

University of Arizona

***SPECIAL PROGRAM FEES  
FEE REQUEST***

**College/School**

- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS)
  - College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS)

**Department/School/Center**

- Department of Philosophy
- School of Government and Public Policy
- Department of Economics
- Center for the Philosophy of Freedom

**New Program:** *Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law(BA)*

**Is this a graduate or an undergraduate program fee?**

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

**Is this a new fee or an increase to an existing fee?**

NEW FEE  Amount requested: \$400 per semester (\$800 per year)

**BACKGROUND:** *Include information concerning the establishment of the fee, history of increases (if any), references to policy, and the campus review/approval process.*

The Department of Philosophy, the School of Government and Public Policy and the Department of Economics in partnership with the Center for the Philosophy of Freedom have collectively proposed the establishment of a new professionally oriented undergraduate interdisciplinary major in *Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law* (PPEL). This program shall be an exceptional educational opportunity for candidates for the Bachelor of Arts with high career aspirations.

In conformity with ABOR Policy 4-104.B.4<sup>1</sup>, we request an special program fee of \$400 per semester (\$800 per year) for junior and senior students majoring in PPEL in order to assure the honors-type degree experience and quality of instruction that PPEL shall offer. The instructional costs of PPEL will be higher per student FTE than average because the PPEL core curriculum will rely on only highly accomplished, research active permanent faculty providing courses of extraordinary quality appropriately sized to meet the demands of an honors-type education. Additionally, students majoring in PPEL will benefit from outstanding career-oriented advising.

The PPEL program is designed to be especially inviting to Honors College students and attractive to pre-professional Bachelor of Arts students who seek the educational experience typical of a distinguished private liberal arts college within a major public land-grant research

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<sup>1</sup> See [http://www.abor.asu.edu/1\\_the\\_Regents/policymanual/chap4/chapter\\_iv-old.htm#4-104](http://www.abor.asu.edu/1_the_Regents/policymanual/chap4/chapter_iv-old.htm#4-104)

university. The PPEL curriculum is also intensive. It features a major of 45 units; students will typically declare the major by the start of their sophomore year. No minor is required of students majoring in PPEL. The program is designed to permit students to graduate within 4 years from matriculation with an exceptional set of skills complemented by distinctively broad and deep knowledge. Graduates of PPEL will be uniquely well prepared to assume high income careers<sup>2</sup> and, ultimately, leadership roles in the private and public sectors that demand exceptional skills in critical thinking and analytical assessment in areas of the economy and society where informed value judgment is at a premium.

In the first phase, the PPEL program will accommodate up to 60 majors in its initial phase. No new State funds are required to support the proposed major. Faculty to be hired on existing private gifts and external grants of \$695,500 annually to the Center for the Philosophy of Freedom will participate in the PPEL program, as will current faculty in the Departments of Philosophy and Economics and the School of Government and Public Policy. To ensure the appropriate ratio of outstanding faculty to students and to provide for excellent advising and program management, the major will require, as a complement to its very substantial private support, a program fee of \$400 per semester (\$800 per year) for declared PPEL majors. This fee is comparable to that of other professionally-oriented programs on campus and especially appropriate for an honors-caliber program. During the first three years of PPEL, the fee could generate up to \$48,000 annually. Of this amount and as required by ABOR policy (4-104.B.3.b.2) 17% (i.e. \$8,160) would be reserved for financial aid for students with financial need. Beyond this amount, \$21,645 plus \$6,494 in ERE) would be used to provide for instructional salaries, \$9,000 (plus \$2,700 in ERE) would provide for a part-time advisor/program manager, and any remaining the balance would be applied to modest operational expenses including distinguished speakers from the private and public sectors, all as exhibited in the accompanying PPEL budget spreadsheet later in this document.

