Montana University System
INTENT TO PLAN FORM

Program/Center/Institute Title: Ethics Minor

UM-Missoula, College of Humanities & Sciences, Philosophy Department

Expected Submission Date: Fall 2018

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To increase communication, collaboration, and problem-solving opportunities throughout the MUS in the program/center/institute development process, please complete this form not more than 18 months in advance of the anticipated date of submission of the proposed program/center/institute to the Board of Regents for approval. The completed form should not be more than 2-3 pages. For more information regarding the Intent to Plan process, please visit http://mus.edu/che/arsa/academicproposals.asp.

1) Provide a description of the program/center/institute.

The Philosophy Department, UM-Missoula, seeks to create an interdisciplinary Ethics Minor. Students would complete six ethics/value courses (18 credits). These courses fall into three categories: (1) One required lower-division course, chosen from 4 ethics/value courses; (2) Two required upper-division courses, chosen from 12 ethics/value courses; (3) Three electives, chosen from 36 ethics/value courses (offered at the 100-, 200-, 300-, and 400-levels), all of which are regularly taught at UM by 18 departments and programs.

2) Describe the need for the program/center/institute. Specifically, how the program/center/institute meets current student and workforce demands. (Please cite sources).

Understanding ethical practices and increasing ethical knowledge is important to a successful life, both personally and professionally. Tailored to students majoring in other disciplines, UM’s Ethics Minor is designed to enhance the capacities of critical thinking, social engagement, and reflection on major moral issues. The interdisciplinary curriculum provides students with training in ethical frameworks and methods to help ensure successful execution of both future professional duties and personal endeavors. Students will acquire tools for critical reflection that will help them to address the major moral challenges of the 21st century, and strengthen their ability to pursue careers in business, science, journalism, advocacy, nonprofit work, law, and health care (among others).
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3) Describe how the program/center/institute fits with the institutional mission, strategic plan, and existing institutional program array.

In UM-Missoula’s latest strategic plan ("UM Strategic Vision: Creating Change Together"), the mission statement identifies ethics as a critical component of the university’s educational aims: “The University [...] educates competent and humane professionals and informed, ethical, and engaged citizens of local and global communities.” In its discussion of the future of general education at UM-Missoula, the plan also identifies “ethical reasoning” as one of the core competencies that students will acquire. An Ethics Minor will draw on the diverse range of ethics/value courses that are presently taught at UM-Missoula, allowing students to deepen their ethical understanding of a whole host of critical questions that arise within and across multiple disciplines. The ability to study ethics in the interdisciplinary manner provided by the Ethics Minor could become another attractive reason for why students might choose to attend UM-Missoula.

4) Describe how the program/center/institute overlaps, complements, or duplicates existing efforts in the MUS. Describe efforts that will be made to collaborate with similar programs at other institutions. If no efforts will be made, please explain why.

There presently does not exist a comparable program within the MUS. UM-Missoula is uniquely situated to offer an Ethics Minor.

Signature/Date

College/School Dean: 9-13-18

Chief Academic Officer:

Chief Executive Officer:

Flagship Provost*: 9-23-18

Flagship President*:

*Not applicable to the Community Colleges.

Date of Final Review:

When submitting the proposal to the BOR, include this signed form with the Level II request.