

Before completing this form, refer to the "Board Policy Section III.G. Program Approval and Discontinuance.

1. Briefly describe the nature of the request e.g., is this a new program (degree, program, or certificate) or program component (e.g., new, discontinued, modified, addition to an existing program or option).

This request is for a new degree, a Master of Arts in Philosophy (M.A. Phil.), administered collaboratively by the Departments of Philosophy at the University of Idaho and Washington State University. The proposal builds on the strengths of these two departments, which already have a long history of close collaboration. Each department currently operates a thriving undergraduate Philosophy program, though neither at this time has a graduate program. Faculty from the two departments would together constitute the graduate faculty of the proposed program. Students in the program, while formally enrolled at either the UI or WSU, would have the opportunity to take advantage of the faculty, facilities, and other resources at the other institution. Graduate-level courses will be cross-listed and, where appropriate, offered electronically. Through such a collaborative program with a shared curriculum, the two institutions can offer a comprehensive course of philosophical study, aimed at serving a variety of student interests and goals; in addition, the program meets three objectives associated with the State Board of Education's Statewide Plan for Higher Education and four objectives associated with the UI Strategic Plan. The Department of Philosophy at WSU has received approval from the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board for a draft proposal and they are currently shepherding their proposal through committee, thereby making our efforts at the UI time critical.

The M.A. Phil. will be a credential in the discipline that indicates professional-level expertise and preparedness to do Ph.D. work at a top-flight program. Due to the cooperative nature of the program, a minimal commitment of new resources will be required. Although the program is by design a collaborative effort, the Philosophy Department at each institution will develop an area of specialization or concentration. The UI program will emphasize Environmental Philosophy; the WSU program will offer an option in Ethics. The Program in Environmental Philosophy will enable the UI Philosophy Department to offer short courses and seminars for professionals in business, industry, and government on matters of public concern in Idaho, such as environmental ethics, natural resource policy, environmental justice, and professional ethics. These seminars and short courses will be presented not only on the UI Moscow campus, but also statewide at the UI Centers in Boise, Coeur d'Alene, and Idaho Falls, and elsewhere through the World Wide Web or by compressed video link.

Through its Program in Environmental Philosophy, the proposed graduate program will build on existing strengths at the UI by complementing several graduate programs that emphasize environmental science and natural resource policy. It will fill an open niche in environmental studies at the UI by providing a rigorous and structured philosophical setting to explore the increasingly complex conceptual, ethical, and metaphysical sides of environmental and natural resource policies, issues, and controversies. As such, it will provide a bridge between the humanities and the sciences. By design, the Program in Environmental Philosophy will encourage students to combine their philosophical studies with academic work in other disciplines and professional fields in order to gain a broad and deep understanding of the complex nature of environmental problems. In addition to providing a comprehensive program of graduate study in Philosophy, the proposed program will seek to foster an integrated, interdisciplinary, and coherent approach to environmental problem solving. As a part of this mission, the program would seek to develop service outreach programs through distance and on-site educational programs. To meet these objectives, the curriculum for the Program in Environmental Philosophy includes courses in many disciplines outside Philosophy.

2. Briefly describe how the institution will ensure the quality of the program (e.g., accreditation, professional societies, licensing boards, etc.).

There are no accrediting agencies for the discipline of philosophy. The principal learned society in Philosophy is the American Philosophical Association (APA). The APA does not have any involvement in accreditation or evaluation of programs, nor does it set formal standards for the profession. In order to ensure the highest quality of programmatic structure and performance, we will assemble an Advisory Board of academics and professionals from business, industry, and government. The purpose of the Philosophy Advisory Board will be to provide input on the initial structure of the proposed graduate program, especially the Program in Environmental Philosophy, and to provide periodic reviews and assessments of program performance and relevance to students and professionals statewide and regionally. The initial design and structure of this proposed graduate program is the product of the full faculty of the Department of Philosophy, together with the WSU Philosophy faculty, and in consultation with several collaborative faculty in departments drawn from several colleges and departments on the UI campus. The Curriculum Committee for the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Science, the University Graduate Council, the University Curriculum Committee, Faculty Council, the general faculty, and the UI Administrative Board will also be reviewing this proposal.

3. Duplication—Is this request unique to the system? If not, briefly describe the rationale for the duplication.

This program would be unique to the system. There are no graduate programs in philosophy in the State of Idaho, making it one of only four states in the country that lack such a program. In addition, this would be one of only two M.A.-only graduate programs in philosophy at a public institution in the Northwest, and only one of three institutions in the United States where one can earn an M.A. degree with an emphasis in environmental philosophy.

4. Succinct statement of need for program or program modification. Include student and state need, demand, and employment potential. Attach a Scope and Sequence, DPTE Form Attachment B, for professional-technical education requests.

Need: The proposed graduate program aims to rectify the absence of opportunity for Idaho residents to pursue graduate study in Philosophy in their home state. In addition, the program will further provide students and professionals in Idaho, Washington, and elsewhere in the West with the opportunity to pursue advanced study regarding matters of ethics, values, and social policy relevant to their employment or professional ambitions and of particular concern to the people, economy, and environment of the State of Idaho. In particular, through its Environmental Philosophy option, it will provide environmental, ethical, and conceptual studies at the graduate level to those who wish to investigate environmental and ecological business and policy in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest. Finally, the program will fill an unmet need in the current UI graduate program offerings related to the environment and natural resources by offering philosophical and analytical coursework complementary to the wide variety of strong technical and scientific offerings.

