

HECB FORM 1

NEW DEGREE PROGRAM PLANNING NOTIFICATION OF INTENT
PLANNING NOI Cover for:

Bachelor of Arts in Human Rights

Program Information

Program Name: BA in Human Rights

Institution Name: University of Washington Tacoma

Degree Granting Unit: Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

(e.g. College of Arts and Science)

Degree: BA in Human Rights Level: Bachelor Type: (of) Arts

(e.g. B.S. Chemistry) (e.g. Bachelor) (e.g. Science)

Major: Human Rights CIP Code: 30.2001 (Global Studies)

(e.g. Chemistry)

Minor: N/A

(if required for major)

Proposed Start Date: Winter 2009

Projected Enrollment (FTE) in Year One: 16.5 At Full Enrollment by Year: 5:54.44

(# FTE)

(# FTE)

Proposed New Funding: ≈ \$113,000/yr

Funding Source: State FTE

Mode of Delivery

Single Campus Delivery Tacoma

Off-campus Delivery N/A

Distance Delivery N/A

Substantive Statement of Need

Attach Sheet

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 8/12/08
Endorsement by Chief Academic Officer Date

Substantive Statement of Need

I. Relationship to Institutional Role and Mission

“UW Tacoma is dedicated to interdisciplinary and innovative teaching and scholarship and to engaging the community in mutually beneficial partnerships.¹” A major in human rights will further this UW Tacoma mission. The study of human rights exemplifies the values set forth in the mission of the University of Washington Tacoma.

A. Human Rights as a New Interdisciplinary Discipline:

Human rights is becoming an increasingly prominent part of university curricula. Traditionally housed in post graduate schools of law, it is increasingly common to find human rights courses in political science, anthropology, philosophy, and literature and film departments, as well as in area studies programs. It is a concept or paradigm that defies efforts to categorize it into a particular traditional discipline. Both the study and practice of human rights is more appropriately done with cross-disciplinary expertise (collaboration), and indeed it is difficult even to isolate the study of the idea from the practice. Teaching human rights almost inevitably turns into a kind of advocacy for the idea of universal norms and the rule of law. Practicing human rights (by researching or observing and reporting on violations, or by working in the field of truth construction or transitional justice) requires more than the average amount of theoretical consideration, since these “practices” strain the boundaries of what has already been regularized, both in advocacy/activism and in legal practice. Because the practice of human rights has broadened considerably beyond the field of law, there is an increased demand for individuals who have a deep understanding of the issues at hand.

Human rights can only be approached from an interdisciplinary perspective, and it also simultaneously forces us to bridge other intellectual divides. It addresses the phenomenon of globalization while at the same time stressing individual human dignity. It assumes a universality of human necessity and experience, while simultaneously forcing us to examine the details of particular experience. It is particularly concerned with the relationship between codified law and politics, and also concerned with an ethics that almost necessarily transcends codification. The study and practice of human rights forces us to re-evaluate the relationship between the traditional notions of theory and practice. And it also forces us to re-evaluate the relationship between scholarship, teaching, and society. For these reasons it seems that human rights--both in the way it is conceptualized by scholars and operationalized by practitioners--forces us to rethink our epistemology and the structure of our universities.

B. UW Tacoma as a Site for Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Education

¹ Vision statement of the University of Washington, Tacoma.
<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/chancellor/mission.html>. Further statements in quotes in this section are also from the vision statement.

The University of Washington Tacoma is in many ways at the forefront of this kind of re-shaping process. We explicitly seek to educate students in this way that transcends disciplinary boundaries, as well as the boundaries between university and community or theory and practice.

The defining characteristics and guiding principles of the University of Washington Tacoma include our commitment to “engaging minds through creative rigorous and interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and scholarship.” We are committed to educating students to “communicate effectively, think critically and creatively, apply technology, act responsibly and effect positive change.” These are the very values and skills that are required for the study and practice of human rights. The Human Rights major will help us to develop an integrated curriculum for students who want to learn about and work in one of the most crucial areas of human endeavor in the 21st century. In order to be prepared for this kind of study and work, they must be highly articulate, critical, creative, and technologically savvy. And students who commit themselves to this area of study are almost invariably committed to acting responsibly to effect positive change.

We also include among our defining characteristics and guiding principles our “commitment to exploring challenging issues and divergent ideas and opinions in the context of respect for human worth and dignity, while bound to high ethical standards and principles for civil discussion and debate.” Our commitment to these values would seem to necessitate our expansion of opportunities for students to study and develop an expertise in human rights, which is the internationally recognized normative standard for the establishment of a global society which values human worth and dignity above all other considerations.

