Abstract
The Iowa Lyceum is a one-week pre-college philosophy program organized by University of Iowa graduate students. Graduate students use P4C principles in introductory philosophy sessions to prepare participants for philosophical discussion. The Lyceum is free for participants--removing potential financial limitations which can otherwise prevent expansion of philosophy into the public sphere, thereby making philosophy more accessible to traditionally underrepresented groups in the discipline. In response to Covid, the Lyceum shifted from being hosted in-person at the University of Iowa’s campus to an online setting, which enabled us to open the program to students across the country and internationally. This brought applicants from 14 states and four non-US countries. For the 2022 Lyceum, we intend to permanently expand by developing a hybrid model of the program to bring philosophy to pre-college students across the country and internationally while also hosting an in-person Lyceum.

Basic Information
Project Coordinator(s)
Cassie Finley, Danielle Colburn

Steering Committee
• Joe Glover, University of Iowa

Funding Amount Requested
$2,500

Expected Project Completion Date
June 2022

Project Description
The Iowa Lyceum is a pre-college philosophy summer program hosted by the University of Iowa’s philosophy department. The program is loosely affiliated with other Lyceum programs around the country but is unique in that it is entirely organized and run by philosophy graduate students. Graduate students offer introductory discussion sections to prepare participants for these discussions and philosophy more generally. Each year, professors at the University of Iowa present and facilitate discussions on topics connected to a set philosophical theme. An important aspect of our program is that it is entirely free for participants, removing the potential financial limitations which can prevent expansion of philosophy into different parts of the public sphere. The structure of the Lyceum is similar to that of a philosophy conference, but with greater emphasis on participant engagement. Each year’s Lyceum has a theme, such as “Justice”, “Identity”, or “Female Philosophers”, which helps to encourage diverse presentation topics year to year, and allows for repeat attendance of the Lyceum across multiple years. The theme is chosen with an eye towards the interests and competencies of the graduate student organizers, with this past year’s theme
being “The Nature of Reality.” Organizers will meet in September to confirm the 2022 theme, though it will most likely be “Happiness and the Good Life.” Participants receive philosophical texts connected to the year’s theme, a combination of physical books and pdfs, to start building their philosophical libraries.

Pre-college students, ages 13 to 18, are eligible to apply to our program. The program is free to applicants, which means that participants are not limited by financial ability. By having the Lyceum free, we hope to serve a diverse group of students each year, as many paid summer programs disproportionately exclude minority and lower-income students. Accordingly, our hope is to introduce students from a variety of backgrounds to philosophy, which benefits both the students themselves as well as philosophy as a whole to have students with more perspectives on the world entering into philosophical discussions.

During non-pandemic years, we offer breakfast and lunch to our participants. However, in response to COVID-19, we held the 2020 and 2021 Lyceums over Zoom and used the funding typically allocated for meals to instead provide additional philosophy books to participants. Because of the flexibility afforded by Zoom, we extended the reach of our program beyond the Iowa City and Cedar Rapids area, inviting students from across the United States to apply and participate in the 2021 Iowa Lyceum. As a result of this, 10 of our 30 applicants to the 2021 Lyceum were from outside the state of Iowa. As part of the reflection survey for our 2021 Lyceum, we asked the students how Zoom affected their experience, and whether they would recommend the Lyceum be held via Zoom in the future. Almost every response said that they appreciated that the Lyceum was held on Zoom because it meant (for some) they could participate at all, for others that it gave them flexibility and made them more comfortable expressing themselves by making use of the chat, having the ability to turn their cameras on and off, and that being able to engage with students from all over the country made the experience really valuable for them. As a result of this feedback, we are planning on expanding the Iowa Lyceum to be held both on Zoom and in-person. Some of the students said they did wish they had the opportunity to be on-campus, talking to everyone in the same room, and there is something valuable about giving high school students the opportunity to experience being on a college campus engaging with an intellectual community. Because the University of Iowa has invested in classroom cameras and other technology to support the hybrid classroom, our plan is to essentially run two concurrent Lyceums—one in-person and one over Zoom—with activities and discussions separated by modality to maximize communication among participants, and professor lectures either on Zoom broadcasted live to both in-person and online participants or in-person, on camera for both Zoom and in-person participants to see. This way, we can provide the Lyceum to students all over the English-speaking world as well as host an impactful in-person Lyceum without asking the professors who volunteer to present their talks twice or ask the graduate student organizers to run an entirely separate Lyceum in a different week. Running the Lyceum as offering both an online and an in-person experience expands the reach of pre-college philosophy beyond immediate areas by utilizing the lessons we have learned from COVID-19. Our hope is that we can then provide access to pre-college philosophy to students in areas that do not otherwise have access to it, as well as expand the opportunities available to those students already engaging with pre-college philosophy around the country.
Project Impact

