

CERTIFICATE IN ETHICS AND SOCIETY



The Certificate in Ethics and Society offers students a broad background in ethics and social philosophy. The goal of the certificate is for students to navigate questions of social and ethical values on a wide range of issues, including the environment, AI, biomedical policy, animal rights, and reproductive justice. The program is structured to foster a deep understanding of both the philosophical foundations and the practical applications of ethics in the real world. Students have a wide range of courses in ethics from which to choose, so you can pick the issues most relevant to you. The certificate is open to students in any major or minor.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this certificate, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the sources of agreement and disagreement among the major schools of thought in ethics.
2. Apply ethical frameworks from each of the major schools of thought in ethics to solve ethical problems.
3. Extract, analyze, and reconstruct arguments from major texts in ethics, both historical and contemporary.
4. Evaluate ethical arguments in terms of both soundness and validity.
5. Demonstrate the application of basic ethical concepts and principles to ethical problems.
6. Explain the theoretical rationale behind principles in professional and practical ethics.
7. Assess current challenges to ethics and describe current conflicts within ethics.
8. Demonstrate skills in written and oral presentation; engage in fruitful oral discussion, debate, and formal presentations that are logically coherent, clearly and concisely stated, and accessible to their peers on topics within ethics.

Requirements Effective Fall 2026

Additional coursework may be required due to prerequisites.

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL 205	Introduction to Ethics	3
Select 9 credits from the following: ¹		9
PHIL 103	Moral and Social Problems (GT-AH3)	

PHIL 201/CS 201	Ethical Computing Systems (GT-AH3)
PHIL 230	Epistemology and Values in Sustainability
PHIL 240	Philosophies of Peace and Nonviolence
PHIL 245	Environmental Philosophies (GT-AH3)
PHIL 264	Animal Ethics
PHIL 312	Philosophy of Law
PHIL 318	Aesthetics-Visual Arts
PHIL 320	Ethics of Sustainability
PHIL 322	Biomedical Ethics
PHIL 345	Environmental Ethics
PHIL 350	Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 353	Feminist Philosophies
PHIL 363	Social Metaphysics
PHIL 447	Ethical Theory

Program Total Credits: 12

¹ At least 6 credits must be from upper-division (300- to 400-level) courses.