Because the practice of human rights brings together local community concerns with global issues and communities, it is a natural field of inquiry for a community-centered, metropolitan university like the University of Washington Tacoma. A major in human rights will attract many new students, and will provide employers with educated workers who will be prepared to work in international humanitarian aid agencies, NGO’s, advocacy organizations, philanthropic organizations, education, journalism, law, and in government service.

II. Documentation of Need for Program

The tri-campus Human Rights minor, which has been in place for approximately five years, has consistently been one of the most popular minors at UW Tacoma, with well over 100 graduates from UW Tacoma at this point. Alumni who earned the human rights minor were recently polled for their input concerning the proposed Human Rights major. All of the respondents to the query indicated that they would have seriously considered majoring in human rights had this been an option when they were students. Most of the respondents said their education in human rights had been useful and relevant in their current jobs or graduate programs.

The following are quotations from UWT alumni:

“I have to say I'm both excited and a little disappointed that this proposal is in the works! I only wish it had been available while I was there! While at UWT I was still a bit undecided as far as a career, so I opted for the general studies major. But I knew human rights was my most focused interest. So, yes I would have chosen human rights as a major!! . . . Now that I've graduated and have focused my interest into victim advocacy, I now know the value of a degree in human rights. . . .I can't help but think that having incorporated a broad knowledge as presented in coursework...I would probably have a better shot in the career field.”

“While a minor in human rights worked to increase my awareness and provide me with a general overview of what historical abuses and international law look like, an in depth study of both, in the form on a major, will be beneficial to students who are interested in building their careers to focus on the impacts that social and political movements can have on the welfare of others. In other words, students will be able to walk away with more in-depth knowledge of not only what has happened in the past, but what is required to change the future.”

“While I am still working on my post-graduate academics, taking the human rights minor has helped me choose which field to explore. . . .”

“I am currently preparing for my Masters in conflict resolution and I believe that the studies I have concentrated on during my enrollment with UW Tacoma's human rights minor had a very large influence in my determination to continuously work for the community in the human services. If the proposed major was available during my enrollment, I would have definitely chosen this as my major.’

“I think it is great that you are proposing the new major in human rights...a bit too late for me but I would have chosen that degree if it would have been an option. Thanks to the minor in human rights and the internship I completed, I decided to go onto continue my post grad work in this field...I have just arrived in Ireland and am beginning my studies in international human rights law.”

“Absolutely [the coursework completed for the human rights minor has been relevant in her career]. There is such a critical tie to what I learned. Seeing the face of humanity. It has sort of been my mantra.”

“I began my career with World Vision while completing an internship requirement for my human rights minor through the University of Washington, Tacoma. The minor is what introduced me to the organization. . . . Subsequent to my course work requirement, I was asked by the organization to come back. . . .I was then hired on full-time in 2006.. . . .Although working for the organization in itself is a part of helping people around the world obtain human rights, my individual role has enabled me to use my minor in the area of emergency response and disaster mitigation. . . . the minor has been helpful in both positions because I have much of the insight necessary to response to clients with an educated knowledge of historical victories and shortfalls in human rights as well insight into sensitive contexts so that I can respond to inquiries appropriately. . . .I think if a major in human rights had been offered during my course with UWT, I would have deeply considered it---especially after leaving and feeling that a minor wasn't enough to give me the opportunity to get as in-depth as I had hoped. I'm excited to see what curriculum UWT approves once the proposal process is complete.

“I am happy to hear they are finally getting this major going. It is too bad they did not offer it while I was working towards my minor. “

“I think that a Human Rights Major is an excellent idea and had there been such a course of study offered when I attended the UW it would have been my choice of studies.”

“Every class that I took for the human rights minor has influenced my career opportunities as well as influenced my plan for post graduate study. I truly enjoyed every class that I took for the minor and would without a doubt have chosen to most likely double major [in Politics and Values and]. . . in human rights. . . I am excited that Human Rights will hopefully be offered as a major by 2008.”

“I just would like to say that the human rights courses I took at UWT (as part of the human rights minor) were excellent. I learned a lot about the history of human rights and how and why the UN Convention on Human Rights was created. Also, by learning about past atrocities committed around the world, I was able to appreciate the need for the UN Convention on Human Rights. . . . I feel that there are some international groups and non-profit organizations that value people with human rights degrees. . . . I think I would have chosen the human rights major if it had been available.”

