors thesis in philosophy should consider preparing for the thesis by taking PHIL:3950 Readings in Philosophy; students who write in economics or public affairs should consult the coordinator of the Ethics and Public Policy Program for an appropriate course. Students who write in political science should take either POLI:4600 Honors Research Project or POLI:4601 Honors Senior Thesis. Students who write in sociology and criminology should consider taking SOC:4997 Honors Seminar. Contact the coordinator of the Ethics and Public Policy Program for more information.

Students who choose to write an honors thesis are required to schedule an oral discussion of their completed honors thesis, mainly to enrich the intellectual experience of its author. A student discusses the thesis with a faculty committee including the thesis director and the department's honors director or a faculty member designated by that official. The committee may withhold approval of fundamentally inadequate theses, but directors are to schedule theses for discussion only when they are ready. The discussion typically concentrates on exploring thesis ideas from several perspectives rather than whether to approve a thesis.

It is expected that students wishing to pursue the honors thesis (POLI:4601 Honors Senior Thesis) begin discussing the thesis with their thesis director one full semester prior to the semester in which they want to write the thesis. Students should consider enrolling in POLI:4700 Independent Study for 1 s.h. the semester before enrolling in the thesis seminar.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have a variety of opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the ethics and public policy major.

Career Advancement

The ethics and public policy major provides an ideal background for law school. It brings an important background

to legal studies in fields that both explicitly and implicitly arise in the context of pursuing a JD degree. The study of reasoning, an important component of the major, is useful in preparing for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), and the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The major also prepares students to bring a sophisticated, cross-disciplinary perspective to diverse fields such as government, urban and regional planning, social work, and business.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major.

Before the third semester begins: at least one course in the major.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least three courses in the major.

Before the seventh semester begins: at least seven courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: at least nine courses in the major.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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This sample plan is currently being reviewed and will be added at a later date.