

**PROPOSAL FOR COMBINED DEGREES IN LAW (JD) AND PHILOSOPHY (MA)
WITH CONCENTRATIONS IN HEALTH LAW AND BIOETHICS**

Presented by:

IUPUI Department of Philosophy

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In September 2003, the ICHE approved the offering at IUPUI of an MA program in philosophy, with concentrations in bioethics and American philosophy. The present proposal is for a program at IUPUI leading to combined degrees in law and philosophy. (On 1/29/04, this proposal was approved, in principle, by the curriculum committee of IUPUI's law school.) Students completing the program will receive a Juris Doctor (JD) in Law, with a concentration in health law, and a Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy, with a concentration in bioethics. The proposed combination is not uncommon. Among the institutions offering combined degrees in law and bioethics are the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, Case Western Reserve University, Georgetown University, and the University of Utah.

Background

Bioethics, the ethics of the life sciences, encompasses both medical and environmental ethics. It is a field of rapidly growing importance, both nationally and internationally. Environmental concerns are ever more pressing. And the development, delivery, financing, and regulation of healthcare products and services is a major economic and social endeavor. Bioethical issues – social, legal, and philosophical – confront a diverse array of institutions, including state and federal agencies, healthcare organizations, research and educational institutions, corporations (national and multinational), human rights organizations, medical insurers, and religious bodies. In combining the philosophical study of bioethics with the study of law, students will acquire the perspective, knowledge, and expertise that will equip them to provide leadership concerning the bioethical issues faced by such institutions.

The Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis has a nationally recognized Center for Law and Health and a program in health law that is ranked among the top ten in the nation. The school has promoted combined-degrees programs for the benefit of law students seeking additional expertise in health-related areas. It offers, together with the School of Medicine, a program leading to combined degrees in law and public health. It also offers, together with the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, a program leading to combined degrees in law and health administration. A program leading to combined degrees in law and philosophy, with a concentration in bioethics, will be an important addition to the school's health-law program.

The IUPUI Department of Philosophy will launch its master's program in philosophy, with tracks in bioethics and American philosophy, in Fall 2004. The bioethics track is intended primarily for mid-career professionals and students in IUPUI's professional schools. Accordingly, the department has intended from the beginning to propose programs leading to combined degrees. A partnership with the School of Law would be especially welcome, for four reasons: the affinity of legal and philosophical reasoning, the crucial role of the legal profession in the societal resolution of bioethical issues, the stature of the School of Law's program in health law, and the prospect of attracting to the department's graduate courses substantial numbers of highly capable law students.

Program Requirements

As is customary, the combined-degrees program will enable students to obtain the two degrees, JD and MA, while earning fewer total credits than if they pursued the two degrees separately. This reduction is the result of each degree program counting some courses from the other program as part of the course work required for its own degree. Up to six credits of health-law courses (selected from the list mentioned below) can be counted toward both the 90 credits required for the JD in law and the 30 credits required for the MA in philosophy. Furthermore, the 6-credit course Philosophy P803 will count toward both the 30 credits required for the MA in philosophy and the 90 credits required for the JD in law. Thus the program enables students to obtain both degrees with a total of 108 credits of course work rather than the 120 credits required if the two degrees are obtained independently.

However, it is important to understand that any student who obtains an MA in philosophy through this program will have met the requirements for an MA applicable to MA students in the bioethics track who are *not* pursuing combined degrees. That's because such students are already allowed to count up to 10 credits of graduate courses offered outside of the philosophy department, from a list of graduate courses approved for this purpose, toward the 30 credits required for an MA in philosophy. (Students may count no more than 6 credits from any *one* field outside of philosophy.) The approved list of outside courses includes four health-law courses, and will soon include others.

The capstone of the proposed combined-degrees program is the 6-credit course Philosophy P803, in which students complete a thesis or research project addressing legal and philosophical aspects of a bioethical issue. In addition to counting toward the credits required for both degrees, P803 will satisfy the senior writing-requirement of the School of Law as well as the thesis/research project requirement of the Department of Philosophy.

The curricular requirements for the bioethics track of the Philosophy MA degree, which are applicable to all MA students electing that track, regardless of whether they participate in the proposed combined-degrees program, may be viewed at:

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

Below is a sample schedule of courses for students pursuing the combined-degrees program here proposed.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE COMBINED DEGREES IN LAW (JD) AND PHILOSOPHY (MA)	
<i>(Italicized courses are counted toward both degrees. The courses mentioned are intended only as examples. The only curricular requirements for the Philosophy side are those at:</i> http://www.iupui.edu/~philosop/ma_curriculum_bioethics.htm	
First Year Law Program: 30 cr.	
Civil Procedure I Contracts I Property I Torts I Legal Writing I	Civil Procedure II Contracts II Property II Torts II Legal Writing II
Summer Law Program (6 cr.)	
Law School selections, including Criminal Law (6 cr.)	
Second Year & Summer Philosophy MA Program (<i>l-column</i>): 13 cr. / Law Program (<i>r-column</i>): 14 cr.	
PHIL P547 Foundations of Bioethics (3 cr.) PHIL P540 Contemporary Ethical Theories (3 cr.) MHHS M504 Introduction to Research Ethics (3 cr.) <i>LAW Bioethics and LAW (2 cr.)</i> <i>LAW Financing & Regulating Health Care (2 cr.)</i>	LAW Constitutional Law (4 cr.) LAW Evidence (4 cr.) LAW Professional Responsibility (2 cr.) <i>LAW Bioethics and Law (2 cr.)</i> <i>LAW Financing & Regulating Health Care (2 cr.)</i>
Third year & Summer Philosophy MA Program: 11 Credits; Law Program: 18 Credits	
PHIL P553 Philosophy of Science (3 cr.); SOC R515 Sociology of Health and Illness (3 cr.); <i>LAW DN 761 Law and Public Health Care (2 cr.)</i> ; other Philosophy MA selection (3 cr.); Law Program selections, including LAW DN 761 (18 cr.)	
Fourth Year Philosophy MA Program: 6 Credits; Law Program: 22 Credits	
<i>PHIL P803 Thesis or Research Project (6 cr.)</i> ; Law Program selections, including PHIL P803 (22 cr.)	