“I am writing in support of human rights being considered as a major or concentration included with the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences curriculum at University of Washington, Tacoma. As an alumnus of the university, with a minor in human rights, I have found the education obtained invaluable in my personal life and further education. Currently, I am attending Pacific Lutheran University to obtain a Masters of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy and utilize the knowledge obtained during my time at UWT daily in understanding the concerns and problems of clients, some of who have directly experienced human rights violations. In all, had this option been available at the time of my attendance, it would have been a serious consideration. . . . I wholeheartedly support the proposal and believe that its approval would be a milestone of goodwill in the history of University of Washington, Tacoma.”

“My human rights courses also introduced the idea of using art as a form of communication when traditional methods of communication are politically stifled. These ideas lead me in the direction of studying art therapy. (I was very excited to see the TCXG courses with the art themes). . . . Yes, I would have majored in human rights at UWT if it had been available.”

A survey of community college students indicated significant interest in a human rights major at all of the local community colleges, with almost 20% (19.48) of the 77 respondents at Tacoma Community College indicating they would be interested in a new major in human rights. Roughly 10% of respondents at Pierce College and South Sound Community College indicated that would be interested in pursuing a human rights major. The results are particularly impressive given the fact that there are only two smaller institutions in the country which currently offer such a major, and it is unlikely that any of the respondents has had exposure to or knowledge of what such a major would entail.

A survey of local employers, unfortunately, netted very few responses. But among the respondents, all said they would value highly the skills that a graduate with a Human

Rights major would bring, especially knowledge of human rights issues, along with the writing, and critical thinking skills offered by a liberal arts education. This corresponds with the assessment of the HECB's State and Regional Needs Assessment that graduates from programs in the humanities take positions in a broad variety of occupational areas.² That report also notes that graduates with background in social sciences often take positions in social services. More recently, employment forecasts indicate a growing demand for employees in social services industries, as well as in the related fields of criminal justice and corrections. Related to--and perhaps a bellwether of --the development of this major is the growth in Washington based NGO's which do human rights work locally, nationally and internationally (The Gates Foundation, World Vision, the International Red Cross, Care International, Physicians for Social Responsibility, etc.) indicating that there will be consistent growth in the need for new professional staff well into the future.

III. Support of the Statewide Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education

The proposed Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Human Rights will help the University of Washington Tacoma increase its ties to the South Puget Sound. The proposed degree program will continue to emphasize student internships and practicums. Alumni of the Human Rights minor have noted that their own internship experiences were both personally meaningful and useful in their career plans. The inevitable placement of more students with a larger skill and knowledge base with local agencies will enhance the local reputation of the University of Washington Tacoma, as well as create meaningful connections between students and the local community. Graduates of the BA program with a major in Human Rights will contribute to the economic vitality of the State of Washington. Our State boasts two large humanitarian aid agencies—The Gates Foundation and World Vision, which are both headquartered in Western Washington. In addition Western Washington has local and regional offices of other important international humanitarian aid and human rights agencies, such as the International Red Cross, and Care International. There is also a growing public sector demand for personnel who understand the basic premises of human rights and civil rights law. The advent of a new and unique baccalaureate program in human rights will help the University and our students connect with this growing sector.

IV. Relationship to Other Institutions

Despite the growing prevalence of human rights work and discourse in our society, and the heightened importance of human rights in global politics, there are currently very few cohesive undergraduate human rights programs offered in the United States. Columbia University offers a concentration in human rights, which must be combined with a related major. Several universities have centers for human rights which coordinate curricular offerings, and in some cases offer minors or concentrations (including Harvard, Columbia, Purdue, and the University of Chicago). There are at least two U.S.-based

² HECB State and Regional Needs Assessment Report (Feb 2006 revision), p.29
<http://www.hecb.wa.gov/news/newsreports/documents/StateandRegionalNeedsAssessmentReportRevisedFebruary2006.pdf>

universities which offer undergraduate majors in human rights--Trinity College (CT), and Webster University (St. Louis). In both these cases, the majors are directed from interdisciplinary human rights education programs, which coordinate course offerings from various departments.

There are undergraduate and MA-level programs in human rights in most European countries, as well as Australia, New Zealand, and Argentina.

