

## **Minor in Business, Ethics, and Society/Ethics, Society, and the Institution of Business Themes, Worksheet, and Sample Curricula**

BES/ESIB students typically work with a faculty advisor to develop a coherent curriculum exploring a specific area of concern regarding the institution of business. You will identify your area of concern and the preliminary curriculum to explore it as part of your application; further work in the minor will require you to select an ethical and a societal theme from the options described below.

Ethical themes:

- *Personal ethics*: Understand the kinds of ethical issues that arise at the level of the individual, and the importance of ethical congruence between an individual and an organization. Become familiar with the aspects of individual psychology and the work environment that make it harder or easier for individuals to identify, analyze, and act on such issues. Develop ways for individuals to address the hindrances.
- *Organizational ethics*: Understand the kinds of ethical issues that arise at the level of the organization, the typical ethical structures of organizations, and the importance of organizational ethics (both internally and externally directed). Become familiar with the aspects of organizational structure and the work environment that make it harder or easier for organizations to identify, analyze, and act on such issues. Develop ways for organizations to address the hindrances.
- *Politics*: Understand the kinds of ethical issues that arise at the level of an industry, and the importance of regulation. Become familiar with the aspects of industry structure and governance that make it harder or easier for governing bodies to identify, analyze, and act on such issues. Develop ways for governing bodies to address the hindrances.

Societal themes, regarding the fundamental orientation of the institution of business:

- *Corporate sustainability*: Develop an understanding of corporate sustainability: what it is, how it is measured, and how it is justified as an orientation.
- *Corporate social responsibility*: Develop an understanding of CSR: what it is, how it is measured, and how it is justified as an orientation.
- *Corporate political responsibility* (CPR, also called *political CSR*). Develop an understanding of the political role of private enterprises. Become familiar with the ways in which an organization or industry is or could be involved in “political” action, whether in conjunction with a governmental body or in its own right, and when such engagement would be justified.

See sample curricula on the final page.

Having selected your themes, you are now in a position to begin filling out the worksheet on the next page. Upon acceptance, you will complete a google form version of this this worksheet and update it each semester as you proceed through your curriculum. In your senior year you will take the Capstone Seminar, where you will draw on your previous work to propose that a single entity (a person, organization, or political entity) take a specific ethical action with respect to a specific ethical or social issue within your chosen area of concern, presenting an ethical, legal, and financial argument in favor of your chosen action to the actors best placed to act on it.

## Worksheet

Area of Concern – the general area in which the institution of business engages or could engage with society in an ethically significant way

Themes – ethical (personal, organizational, or political) and societal (corporate sustainability, CSR, CPR)

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Issue(s) – specific points of conflict or opportunity within your area of concern that an individual organization (for-profit, non-profit, or policy) could act on; cite any sources you've already identified (in your work experience memos, coursework, and elsewhere) as footnotes

- first elective:
- second elective:
- internship:
- other:

Potential audience(s) – sample organizations that might be able to take the action(s) you've identified; cite any sources you've already identified (in your internship memos and elsewhere) as footnotes

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Normative frameworks – ethical or political theories that establish normative standards for action, from your coursework or elsewhere; list the names (e.g. virtue ethics, human rights, human dignity, conservatism), standards (e.g. flourishing, safety or free speech, equality, preservation of traditions), and associated philosophers (e.g. Aristotle, Rawls, Aquinas, Scruton); cite your sources in the footnotes

- ethics requirement:
- Capitalism in Context:
- ethics/social justice elective:
- other:

## Sample Curricula

<b>area of concern:</b>	<b>climate change</b>
themes:	political CSR
ethics:	political philosophy (POLS 101)
electives:	environmental economics (ECON 224) environmental political philosophy (PHIL 247)*
capstone:	pitch to the federal Department of Transportation about tax incentives to support the development of electric vehicles
<b>area of concern:</b>	<b>immigrant access to the workplace</b>
themes:	organizational CPR
ethics:	Ethical Issues in Computer Science (CSCI 328)
electives:	Gender Economics (ECON 212)* Entrepreneurship (CISS 208)
capstone:	pitch to a non-profit organization/potential funders about offering work-related technology literacy, and women-focused programs to refugees and immigrants
<b>area of concern:</b>	<b>employer obligation with respect to domestic violence</b>
themes:	organizational CSR
ethics:	Ethics (PHIL 204)
electives:	Cognition and Memory (PSYC 236) [note: carries a “natural science” designation] Gender and Development (ANTH 253)*
capstone:	pitch to the National Football League about addressing the unethical treatment of their players, which contributes to their well-documented abuse of their partners
<b>area of concern:</b>	<b>inequalities in elder care</b>
themes:	organizational CSR
ethics:	Foundations of Morality (PHIL 207)
electives:	History of Capitalism: US in the World (HIST 212) Theological Perspectives on Medical Ethics (RELS 230)*
capstone:	pitch to board of a memory care facility about addressing class- and gender-based inequities in care
<b>area of concern:</b>	<b>the impact of corporate culture on individual action</b>
themes:	organizational corporate sustainability
ethics:	Social Ethics (RELS 143)
electives:	Judgment and Decision-making (PSYC 238) Liberation Theology (RELS 280)*
capstone:	pitch to Wells Fargo executives regarding modifying internal supervision and evaluation practices

\* indicates an elective with an ethics or social justice emphasis