UA Initiative for the Development of Online Programs

PI names: Laura Howard

Program Title: Certificate of Applied Ethics/Minor in Philosophy

Project Description
The Philosophy department will offer a collection of courses, from which students may choose six, in order to complete an undergraduate Certificate in Applied Ethics. The completion of the certificate also satisfies the requirements of a Philosophy minor. The courses to be offered are as follows:

Phil 110—Logic and Critical Thinking or Phil 202
Phil 321—Medical Ethics
Phil 111—Introduction to Philosophy
Phil 322—Business Ethics
Phil 113—Introduction to Moral and Social Philosophy
Phil 323—Environmental Ethics
Phil 205—Ethics, Economics, and Wealth
Phil 324—Law and Morality
Phil 213—Contemporary Moral Problems
Phil 347—Neuro-ethics
Phil 320a/b—Philosophy of Freedom
Phil 348—Moral Psychology
Phil 410a/b—History of Ethics

What was accomplished?
Five (5) courses are near completion and ready to be offered to distance learners. The PI and five grant instructors are now positioned to pass along their knowledge to other faculty for the purpose of using online technology in both fully web-based courses and traditional in-person courses. We’ve captured video that can reside perpetually in archives for students well into the future. We’ve designed the courses to be “passed off” to future instructors, still allowing for individualization.

Assessment
The quality of these courses exceeds that of previous online courses offered by our department. This is a result of applying pedagogical methods we’ve learned that are specific to online instruction, and acquiring skills for utilizing technology tools that were new to us. This would not have happened as quickly, or at all, were it not for the resources and support we’ve been afforded by these grant funds. In addition to these particular courses being of high quality, we anticipate that our courses developed in the future will benefit from the mentoring that will be available from the grant instructors.

Goals
We intend to expand on the knowledge we’ve gained regarding online instruction for distance learners in order to offer a completely web-based major in the future. Also, we intend to integrate some of the technology we’ve learned into our in-person courses to enhance the learning experience.

Future Plans
We intend to add three more courses to the eleven we already have available for students to choose from for this certificate. In doing so, students will be able to customize the program to fit particular applied interests. We hope to attract students internationally by the exposure that will come from posting lectures on streaming hosts.

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