

**LEHMAN COLLEGE
OF THE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

Request for Registration of a new Certificate

Name of Program and Degree Award: Certificate in Corporate Ethics

Hegis Number: TBD

Program Code: TBD

1. Type of Change: Create a new certificate program

2. Description:

The proposed Certificate in Corporate Ethics is a 12-credit undergraduate certificate housed in the Department of Philosophy and developed in consultation with the Department of Management and Business Innovation at Lehman College. The program equips students with competencies in ethical analysis, legal reasoning, corporate responsibility, environmental stewardship, data ethics, labor relations, and organizational behavior. Students develop these capabilities through core courses in Contemporary Moral Issues and Business Ethics, complemented by targeted electives focused on politics, the environment, data science ethics, business law, labor relations, organizational behavior, and ethical theory.

2.1. Educational Objectives

This program is open to all Lehman students and is especially supportive of students majoring in business management. It provides students with practical skills and decision-making frameworks to address complex business challenges ethically. Through coursework in ethics, politics, and law, students gain both theoretical and hands-on foundations for analyzing and responsibly resolving business issues. The curriculum directly benefits students by preparing them for real-world scenarios, including managing corporate environmental responsibilities, ensuring market integrity, promoting workplace belonging, protecting business and human rights, and fostering sustainable, equitable, and socially just wealth creation. By completing the certificate, students will be able to apply ethical reasoning confidently and add tangible value to their careers. Upon finishing the certificate program, students will be able to:

- Explain concepts and ideas essential to moral reasoning and apply them to contemporary business problems.
- Construct well-reasoned written arguments in defense of ethical positions.
- Gather, interpret, and assess evidence and arguments for and against different ethical positions from different points of view.
- Understand the key features of legal reasoning and distinguish them from moral reasoning.
- Communicate effectively, especially with respect to moral dilemmas.

- Develop an understanding and appreciation for the historical relationship between ethics, politics, and business activity.
- Identify and explain the social and legal obligations of business professionals.

2.2. Program of Study:

The program of study consists of four courses (12 credits). Two courses are required and two courses are electives chosen from a list of seven courses.

The program includes the following courses:

Required Courses (6 credits):

- PHI 172 Contemporary Moral Issues
- PHI 330 Business Ethics
- Elective Courses (6 credits): one must be at the 300 level
 - PHI 235 Political Philosophy
 - PHI 247 Environmental Ethics
 - PHI 227 Ethics of Data Science
 - BBA 329 Labor Relations
 - PHI 358: Ethical Theory
 - BBA 336 Business Law I
 - BBA 327 Organizational Behavior

The proposed Corporate Ethics Certificate program will require no additional resources, as courses will be taught by current faculty and will utilize existing curriculum, faculty expertise, and administrative infrastructure, minimizing costs while enhancing enrollment and retention.

3. Rationale:

Lehman College's School of Business provides high-quality transformative education to a diverse group of students, shaping them to become successful, ethical and socially responsible leaders, professionals, and entrepreneurs. The Corporate Ethics Certificate supports this vision, creating a visible credential that signals to employers that Lehman graduates possess both technical competence and ethical literacy.

No existing certificate program at The City University of New York offers a substantially similar undergraduate credential focused specifically on corporate ethics, thereby positioning Lehman College to meet a distinctive academic and workforce need within the University system and to serve as a Bronx-based leader in ethics education for business students.

The Corporate Ethics Certificate Program is tailored to meet the needs of today's business students and the shifting demands of the business community. Employers value graduates with robust moral reasoning, leadership, and critical thinking skills, as well as key competencies in communication and collaboration. Businesses now

prioritize corporate social responsibility and a purpose-driven model that aligns profit with social impact. The World Economic Forum's *Future of Jobs Report* (2023) identifies ethics as a vital upskilling priority. Positions like Director of Ethics and Business Conduct, Ethics & Compliance Manager, and Chief Compliance Ethics & Privacy Officer (CCEPO) are growing, with average annual salaries for U.S. Ethics Officers ranging from \$87,000 to \$178,000.

There is a compelling demand for this program from the Lehman student body. Lehman College's School of Business, launched on July 1, 2022, now serves approximately 1,500 students, reflecting the rapid growth and significance of its programs. A recent 2025 survey of nearly 160 Lehman business students found that 94% recognize the growing importance of business ethics for their career paths, and 75% would be willing to take extra credits to earn a Corporate Ethics Certificate. The Philosophy Department has cultivated a strong, productive relationship with the School of Business and meaningfully impacts hundreds of business students each year through its Business Ethics course.

4. Date of departmental approval: April 20, 2026