

Common Curriculum Proficiency & Experience Course Proposal Civics and Individual Ethics

To propose a course for a Common Curriculum Proficiency & Experience component, complete this form, attach relevant documents, and submit to the [online proposal system](#).

A **complete syllabus in pdf format** (including detailed descriptions of assigned readings, assignments, and a weekly schedule) should be included in the submission, along with an **assessment assignment** used to assess student learning. Assignment details should include a prompt for essays or essay questions, or a block of questions for objective exams.

Courses requesting Proficiency & Experience components must be at any level up through the 4000 level. Courses may carry one Breadth requirement as well as up to four Proficiency & Experience requirements. Please note, courses may not count for both Philosophical, Religious, and Ethical Inquiry (PREI) and Civics and Individual Ethics (CIE).

Course Prefix and Number: _____ **Course Title:** _____

Proposal Date: _____ **Proposed by:** _____

Department Chair Authorization: *By signing this form, the Chair of the Department offering the course certifies that the course has been approved by the department and the college or school, and that the course is offered regularly.*

Name of Dept. Chair: _____

Signature of Dept. Chair: _____

Mission of General Education:

The essence of Southern Methodist University’s educational philosophy is that intellectual and professional excellence rises from the solid foundation of a liberal arts education. Most importantly, general education should provide an intellectual foundation consisting of the broad outlines of human knowledge, providing a context for discipline specific study, and a framework for a future of lifelong learning. In light of these considerations, an ideal general education course is one which builds a broad, context-rich framework in its content area. To the extent possible, it should transcend departmental boundaries, connecting to ideas in related fields, and relevant social and ethical questions.

Common Curriculum Goals:

- The Common Curriculum will prepare students to be informed, ethical, and engaged citizens.
- The Common Curriculum will prepare students to think critically across domains.
- The Common Curriculum will prepare students to communicate clearly in writing and speaking.
- The Common Curriculum will provide students with the scientific, mathematical, and technological competence to navigate a changing world.
- The Common Curriculum will prepare students to understand, work, and live with people from different races, nationalities, religions, backgrounds, and experiences.

Please provide an explanation of how the proposed course supports this mission and these goals.

Student Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate an ability to engage in ethical reasoning about civic and individual life.

Please describe how the proposed course meets the Student Learning Outcome.

Supporting Skill #1: Students will demonstrate an understanding of what constitutes a good life and/or a good society.

Please describe how the proposed course showcases the supporting skill above.

Supporting Skill #2: Students will apply learning in the course to articulate the nature of a good life or how one may contribute to a good society.

Please describe how the proposed course showcases the supporting skill above.

Course Content Criteria #1: Courses in this category offer a sustained reflection on the nature of the good life and the good society. Ethical questions and investigations are raised early in the course and returned to frequently.

Please provide an explanation of how the proposed course satisfies the course content criteria above.

Course Content Criteria #2: Courses in this category consistently work with concepts such as justice, freedom, fairness, privacy, security, tolerance, equality, rights, or concern for the general welfare.

Please provide an explanation of how the proposed course satisfies the course content criteria above.

Course Content Criteria #3: Courses in this category include an assessment assignment that requires students to demonstrate each of the skills in the [Civics and Individual Ethics Rubric](#). This assessment assignment should be one of the following: an objective exam, an essay question on an exam, an essay, or a research paper.

Please provide an explanation of how the proposed course satisfies the course content criteria above.

I certify that all information provided is accurate and that the proposed course was vetted and approved by all relevant departmental and college/school committees. If my course is approved, I hereby agree to abide by all requirements for the Common Curriculum, including using Canvas to assess the course, and providing an updated syllabus each semester to the SMU syllabus library. I further agree to notify the Office of General Education if any substantive changes are made to the course. I agree to participate in the course portfolio process for this course every three years.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Proposer Signature: _____