The planned second phase, which would increase the major to 120 students, will enjoy augmented private support. The Philosophy Department and the School of Government and Public Policy have been extraordinarily successful in the last five years in attracting donor support for their academic and research missions. Based on exploratory discussions with potential donors, these units believe that PPEL will be especially attractive to private donors. Related programs at Tulane University and the University of Virginia have been successful in attracting significant private funding. We may look forward to similar private support for PPEL.

As a part of the second phase, the program would draw upon new gift and grant funds to recruit a full-time director able to provide students with enhanced mentoring and pre-professional support with respect to both immediate academic planning and also long range career-related concerns. We expect that the director would be especially active in developing rewarding internships and extra-curricular opportunities for students while informing students about, and preparing them for, the variety of career paths they might pursue. Also in the program's second phase, gift and grant funds will be used to increase the advisor/program manager from part-time to full-time status so as to accommodate the doubling of majors.

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<sup>2</sup> See the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (at <http://www.bls.gov/>) for various reports (e.g. "The Usual Weekly Earnings Summary" at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/wkyeng.nr0.htm>) showing income advantages to individuals in the various professions into which PPEL graduates will enter.

**DISCUSSION:** *Include in the discussion how the request is covered under the ABOR policy statement and adopted criteria for evaluating requests for fees for academic programs. Also, indicate the number of students affected and the financial impact of the request.*

Graduates of PPEL will be well trained within a program of exceptionally high quality to enter high income professions and pursue post-baccalaureate training typically leading to enhanced professional opportunities. In order to provide this type of educational benefit, a program fee of \$400 per semester (\$800 per year) per major must be established under ABOR policy.

This program fee will allow the PPEL program to offer the following opportunities to undergraduate students:

- Scholarships
  - 17% of all students fees collected will be set aside for need based financial aid for juniors and seniors majoring in PPEL.
- Instruction by internationally distinguished faculty
  - Philosophy Department faculty contributing to the PPEL program include some of the most prominent individuals in the profession and account for the Department's internationally unsurpassed peer ranking in political philosophy.
  - Faculty in the School of Government and Public Policy are distinguished for both the training they provide their students as future leaders in government and commerce as well as for their professional consulting with agencies at all levels of government and with private enterprises involved with implementing public policies.
  - Contributing faculty from Economics are distinguished for both the research and teaching.
- Professional skill development
  - The PPEL degree is intensive, featuring a major of 45 units designed for completion in 4 years from matriculation for full time students who declare the major and complete their foundational requirements by the end of their sophomore year.
  - Graduates of PPEL will excel in the rigorous and objective assessment of questions pertaining to values, norms and ethics in the private and public domains.
  - All classes within the core of the PPEL program will be limited in size so as to ensure the highest level of student/faculty interaction.
  - All PPEL classes will be taught by distinguished permanent research faculty internationally recognized for their original and influential books and articles.
  - PPEL classes will emphasize critical thinking, analytical writing, and logical reasoning. Teaching students such skills requires appropriate student faculty ratios.
  - The PPEL curriculum will feature educationally enriching capstone courses and professionally oriented internships.
  - Graduates of PPEL will be well prepared to assume leadership roles in the private and public sectors.
  - PPEL students will enjoy professional placement support from the program upon graduation.
- Course availability and time to degree
  - All PPEL courses will be scheduled so as to permit admitted majors to take all required courses in sequence and graduate within four years.

- Special opportunity for Honors College Students
  - The PPEL curriculum will be the only undergraduate major at the University of Arizona designed to provide a complete sequence of honors courses through the core of the major.
- Opportunities for students to consult with external experts in the students' fields of interest
  - The PPEL program fee will permit the program to import distinguished visiting speakers and prominent leaders from the private and public sectors into PPEL core curriculum courses for personal contact with PPEL students. These interactions will enhance the professional development of PPEL students and establish important career opportunities for students.
- The program fee will contribute to the University of Arizona and State-wide communities in the following ways:
  - Since the PPEL curriculum features course availability structured to enable the completion of the BA in four years, PPEL graduates will re-enter their communities as productive members sooner on average than other students.
  - Since the PPEL program fee permits scholarships for students of limited financial means, such students will advance to graduation and thereafter to enrich their communities.
  - PPEL graduates will enter professions that benefit the State economically.
  - The PPEL program will provide students at Arizona's large public land grant research institution with the kind of educational experience typical of the nation's best private liberal arts colleges and universities that function as conduits for their students into leadership roles in the private and public sectors. PPEL should be the premier route on campus into the professions for liberal arts students in pursuit of the B.A.