The Lyceum encourages careful thinking and reasoning skills, introducing students to the methods of philosophy. At the end of the week, graduate students assist participants with preparing a presentation or collaborative dialogue on a philosophical topic of their choosing, which they present to each other and parents. The presentations provide an opportunity to explore challenging, interesting questions within a supportive community of inquiry. Participants who choose a presentation, as opposed to the dialogue collaborative format, engage the group in a guided philosophical discussion which may draw from the material they have all learned over the course of the week. Regardless of whether participants ultimately pursue a degree in philosophy, the experience of the Iowa Lyceum is invaluable to the participants' personal and educational development.

The Lyceum not only stands as an invaluable experience to the participants as an introduction to philosophical concepts, but it also provides graduate students with important opportunities to clarify their own thinking about philosophical problems, to become familiar with the institutional and administrative side of their burgeoning careers, and to practice the skills necessary for excellent pedagogy. The experience of teaching high school students requires reflection upon how one speaks and introduces concepts in order to make them accessible not just to pre-college audiences, but to the public at large. Learning how to clearly and carefully identify and explain arguments, concepts, and inferences made in academic philosophy, graduate students learn to articulate their ideas in ways that are invaluable to their scholarly development. Beyond the value of learning to run the program, graduate students are often still exploring their interests in philosophy and are preparing for careers either within or beyond academia. The scarcity of opportunities to pursue public philosophy in graduate education means that the Lyceum is a unique opportunity to foster interest in pre-college philosophy. Involvement with the Iowa Lyceum can lead to further expansion of pre-college philosophy programs; past Lyceum organizers have gone on to start other pre-college philosophy programs across the country, such as the Utah Lyceum and the SoCal Philosophy Academy.

The Iowa Lyceum aims to create an experience which introduces philosophy to individuals as a fundamentally transformational approach for engaging with the world. Most high school students do not have access to philosophy classes. Without opportunities to study philosophy, high school students are missing out on a distinctly philosophical approach to the development of intellectual virtues and careful thinking skills. A lack of philosophical education is not simply a lack of information about philosophy; it is the absence of a space to develop the ways of interacting with the world which are unique to philosophical inquiry. Our goal is to give students from a variety of backgrounds the opportunity to engage in open, facilitated philosophy dialogue. By expanding the possibilities which participants consider, we encourage the students to entertain and explore ideas which they may not have otherwise considered. We meet the students where they are and allow them to pursue ideas to the furthest logical extent. We aim to emphasize the importance of doing philosophy—that is, having students apply their newly developed skills not only to theoretical questions and problems, but to the ways they interact with the world. The nature of philosophy places importance on the critical examination of diverse positions and arguments, which we hope to encourage both within the context of the Lyceum and beyond. There is of course practical value
to be gained from a philosophical education, but more importantly, our aims in the Lyceum emphasize the intrinsic value of philosophical exploration, from which various skills will follow. In other words, the Lyceum is not solely focused on participants' skill-based learning; rather, we emphasize the Lyceum as a space for developing intellectual virtues. Following the spirit of Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics, becoming a virtuous person does not come from purely theoretical understandings, but instead through the practical application of virtuous activity to life. To become an intellectually virtuous person requires practice in being curious, open-minded, intellectually courageous, interested in truth for its own sake, and engaged in effective inquiry. Thus, the Lyceum is structured in order to foster the participants' intellectual development by facilitating discussions and encouraging the asking of questions. We aim to cultivate an intellectual environment conducive to the imaginative exploration of ideas and one's place in the world--an experience through which participants begin to develop the skills and dispositions necessary for stepping back, identifying, and carefully evaluating the stream of information and problems with which they will have to engage throughout their lives.

