Ethics Certificate Program

Passion

Rigor

Purpose

THE KENAN INSTITUTE FOR ETHICS
Ethics Certificate Program

From the challenges facing governments in a global world to the decisions students confront everyday at Duke, the Ethics Certificate provides you with the skills and confidence you need to create and evaluate solutions to ethical dilemmas. Does a government have the right to insist on another government’s adherence to human rights standards? Should a museum be forced to return artifacts that were stolen centuries before the museum acquired them? Is it ever OK to take drugs to improve performance on an exam? What similar problems were faced by people in the past, and how did they resolve them? How can art, music, and literature provide insight into our real-world challenges?

The Ethics Certificate is designed with the view that, in order to answer the question, “How ought we to live?” students need to undertake a course of study across a number of disciplines and engage with multiple perspectives. This rigorous approach will help you develop clarity of thought and expression about ethical issues. Whether you choose to engage in the study of ethics primarily to feed your intellectual curiosity, to serve your desire to change the world, or to provide definition for your own ethical path, the Ethics Certificate will help you meet your goals.
The Curriculum

Students must complete 7 credits of coursework. Approved courses will be listed approximately two weeks in advance of registration each semester, and a master list of past approved courses will be available from the program director.

Gateway: Ethics 100: The Challenges of Living an Ethical Life.
This course is specially designed for Ethics Certificate students and is offered once each academic year. All Ethics Certificate students are required to take this course. It is a prerequisite for the Capstone and for one of the two .5-credit seminars.

Discussions in Ethics: Ethics 102.1 and 102.2: Engaging Ethics Outside the Classroom. These two .5-credit courses are required of all Ethics Certificate students and are open only to those students. Each semester, students meet with faculty and non-academic professionals to discuss the ways they address ethical issues in their work. It is required that students take the Gateway course before completing the second of these seminars. Ethics 102.1 and 102.2 may be taken in any sequence.

Capstone: Ethics 200: Research Seminar in Ethics. This course should be taken in the spring semester of a student’s senior year, and it is open only to Ethics Certificate students. Usually organized around a broad theme, the course allows students to undertake their own original research, integrating the knowledge obtained through a major or majors with insights gained through the study of ethics. As appropriate, the research for this course can link with (but not be substituted by) research undertaken to graduate with Distinction in a major or in the certificate.
In addition to the Gateway, Capstone and Discussions in Ethics courses, students must take four courses which should be distributed as follows:

**I. Philosophical Ethics:** Develop a foundation in philosophical ethical traditions. Students must complete one of the following, and may take one additional course from this category:

- Philosophy 107: Political and Social Philosophy (offered at least every two years)
- Philosophy 116: Problems in Ethical Theory (offered yearly)
- Philosophy 117: Ancient and Modern Ethical Theory (offered yearly)
- Political Science 123: Introduction to Political Philosophy (offered yearly)

**II. Cross-Cultural Ethical Traditions:** Develop insight into a variety of ethical traditions across cultures. Students must take at least one course from a list of approved courses in this category.

**III. Ethics in Historical Perspective:** Develop knowledge of different ethical dilemmas across time, as well as the variety of solutions offered to those dilemmas. Students must take at least one course from a list of approved courses in this category or one course in Category IV below.

**IV. Ethics in Literature and the Arts:** Develop a moral imagination and gain a deeper understanding of human frailty, creativity, and strength by studying fiction, poetry, painting, and film. Students must take at least one course from a list of approved courses in this category or one course in Category III.

**V. Ethics of Contemporary Issues:** Explore the ethical challenges in today's workplaces, fields of study, and everyday life. Students may take one course from a list of approved courses in this category.

To summarize, students take one course each from Category I and Category II, one course in either Category III or Category IV, and one additional course in any of the five categories.
Students in the Certificate Program also have the opportunity to extend their examination of ethics beyond the curriculum.

**Graduation with Distinction in the Study of Ethics**
Since Fall 2009, qualified students seeking to graduate with Distinction on the basis of a thesis or other scholarly project may apply to graduate with Distinction in the Study of Ethics. Students with an interest in this option should meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies about a topic and a faculty committee in the spring of their junior year.

**Engage, Reflect, and Connect**
- Meet regularly with fellow students, graduate students, faculty and local professionals to talk about the ways ethical concerns are infused in their work and studies.
- Help organize and participate in Institute-sponsored campus events:
  - Film screenings and campus-wide discussions
  - Conferences and workshops organized by Institute faculty
  - Small group discussions with distinguished guests
- Participate in ongoing discussions about values and vocations to help you choose a meaningful career path.
- Get notification of internships, fellowships, and research opportunities related to ethics.

**Please note:** The following rules apply to all certificate programs at Duke:
- No more than half of the courses taken to satisfy the requirements of the certificate may originate in a single department or program.
- Students electing to satisfy the requirements of a certificate program may use for that purpose no more than two courses that are also used to satisfy the requirements of a major, minor, or other certificate programs being pursued.
- At least four of the courses used for a certificate must be 100-level or above.
- At least half the courses taken to satisfy a certificate must be taken at Duke.
How to Enroll

All students, regardless of major, are eligible to enroll in the Ethics Certificate Program. Interested students should contact Lou Brown at mb169@duke.edu to set up an appointment to discuss their plans. Although students may officially register for the certificate with the University Registrar (registrar@duke.edu) only after declaring a major, students are encouraged to meet with the director as soon as they develop an interest in the program. In addition to enrolling through the registrar’s office, students must complete a brief essay outlining their interest in ethics and their plans for completing the certificate. For more information, visit dukeethics.org.

Contact:
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