Interdisciplinary degree programs in the ground common to philosophy, politics, economics, and law now thrive, under various labels, at an increasing number of public and private universities. Examples of such successful programs include those at the University of Oxford, Tulane University, the University of Virginia, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Richmond, Denison University, Western Washington University, and the State University of New York at Binghamton, Claremont McKenna College, Duke University, Pomona College, University College Dublin, University of Iowa, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Notre Dame, and Wesleyan University. These institutions do not levy program fees on their relevant comparison programs since their general tuition structures are designed to support such programs. Nevertheless, *even with the proposed PPEL fee included*, total tuition and fees for PPEL students at the University of Arizona would remain below the median total tuition and fees imposed by public peer institutions with a total for tuition, fees and the program fee of \$7,642. Indeed, Arizona would rank 12<sup>th</sup> out of 16 (i.e. in the lowest quartile) in total resident tuition and fees.

The total tuition and fees for residents, after implementation of the proposed PPEL program fee, still places Arizona well-below the median of the peers. Since need based financial aid funds will be reserved from the fee, the fee will not adversely affect students with financial hardships. Since PPEL does not yet exist, it is impossible to poll current PPEL majors regarding the fee.

However, since only those students who freely elect PPEL upon its establishment with a fee, will be affected by the fee, it logically follows that all yet-to-enroll PPEL students will, by their voluntary declaration of major, concur with the fee.

Upon approval of the fee, the Heads of the Departments of Philosophy and Economics, the Director of the School of Government and Public Policy, the Director of the Center for the Philosophy of Freedom, and the PPEL Student Governance Board will develop a procedure for regularly auditing the collection and expenditure of PPEL fees to assure the appropriate management of the fee. The Student Governing Board shall participate in all decisions to adjust the PPEL program fee subsequent to the establishment of the program.

### Budget Discussion

The Department of Philosophy has received recent donations from outside sources that will be used to fund new faculty hires and a director for this program. Program fees will fund an advisor who will also serve as the program coordinator for this undergraduate program. The program coordinator will assist students in obtaining a professional internship, provide career advising and resume workshops. The funds also will be used to develop a computer facility for student use with submitting professional and graduate school applications and searching for appropriate internships and jobs. The proximity to the program coordinator to this computer facility will enable additional support to the students. Special speakers will be invited that are appropriate for the education of undergraduates in the program and students will opportunities to meet with the speakers. The program fee will also provide 17% of the income for financial aid.

We assume 60 majors in the first three years. However, in the event that enrollments are lower in the first stage of the program, we will adjust expenses to balance with actual income. Thereafter, we anticipate doubling the majors to 120 as supporting gifts are received. As explained above, fees would provide for operational expenses, materials, and modest instructional costs as well as financial aid for students with demonstrated financial need. The model proposed demonstrates that PPEL will succeed without new State funds while also enhancing revenues through gifts, grants and fees.

### Financial Impact of the Request on Revenue

The requested fee for this **new interdisciplinary program** will generate approximately **\$48,000** in revenue next year that will allow for program enrichment in this honors-type pre-professional program designed to meet the needs of pre-law and business and government career options.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *The recommendation should be specific, clear, and concise.*

We respectfully recommend the creation of a new interdisciplinary B.A. undergraduate major *in Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law* (PPEL) with a program fee of \$400 per semester (\$800 per year) for majors commencing at the start of the student's junior year.