Project Goals

- We received 33 applicants for the 2021 Lyceum, which was up from nine applicants (all from the Iowa City area) in 2020. Of those 33, we had 18 actually participate in the entirety of the 2021 Lyceum. Our goal for the 2022 Lyceum is to get 15 participants for the in-person Lyceum and 25 participants for the online portion. We accept all who apply--the application requires a few paragraphs' write-up explaining their interest in participating in the Lyceum--so we are aiming for 50 applicants to reach our 40-participant goal.
- Of our 18 participants from 2021, many expressed enthusiasm about returning to participate in the Lyceum again next year. Although we change the theme each year so students could return in following years, we have had complete turnover the past few years. We will be reaching out to the 2021 applicants to share the 2022 Lyceum call for applications in order to focus more on recruiting students across years. Our goal for the 2022 Lyceum is to recruit at least five of the 2021 participants to join the 2022 Lyceum.
- One of the 2021 Lyceum participants reported on their feedback form that they are now enrolled in an introductory philosophy course for the fall when they start college. Beginning with the 2021 Lyceum students and continuing on with the 2022 Lyceum and beyond, we will be keeping in touch with Lyceum participants to see how many of those who attend college end up enrolling in at least one philosophy class. This way, we can begin tracking the percentage of Lyceum students who go on to take college philosophy courses. Our goal for the 2022 Lyceum cohort is to have 25% of those who attend college enroll in a philosophy course at some point in their college career.

Project Timeline

Program organizers from the 2021 Lyceum will reach out to current University of Iowa graduate students in the fall to find out who is interested in helping with the 2022 Lyceum. Participation in organizing the Lyceum is volunteer-based, pulling from the University of Iowa graduate philosophy department. We will then reach out to University of Iowa professors to secure speakers and coordinate the summer schedule in mid April of 2022.
Organizers will check and update all organizing materials: contact lists, applications, website, and policy manuals during meetings in February. In April, organizers will send Iowa Lyceum flyers to the contact list of over 800 Iowa City and Cedar Rapids high school teachers. We will also share the flyer with our contacts in other pre-college philosophy programs and Ethics Bowl coordinators.

All professors and graduate students involved in the Lyceum must have a background check completed prior to the start of the Lyceum. Through the University of Iowa’s new Minors on Campus policy, this also requires program organizers and presenters to complete a “Minors on Campus” training tutorial, and these all must be submitted to the Minors on Campus committee before the start of the program. All graduate student organizers are expected to have completed this training by the end of May, 2022.

Applications from participants are due May 20, 2022, at which time graduate student organizers will review applications, accept as many participants as we can support (we are aiming to accept all who apply, so we are budgeting for approximately 40 students), and send out our program waiver/participant agreement/emergency contact forms by the end of May. Depending on the number of participants, we will finalize the reading list, and order books and Lyceum t-shirts to mail to participants. In the past, books and t-shirts have often gotten to participants after the Lyceum has concluded, but we hope to mail them to students before the Lyceum begins this year so students can make use of the texts alongside the Lyceum.

During the spring semester of 2022, organizers will begin designing the curriculum for the 2022 Lyceum, meeting once in January to give an overview of the work to be done, introduce new organizers to the Lyceum, and share relevant P4C research and publications about the Iowa Lyceum with all the organizers so all the graduate students have a chance to familiarize themselves with the purpose and methods underpinning the Lyceum. We will have meetings in February and March, each to update on what has been accomplished thus far, then will begin meeting weekly in April and May as we approach the start of the Lyceum.