The Human Rights major at the University of Washington Tacoma would be unique in that it would be administered out of the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (IAS) program of UW Tacoma, which is the same unit which offers the courses that would be included in the major. This major would then have the potential to be more cohesive for students and faculty, who will not have to stretch themselves between their home departments and the human rights curriculum

There are no universities in the Pacific Northwest, public or private, which offer undergraduate degrees in human rights. And there are no public universities of any size in the United States which offer an undergraduate human rights major. The University of Washington has already been a leader in the establishment of undergraduate human rights curriculum, with the establishment of the tri-campus undergraduate Human Rights minor in 2000. An undergraduate major in Human Rights at the University of Washington Tacoma, would enhance the reputation of the UW as an important leader in the development of undergraduate human rights education. And bringing to bear the resources of a major research institution like the University of Washington on a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum could have important implications for the study of human rights nationally and internationally. And it could certainly change the shape of the University of Washington Tacoma. Our program has the potential to become a model for other universities and attract students state-wide and nationally.

V. Program Description

A. Overview

Students in the Human Rights major will have a well-defined core of coursework which will help them to develop fluency in and about the human rights regime. The core will include courses such as international human rights, political theory of human rights, current topics in human rights, international humanitarian law, etc. Students will complete 25 credits of this core curriculum. In addition students will be required to choose from a list of courses which will provide historical context for understanding the importance of and the historical trajectory of the human rights movement and human rights instruments within the framework of the United Nations and the international community. Students will also complete coursework which provides political, social, and cultural context for the study of human rights. Within this framework, students can elect to study the application of human rights within the study of politics and government, economic development and political economy, anthropology and ethnography, and/or literature and art.

Students who will receive a BA with a major in Human Rights will be prepared for careers in humanitarian aid agencies, public service and government, NGO's that provide advocacy for various groups (e.g., immigrants and refugees, women, children victims' rights groups, the homeless, etc.), nonprofit management, media, journalism, and education among others. In addition graduates of this program will be prepared for post graduate studies in human rights, law, peace and conflict resolution, political science, education and area studies.

B. Student Learning Objectives:

Students will understand the general framework of the human rights regime, including the most important human rights instruments (conventions, protocols, treaties, etc.), the structure of international human rights practice and advocacy, and the structure and importance of international law, in theory and practice.

- Students will understand the basic theoretical and normative underpinnings of human rights law.
- Students will learn the historical context for the development of the human rights regime.
- Students will learn the historical context in which a realization for the need of a universal concept of human rights emerged.
- Students will develop the ability to analyze and critique texts within a broad cross-cultural context.
- Students will be able to apply the principles of human rights to the larger analysis of historical, political, social, and cultural phenomena.
- Students will learn skills (writing, video documentation and production, etc.) which will allow them to more easily work in the field of human rights advocacy and/or dissemination.

C. Program Requirements

1. Admission Requirements

In order to be admitted to the program, students must fulfill the same admissions requirements that are already required by IAS. This major includes no prerequisite requirements, although a background in world history, international relations, and/or micro and macro economics is strongly recommended.

The major will be open to both UW Tacoma sophomores and juniors (4-year students) and transfer students from community colleges, and the major requirements can be completed with only 300, 400 level courses, and students should be able to complete all the degree requirements in two years of full time upper division course work. (The major

also includes the option to count 200 level coursework as well, making it possible for lower division students to begin satisfying the requirements for the degree at an earlier stage). The courses will be offered over a range of available time slots and days at the campus of the University of Washington Tacoma. At this time students would have to be enrolled at UW Tacoma and attend classes in person in order to complete this degree.

2. Graduation Requirements (including university minimum requirements):

- 2.0 GPA
- Minimum 180 Credits, 225 for double degree
- 45 of last 60 credits taken at UWT
- 45 credits of upper division
- 45 credits of IAS course
- Completion of all major requirements
- Completion of all minor requirements (optional)
- Completion of all Gen Ed requirements (GER)
- Portfolio for Human Rights Major

3. Curriculum

Students Must Complete a Total of at least 60 credits from the following areas:

Human Rights Core Courses (25 credits):

TSMIN 311 International Human Rights
TCSIG 452 Political Theory of Human Rights
TCSIG 4XX Political Controversies in Human Rights
TSMIN 422 International Humanitarian law
T POL S 368 The Politics and Law of International Human Rights
TSMIN 3XX Rights and Work
TCSIG 2XX Philosophy of Human Rights
TSMIN 4XX Human Rights in Latin America (study abroad)
TSMIN 420 Theories of Political Violence
TSMIN 4XX Human Rights and the Use of Force

