

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 4513S

Date of Senate Approval 03/21/13

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 39**                      **Change of the opening narrative of Philosophy Department**

**Effective Date: Fall 2013**

**1. Delete:** On page 243, the narrative for Philosophy:

“Philosophy” once referred to the whole range of human thought about the universe and humanity’s place in it. With the increase of specialization, philosophy has retained an interest in the fundamental assumptions, modes of thought, and human implications of other disciplines. It is especially interested in integrating different aspects of knowledge and assessing humanity’s place in the universe.

A major in Philosophy should be attractive to students planning further study in law or religion, as well as to those interested in graduate work in philosophy. A second major in Philosophy should help students in other fields to better understand their own specialties and their broader implications.

**Add:** On page 243, in place of deleted entry:

“Philosophy” once referred to the whole range of human thought about the universe and humanity’s place in it. As other disciplines have narrowed their focus, those in the discipline of philosophy have retained an interest in fundamental assumptions and modes of thought. Practitioners of philosophy are especially interested in integrating different aspects of knowledge and assessing humanity’s place in the universe.

A major in Philosophy, in addition to being intrinsically valuable, is an excellent source of the creative critical thinking skills essential to the contemporary economy. In a diverse and increasingly interconnected world, study of Philosophy offers the analytic skills necessary for real-world problem solving. Philosophy is, more specifically, an attractive major to students planning further study in a wide variety of academic and professional fields, as well as those interested in graduate work in philosophy. In addition to the preceding, a second major in Philosophy helps students by complementing their other major and its broader implications.

**Impact Statement:** This change will have no known negative impact on the Philosophy major, minor and university requirements. It will also not affect the department’s staffing needs and course offerings.

**Rationale:** This change better aligns the description of the philosophy department and the philosophy major with the UNCA Mission Statement as well as the Strategic Plans.