

GPSS Report
Graduate Program Review
Values in Society Certificate Program
Department of Philosophy Graduate Program Review

On December 4th, 2009 the Graduate and Professional Student Senate sent their Chief of Staff to sit in on the student portion of the graduate program review. A total of 4 students were present, 3 of whom who had already received their certificates. All of the students had come from other departments, especially Bioethics. Below is a report outlining the results of the student session.

Program Advertising/Recruitment

- Students felt it was difficult to find the program as it was not widely advertised
- Two of the students actually found the program by accident
- Students felt that it was not clear in the course catalog that it was a certificate program
- Students suggested more outreach be done to recruit students
- Students suggested having more courses which would fulfill requirements in their own programs

Advising

- Students expressed praise for a faculty member who acted as a very good advisor

Program

- Students said they took the program because they felt it was important to reach beyond their own departments/programs
- Students were also happy that they could produce a publishable work/paper by the end of the program
- Students were also happy with how interdisciplinary their peers were
- Students felt the program was a good intro to philosophical decision making
- Students said the capstone requirement makes the program flexible

Value in Career Field

- Students said that they have been asked during interviews what “Values in Society” is
- Students said they did feel the certificate was useful in their careers

Recommendations

- Students felt the administrative side of things were unclear
- Students also said it was vague whether or not they had been accepted into the program when they got their first email
- Students would like to see more of the program – courses, faculty, etc.

Overview

Overall, the students were very satisfied with the program, and understood that they were getting a certificate. The students felt that the certificate added to their own studies, and gave them some time away from their usual coursework. Students also expressed how much the certificate reinvigorated them to dive into their own programs, and felt re-inspired. But, like many certificate programs, students also felt ViS was not well-advertised.