

Memo

Date: 2/11/2009

From: Jason T. Eberl, Philosophy Department

To: Carrie Foote, Chair, SLA Graduate Curriculum Committee

RE: Credit Requirement Change for Philosophy MA Program – Bioethics Track

This memo is to request a change to the required credit hours for the Bioethics track of the Philosophy MA Program. The proposed change does not refer to the total required number of credit hours – thirty (30) – but to the number of required courses in *philosophy*.

Currently, the program curriculum requires at least twenty (20) credit hours of courses in philosophy (offered either at IUPUI, IU-Bloomington, or another institution from which transfer credit is accepted). The department would like to change this requirement to eighteen (18) credit hours to allow students in this track greater variability to take non-philosophy bioethics-related courses. This change is requested in light of the inherently interdisciplinary nature of the Bioethics track and our experience over the past four years of the MA program's existence of what course distribution works well for our students.

The 18 cr. requirement will also be incorporated into the proposed curriculum for the new International Research Ethics track currently under development.

This change will be counterbalanced by the development of a new *general* philosophy track – per the recommendation following from the department's recent external review – the entire 30 cr. curriculum of which will be comprised of only graduate courses in philosophy.

I would also like to inform you of another recent, more minor, curriculum change the Philosophy Department has made to the Bioethics track in light of both experience and a recommendation from our external review committee. P540: Contemporary Ethical Theories is now a required course for all students in the Bioethics track – previously it was an elective. This change has already been approved by the IUPUI Graduate Affairs Committee. The revised curriculum can be found at:

http://www.iupui.edu/~philosop/ma_curriculum_bioethics.htm

Please feel free to contact me if you or the Graduate Curriculum Committee have any questions regarding these changes.

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