Philosophy, Politics, & Economics (PPE)
College of Arts & Humanities
Department of Philosophy
227 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-2012
Director & Advisor for Philosophy: Craig Matarrese
Advisor for Political Science: Doran Hunter
Advisor for Economics: Ved Sharma

The PPE major integrates the historical, methodological, theoretical, and practical foci of Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics to form a single course of study. The focus of the major is on the dynamic relationships between the economic, political, and legal systems of our society, relationships that require the analytical methods of all three disciplines to be understood fully. For example, the best way to understand our competitive market economy, certainly a fundamental institution of our society, is to explore its empirical, historical, political, and ethical dimensions. Indeed, if one considers the most influential historical figures in each of the three fields, e.g., John Locke, Adam Smith, David Hume, John Stuart Mill, G.W.F. Hegel, and Karl Marx, it is immediately clear that they recognized no rigid disciplinary boundaries between philosophy, political science, and economics, and that the strength of their views lies precisely in their grasp of the dynamic relationships between the systems that these disciplines study. Admittedly, the coherence of the major is expressed at a fairly abstract and analytical level: the content of the major can be broad and diverse, but all students who work through the major’s curriculum will develop an appreciation of the complexity of our society’s central institutions and problems at the same time that they acquire the analytical facility to engage and critically evaluate them.

Students in the major take a number of required core courses in Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics, followed by a concentration of courses, and a senior thesis, in one of the three participating departments. The structure of the major ensures that students have a solid grounding in each of the three disciplines, as well as a specific concentration in one area that draws on this interdisciplinary foundation.

Admission to Major is granted by the Director of the PPE Program. Minimum university admission requirements are:
- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.
- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 (C).

Contact the director of the program for application procedures.

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, & ECONOMICS BA, BS

Required for Major (Core, 27 credits):
PHIL 120 Introduction to Ethics
PHIL 240 Law, Justice, and Society OR
PHIL 224 Business Ethics
PHIL 440/540 Philosophy of Law
POL 111 United States Government
POL 231 World Politics OR
POL 241 Introduction to Comparative Government

Any ONE of the following:
POL 311 Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy
POL 312 Modern Political Philosophy
POL 313 Contemporary Political Philosophy
POL 410 Topics in Political Theory
POL 414 Early U.S. Political Thought
POL 415 Recent U.S. Political Thought
POL 416 Nonwestern Political Philosophy
ECON 201 Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 202 Principles of Microeconomics
ECON 355 Intermediate Microeconomics

Statistics (any statistics course in PSYC, SOC, MATH, ECON, or POL)
PHIL 495/496 Senior Thesis I & II OR
POL 492 Individual Study OR
ECON 482 Individual Study

PPE with Philosophy Concentration:
Students must take 5 courses from among the following (students with concentra-