University Council

January 10, 2025

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2024-2025
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Education – Amy Murphy
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Public Health – Tamora Callands
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Veterinary Medicine – Paul Eubig
Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio
Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu
Undergraduate Student Representative – Ella Colker
Graduate Student Representative – William Walker

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to offer a Minor in Bioethics will be an agenda item for the January 17, 2025, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu
Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR MINOR PROGRAM OF STUDY

1. **School/College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
2. **Department/Division:** Philosophy
3. **Minor Name:** Bioethics
4. **CIP:** 51320100
5. **Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2025
6. **Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens
7. **Program Description:**

   Bioethics is the interdisciplinary study of ethical and philosophical issues that arise in the context of medicine and bioresearch. The department of Philosophy has offered PHIL 3220, Biomedical Ethics, every spring semester for over a decade. Enrollment in this course has been consistently high. Approximately 500 students have enrolled in the course since 2015, filling most 35-person courses to capacity. The proposed Minor in Bioethics is designed to provide students with the opportunity to achieve a deeper understanding of the ethical questions that arise in the context of medical practice and biomedical research, as well as to increase their familiarity with the concepts and arguments used in the field. The minor will enhance students' ability to think and argue in a manner that will benefit them in a variety of careers and areas of post-graduate study. It will also assist them in developing their analytical and critical thinking skills with special emphasis on ethical reasoning.

   The minor includes three required ethics courses in philosophy, plus a choice from a range of elective courses across departments, all of which promote the skills mentioned above. These courses, which constitute a cohesive set, cover the fundamental principles of ethical thought, the specific issues and theories addressed in the field of bioethics, and the broader health and medical context. It will provide students with the tools to address the most critical contemporary issues in bioethics.

8. **Program of Study/Requirements:**

   - **Students must earn a grade of 'C' (2.0) or higher in all courses to earn the minor.**
   - **All upper-division (3000-level and above) courses must be taken in residence.**

   Required Courses (9 hours)
   PHIL 2030, Introduction to Ethics (3 hours)
   PHIL 3220, Biomedical Ethics (3 hours)

PHIL 4260, Advanced Topics in Bioethics (3 hours) — **NEW**

Elective Courses (6 hours)
Choose two of the following courses:
ANTH 3540, Multicultural Health Care (3 hours)
IHDD 4050/6050, Critical Issues in Disability Studies (3 hours)
PHIL 3200, Ethical Theory (3 hours)
PHIL 3210, Feminist Philosophy (3 hours)
PHIL 3230, Ethics of Food (3 hours)
PHIL 4210/6210, Social and Political Philosophy (3 hours)
PHIL(EETH) 4220/6220, Environmental Ethics (3 hours)
PHIL(EETH) 4250/6250, Philosophy of Technology (3 hours)
PHIL 4700/6700, Philosophy and Race (3 hours)
SOCI 3100, Medical Sociology (3 hours)
SOCI 3110, Sociology of Health Care (3 hours)
WMST 4120/6120, Sex, Politics, Science, and Reproduction (3 hours)

Total hours: 15

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
Division of Biological Sciences

January 14, 2025

Dr. Aaron Meskin
Professor and Head of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
106 Peabody Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1627

To Dr. Meskin:

I am pleased to fully support the proposal for a minor in Bioethics proposed by the Department of Philosophy in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. The population of students at UGA on the pre-health track would substantially benefit from this minor as it is a direct application of the myriad considerations that are an underpinning of their chosen future professions. As Director of the Division of Biological Sciences, BIOL undergraduate majors who are on a trajectory for applying to health professional schools (e.g. medical, dental, physician assistant, etc.) consistently look for courses and pathways that will support their post-degree plans; the proposed minor is an excellent means to channel their interests and expand their knowledge base as they prepare to take professional entrance exams, complete applications, and interview for the limited professional school placements each year.

Sincerely,

Kristen R. Miller

Dr. Kristen Miller
Director, Division of Biological Sciences

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Minor in Bioethics

College: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Departments: Philosophy

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2025

School/College:

- Department of Philosophy Department Head, Dr. Aaron Meskin, 10/18/2024
- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Paula Lemons, 11/19/2024

Letters of Support:

- Division of Biological Sciences Director, Dr. Kristen Miller, 1/14/2025