Human Rights and Historical Context (10 Credits):

TSMIN 200/300 International Interactions
TIBCG 452 Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust
TCSIG 451 The Enlightenment
TIBCUS 465 African-American History 1945-Present
TSMIN 224 Modern Latin America
TSMIN 229 Making of Modern Africa
TSMIN 315 Europe in the Twentieth Century
TSMIN 414 Modern China
TCSIG 435 Migration in the Modern World

TSMIN 328 Third World Problems and Prospects
TSMIN 330 Globalization in Latin America
TSMIN 340 War and Empire in the Middle East
TSMIN 435 Contemporary Geopolitics
TPOLS 201 Introduction to Political Values and Ideas
TSMIN 310 Modern European Political Theory
TSMIN 312 19th Century Revolutions and Revolutionaries
TSMIN 314 20th Century Revolutions
TCSIUS 220 African American History 1619-1865
TCSIUS 221 African-American History 1865-1945
TPOLS 201 Introduction to Political Values and Ideas
TSMIN 310 Modern European Political Theory
TSMIN 312 19th Century Revolutions and Revolutionaries
TSMIN 314 20th Century Revolutions
TCSIUS 450 Black Labor in America

Human Rights and Social, Political, and Cultural Context (10 credits)

TIBCIN 366 Islam
TCSIIN 435 Popular Movements in Latin America
TCXG 404 Art in a Time of War
TCXG 392 Labor, Globalization, and Art
TCXG 405 Cultural Identity and Art
TIBCUS 451 Cultural Studies: Post-9/11
TIBCUS 466 Life and Thought: Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Angela Davis
TCSIUS 441 Black Freedom Movement in Perspective
TSMG 440 Political Geography: Territory, State and Society
TCSIUS 335 Social Class and Inequality
TCSIUS 345 Women and Work in the United States
TCSIUS 452 Minorities and the Law
TCXUS 384 African American Women's Literature
TCXUS 385 African American Literature from Slavery to the Present
TCXUS 386 Black, Labor, and Protest Music in Historical Perspective
TSMUS 320 American Constitutional Law
TSMUS 410 Early American Politics, Constitution, and Law
TSMUS 413 Civil Rights, Civil Liberties
TPSYCH 240, Social Psychology
TCOM 430 Global Networks, Local Identity
TCOM 460 Communication and National Development
TCOM 461 Media and Identity in Asia
TCXUS 228 Hispanics in the US
TCXIN 462 Women in Latin America
TCXIN 476 Latin American Women Writers
TESC 345 Pollution and Public Policy
TIBCG 456 Environmental Ethics
TURB 410/ THLTH 410 Environmental Equity
THLTH 485 Critical Issues in Global Health
TURB 315 Homes, Housing, and Homelessness
TURB 316 Cities and Citizenship
TSOCWF 352 Women in the Criminal Justice System

Experiential Learning (10 Credits):

Foreign Language and/or Study Abroad
Human Rights Internship (new course)
Practicum Substitute

Skills for Human Rights Advocacy and Dissemination (5 Credits)

Skills for Human Rights Advocacy and Dissemination

TCXG 465 Writing for Social Change
TCOM 471 Video for Social Justice (proposed)
TCXG 2XX Professional Writing (proposed)

VI. Faculty

The Human Rights major will rely on courses taught by current full-time faculty in the IAS program. Current faculty who will be teaching “core” human rights courses include:

Rachel May

Professor May will be the lead faculty member for this program. She will regularly teach several “core” human rights courses, and she will serve as the major coordinator for the first 5 years.

Michael Forman

Professor Forman will also serve in a key leadership position for the development of the major. He will teach two core courses, several of the context list courses, and he will assist Professor May in advising students.

Turan Kayaoglu

Professor Kayaoglu will develop at least one of the new core courses, and he will occasionally teach TSMIN 311 (International Human Rights). Many of his International Rights courses also appear in the context lists. As our program’s international relations specialist, he will also play an important advising role.

Charles Williams

Professor Williams is our program’s only political scientist specializing in U.S. politics. As such he will play a crucial role by allowing us to expand our core curriculum to include U.S. focused courses. As an expert in labor and politics, he also adds an important dimension to the major.

Amos Nascimento.

Professor Nascimento has a strong background in the area of philosophy and human rights. He will be developing important courses which will provide a theoretical/philosophical foundation to the program.