During our May meetings, we will finalize and practice graduate student presentations and the schedule for the Lyceum. The Lyceum begins with a graduate student presentation and discussion introducing participants to philosophy, with a particular focus on encouraging participant engagement. This introduction to philosophy is followed by an introduction to logic. There are additional time slots for graduate students to present on topics related to their area of study. Iowa graduate students who are interested in presenting at the Lyceum propose (with an abstract of 500-750 words) a talk they would like to give by mid-May. Graduate student organizers will then review and accept proposals that best relate to the year’s theme, with an eye towards the accessibility of the topic proposed. In early June, graduate students with accepted proposals are required to practice presenting their talk to the other organizers in an effort to ensure the highest quality presentation with the greatest accessibility to high school students.

The 2022 Lyceum will be held the third week of June from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (CDT) daily. This includes a 30-minute lunch and a few short breaks between activities and discussions. Professor presentations are after the lunch break, with a 20- to 25-minute lecture followed by a facilitated discussion and question-period for the remaining 35-40 minutes. After this, the professor leaves
and graduate students facilitate continued discussion among participants. The later part of
the week allocates time for students to work individually or in small groups to develop their
presentation or debate on a philosophical topic. Graduate student organizers aid in research,
outlining, and supporting participants during these time slots.

Immediately following the conclusion of the Lyceum, we request feedback, comments, and
testimonials from participants. Organizers will meet to go over the feedback to debrief and discuss
suggestions for improvements to the Lyceum for the following year.

Timeline:

September 2021

Past graduate organizers recruit new graduate student organizers for the 2022 Lyceum.

January 2022

Initial meeting to delegate responsibilities among organizers

Update program manuals and policies

Share research on pre-college philosophy pedagogy & Iowa Lyceum publications for graduate
organizers to research and read in preparation for the Lyceum

March 2022

Meet to begin scheduling dates and timeline for the 2022 Lyceum

Collect reading list & book suggestions

Contact professors about presentations

Update website with 2022 information

April 2022 - (Weekly meetings)

Design Lyceum poster & T-shirts

Finalize schedule for 2022 Lyceum

Confirm professor presentations

Assign Minors on Campus training to new organizers

Confirm reading list

Update Iowa contact list
Create application form for participants
Send out flyers to contact list
Post information to Daily Nous
Share on social media
Arrange visits to local high schools

May 2022 - (Weekly meetings)
Visit local high schools to speak about the Lyceum & philosophy
Background checks and Minors on Campus training completed for all professors and graduate students involved with the Lyceum

Graduate presenters submit proposals for graduate student talks & presentations
Organizers review proposals
Notify graduate students of accepted proposals

Participant applications due May 20th.
Review applications
Send notifications of acceptance by May 31st.

June 2022
30th-5th:
Send accepted participants waiver/participant agreement/emergency contact forms
Order T-shirts & books
Collect participant documentation
Finalize schedule and post to website with titles of presentations.

6th-12th:
Graduate student practice presentations to other organizers for feedback
Finalize remaining details.

13th-19th:
Mail T-shirts & books to participants.
20th -24th:
Lyceum, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm;
Solicit participant feedback on Lyceum experience

**Project Outreach**
Our primary audiences will be both domestic and international English-speaking high school students.

Because the 2021 Lyceum was held online, we reached out to Ethics Bowl coordinators across the country to include on our list of contacts to receive the Lyceum flyer. We also shared the Lyceum information on Daily Nous’ website for high school philosophy programs and sent information out to organizers of other pre-college philosophy programs. We have established relationships with a network of educators and philosophers who already have contacts with students. Additionally, we took advantage of twitter to share the call for applicants with other philosophers. Our twitter post for the 2021 Lyceum received over 7,200 'impressions', and had 174 engagements, having been shared 17 times. We also have the contact information for 800+ high school teachers across Iowa to whom we send information about the Lyceum each year. Of the 33 applicants to the 2021 Lyceum, three discovered us from Daily Nous, five were from Ethics Bowl contacts, and 18 were from Iowa-area school teachers. Typically, graduate student organizers arrange visits to local high schools to speak about the Lyceum and the value of philosophy in general, which has also proved successful in recruiting local students; in 2019, the Lyceum had 25 participants from local high schools. Even having received the greatest number of applicants in the Lyceum’s history for the 2021 year, we did not begin advertising until early May for the June Lyceum. For the 2022 Lyceum, due to our changes in mode of delivery and hopes for expansion, we will begin advertising to the eastern Iowa community and high schools, while also reaching out to national and international pre-college programs, philosophers, coordinators, and organizations in April to maximize the number of high school students we can reach.

