**New Undergraduate Program (Majors, Minors, Sequences, Certificates) Proposal  
Illinois State University - University Curriculum Committee**

**Program Department**   Philosophy

**Submission Date**  Wednesday, March 19, 2025

**Initiator**   Christopher Horvath

**Email**   chorvath@ilstu.edu

**Phone**   438-3890

**Campus Address**   4540 Philosophy

**Initiator Department**   Philosophy

**Coauthor(s)**   None

**Version**   2   **ID**   558

**Title of New Program**   Certificate in Law and Philosophy

**Proposed Starting Catalog Year**   2026-2027

**1.**

**Proposed Action**

New Major

New Minor

New Sequence

✓

New Certificate

More than 50% of courses in this program are Distance Education

**2.**

**Provide *Undergraduate Catalog* copy for new program.**

**Certificate in Law and Philosophy**

This certificate is designed for students who are interested in further study in law, politics, or justice.

9 hours required. At least 6 hours must be taken at ISU.

Take one of the following Logic and Critical Reasoning courses:

PHI 112  
PHI 205

Take one of the following Philosophy of Law or Political Philosophy courses:

PHI 240  
PHI 242

Take one of the following Seminar courses:

PHI 330  
PHI 340

Note: PHI 305, PHI 350, or PHI 360 may also satisfy this requirement depending on the specific topic taught in a given semester with the permission of the Department Chair.

**3.**

**Provide a description for the proposed program.**

We are proposing a 9 credit hour undergraduate certificate foucssed on Philosophy of Law and Political Philosophy.

**4.**

**Provide a rationale of proposed program.**

The primary goal of adding the certificate is to attract students to our Political Philosophy and Philosophy of Law courses. It will also serve as a recruitment tool to encourage students interested in pursuing a career in the law to consider the Philosophy Major or Minor. In addition, a significant number of current philosophy majors (and second majors) choose Philosophy as preparation for applying to law school. We believe the Certificate in Law and Philosophy with the additional credential it provides will be of value to our pre-law students.

**5.**

**Describe the expected effects of the proposed program on existing campus programs (if applicable).**

This certificate should have no effect on existing campus programs. It is our hope that students interested in pursuing admission to law school will enroll in our Philosophy of Law and Political Philosophy courses. Some of these students might also consider adding the Philosophy Minor (or Major). Given the number of students who are likely to pursue the certificate, ee do not anticipate this will have a significant effect on the enrollments in other courses or other programs.

**6.**

**Provide a sample four-year plan of study that fulfills the following requirements:** 120 hours, 42 senior college hours (200 and 300 level courses) for 2023-2024 and earlier catalog years; 40 senior college hours for 2024-2025 and later catalog years, and 39 General Education Program hours or 36 hours with exemption. If the program is a BS program, show the BS-SMT degree requirement. If the program is from CAS, show Foreign Language Requirement (LAN 111/LAN 112). IDEAS and AMALI graduation requirements. Confirm General Education requirement exemptions on the General Education page of the current Academic Catalog.*4-year plans are not required for minor or certificate program proposals.*

N/A

**7.**

**Describe the expected curricular changes required, including new courses. If proposals for new courses have also been submitted, please reference those related proposals here:**

The certificate as envisioned requires students to complete one of two 300-level philosophy courses (PHI 330 or PHI 340). Both of these courses currently require PHI 232 as a prereq. PHI 232 itself is not required for the certificate thus creating a "hidden prereq" for all non-philosophy majors. Our plan is to revise the prereqs for PHI 330 and PHI 340 to require the completion of PHI 232 OR PHI 240 OR PHI 242. Thus, students completing the requirements for the certificate will also satisfy the prereq for the 300-level courses.

No other curricular changes are needed.

**8.**

**Anticipated funding needs and source of funds.**

No additional funding needed for this certificate. Finacial Implication Form completed and approved by the Office of the Provost on 3/13/25

**9.**

**No**

**Does this program count for teacher education?**

**10.**

**No**

**Is this an Interdisciplinary Studies program?**

**11.**

**The following questions must be answered.**

**N.A.**

Have letter(s) of concurrence from affected departments/schools been obtained?  
*A departments/school is affected if it has a program with significant overlap or if it teaches a required or elective course in the program.*

**Financial Implications Form**

*If new window does not appear after clicking the View Financial Implications button,  
please disable the "pop-up blocker" feature of your internet browser.*

**12.**

**Routing and action summary for New Program:**

[**Proposal Routing**](https://registrarforms.illinoisstate.edu/CurriculumForms/Support/Routing.aspx)

**1. Philosophy Department Curriculum Committee Chair**

*Christopher Horvath (website)*

Christopher Horvath

3/13/2025 11:55:05 AM

Signature

Print

Date

**2. Philosophy Department Chair/School Director**

*Christopher Horvath (website)*

Christopher Horvath

3/13/2025 11:55:38 AM

Signature

Print

Date

**3. College of Arts & Science College Curriculum Committee Chair**

*Todd Stewart (website)*

Todd Stewart

3/19/2025 2:00:17 PM

Signature

Print

Date

**4. College of Arts & Science College Dean**

*Rocio Rivadeneyra (website)*

Rocio Rivadeneyra

3/19/2025 2:13:41 PM

Signature

Print

Date

**5. University Curriculum Committee Chair**

*Joshua Newport (website)*

Joshua Newport

4/10/2025 1:33:45 PM

Signature

Print

Date

All new programs (majors, minors, sequences, certificates) are routed by the U.C.C. to the Academic Senate

**Comments**

**Comments from Version 1 from Todd Stewart ( College Curriculum Committee Chair):**  
Hi. We voted to approve this proposal pending some updates. So, while I'm hitting the revise button now to allow changes in the system, I am empowered to approve a suitably updated proposal without seeking another vote. The issues we identified are:  
  
(1) Please include a short description of the certificate as part of the catalog copy, e.g. maybe something like: A certificate to prepare students of law school. Or, something like that.  
  
(2) There are a couple of typos in the last sentence of the proposed copy, which is: "PHI 305, PHI 350, or PHI360 may also satisfy this requirement depending on the specific topic taught in a given semester , with the permission of the Department Chair". Add a space between PHI and 360. Second, delete the space before "semester" and the comma later in the sentence  
  
Thanks, Todd Stewart, Chair, CAS CC