Demand: Program viability requires an enrollment of eleven graduate students at the UI. The undergraduate philosophy programs at both the UI and WSU have more than doubled their number of majors over the past several years, indicating an increase in undergraduate interest in philosophy. This conclusion is also supported by the results of a study on undergraduate interest in graduate study in philosophy conducted by the two departments in their respective states. (See Appendices 4 and 5, Full Proposal.) The outreach component of this program promises to increase the number of participating students statewide. In addition, there will also be involvement of students from other environmental programs on the UI and WSU campuses at the course level, augmenting the enrollments of specific graduate courses offered in the department. Taken together, all of these considerations suggest that we should have no trouble meeting our enrollment targets. (It should be noted that M.A. programs in the West have enrollments that exceed our targets—see p. 24, Full Proposal.)

Employment Potential: Graduates of this program will fall into three categories: (1) those who pursue further graduate education, (2) those who are mid-career and return to their career when finished, and (3) those who change careers as a result of their work in the program. The first group will include students who use the M.A. degree to gain entry into a Ph.D. program in philosophy or a related area or a J.D. program. The quality of the combined faculty coupled with the quality of the associated opportunities, such as the Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference and the planned summer institutes, will enhance the chances of graduates to gain entry into top programs in philosophy, law, or related disciplines. The second group will include environmental professionals who wish to acquire a conceptual framework for grappling with environmental issues, many of whom will complete the degree through off-campus instructional opportunities. The third group will include those who use the philosophical education to position themselves for entrance into careers that involves application of philosophical concepts and techniques, such as environmental policy work, medical ethics, and business ethics. Because of the tracks in environmental philosophy and ethics, we believe that this program has as much employment potential as any other M.A.-only philosophy program.

5. Describe how this request is consistent with the State Board of Education's policy or role and mission of the institution. (i.e., centrality).

This proposed collaborative graduate degree program in Philosophy satisfies the State Board of Education's Statewide Plan for Higher Education by meeting the following goals and strategies as set forth in Directions for Higher Education in Idaho: (1) It encourages expanded curricular response to the technologies; (2) It maintains and enhances strong graduate education; and (3) It avoids unnecessary duplication of effort by utilizing existing course work in current programs. The proposed program also stimulates a broad range of cooperative ventures, both within the State of Idaho and across state lines. Furthermore, it encourages maximum use of technology and promotes Idaho's economic revitalization through technology transfer by supporting basic and applied, issue oriented research that results in the timely application of new knowledge, primarily through its association with other environmental programs as well as environmental businesses and industries within the state.

The M.A. Program here proposed will contribute to the teaching and research missions of the University by contributing to two broad initiatives that have been shaping the curricular and scholarly concerns of the UI in recent years, viz., the development of a strong, cross-discipline university focus on environmental science, and the fostering of critical thinking. In addition, it will serve the teaching, research, and service missions of the UI in other ways: (1) the program will advance the teaching mission by institutionalizing the collaboration between the Departments of Philosophy at the UI and WSU, (2) contributions to research and scholarship will emphasize the various conceptual and philosophical aspects of environmental studies, including ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics, (3) the M.A. program will contribute to the service mission of the University through its unique connection to the Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, jointly organized and hosted by the two philosophy departments, and (4) the program would enable the Department of Philosophy at the UI to compete for national leadership in the field of Environmental Philosophy. Offering a program of graduate study in Philosophy at the UI also serves university-wide goals for graduate education and research, as set forth in the 1998 UI Strategic Plan, Section 2. In particular, it is consistent with the following Objectives found in Section 2:

- Objective 1: “Ensure that each graduate and professional degree program is academically strong, and enhance global prominence in selected areas;”
- Objective 2: “Optimize the quality, size, and diversity of the graduate student enrollment;”
- Objective 3: “Increase the university’s contribution to disciplinary knowledge, consistent with that of a competitive Carnegie Research University I, and to the application of knowledge, consistent with our land-grant university mission;” and
- Objective 4: “Expand research partnerships with business and industry, communities, and private and public institutions.”

6. Resources--Faculty/Staff/Space Needs/Capital Outlay. (Use additional sheets if necessary.):

Estimated Fiscal Impact:	FY <u>04</u>	FY <u>05</u>	FY <u>06</u>
A. <u>Source of Funds</u>			
1. Appropriated-reallocation	<u>\$82,548</u>	<u>\$84,723</u>	<u>\$86,023</u>
2. Appropriated-new	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
3. Federal	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
4. Other: <u>Grants</u>	<u>\$23,049</u>	<u>\$22,531</u>	<u>\$16,152</u>
B. <u>Nature of Funds</u>			
1. Recurring *	<u>\$96,697</u>	<u>\$99,954</u>	<u>\$102,175</u>
2. Non-recurring**	<u>\$8,900</u>	<u>\$7,300</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$105,597</u>	<u>\$107,254</u>	<u>\$102,175</u>

*** Recurring is defined as ongoing operating budget for the program, which will become of the base.**

**** Non-recurring is defined as one-time funding in a fiscal year and not part of the base.**