**Accessibility Plan**
Because all presentations will at some point or another be over Zoom, this enables us to take advantage of the automatic closed captioning, allowing lectures to be more accessible to deaf, hard-of-hearing, and those with audio processing disorders. For in-person participants, the University of Iowa provides ASL interpreters for all events hosted by the University of Iowa. Accordingly, we have access to the disability support systems that are already in place through the University of Iowa: the Student Disability Services office as well as the Center for Disabilities and Developments. We also schedule activities to be as interactive and discussion-based as possible, rather than being lecture-based, in order to make the Lyceum more accessible to those with ASD or ADHD. The director for the 2022 Lyceum, Cassie Finley, also took a course from the University of Iowa College of Education on Design and Accessibility for Online Learning, which focused specifically on using multimodal approaches to teaching as a means for making content more accessible.

Sample accommodations language: "The Iowa Lyceum is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability
(such as a mental health, attention, learning, vision, or a physical/health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student is then responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the director of the Lyceum. More information is available at https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/ or email philosophy-lyceum@uiowa.edu to discuss more."

**Evaluation Plan**
Lyceum organizers will know whether we have achieved our goals #1 and #2 beginning at the end of May when the application deadline passes. Depending on whether we have received at least 40 applications, we will then know more concretely whether we achieved our goal of 15 in-person participants and 25 online participants when the Lyceum actually starts.

During the week of the Lyceum, the organizers meet for 30-60 minutes after the end of the day's camp in order to debrief and discuss what went well, what could be improved, and how to adjust to be more effective based on the interests and dynamics of participants. At the end of the week, participants receive a link to a Microsoft Form with questions regarding their experience in the Lyceum. For the 2021 Lyceum that was held online, the open-ended questions were as follows: 1) Your name, 2) How was your experience with the Iowa Lyceum? 3) What were some highlights of the week that stood out as especially interesting, exciting, or otherwise as your favorite parts? 4) Would you want to participate in the Iowa Lyceum again? If so, what might be some themes for the week that you would be interested in? What topics in philosophy would you be interested in exploring further? 5) Would you recommend the Iowa Lyceum to a friend? 6) What suggestions do you have for improving the Iowa Lyceum? 7) To what extent did having the Lyceum over Zoom affect your experience, either positively or negatively? If the Lyceum had the option of being hosted in Iowa City in-person, or online on Zoom again next year allowing non-Iowa participants, which would you suggest, and why? 8) Any additional comments? We will also be adding the following questions: a) Are you intending on attending college? b) If yes, do you intend on taking at least one philosophy course? c) May Lyceum organizers reach out to you in the future asking about your plans for and experiences with college philosophy?

The organizers then meet two weeks after the Lyceum ends to discuss the participant feedback and offer suggestions for improvement for the following year. Because the 2022 Lyceum will be the first year we run the Lyceum in a hybrid model, we will again focus on participant and organizer feedback as the primary metrics for assessment. In particular, we will focus on how smoothly a hybrid Lyceum worked from both organizer and participants' standpoints, as well as how participants felt about the hybrid model.

**Online Presence**
One of our organizers, Danielle Colburn, created a website for the Iowa Lyceum, hosted by the University of Iowa's servers. The website can be found at https://philosophylyceum.org.uiowa.edu/. We are looking into social media--in particular twitter--as a means for sharing and promoting information surrounding the Lyceum.

https://philosophylyceum.org.uiowa.edu/
Budget Narrative

We estimate approximately 15 students in-person and 25 students online for the 2022 Lyceum. Although we did have 25 participants at our last iteration of our in-person Lyceum, we were surprised to find that in the feedback forms for the online 2021 Lyceum, many local students expressed appreciation and preference for the online setting because it allowed them flexibility and access without worries about transportation to and from the camp. According to this estimate, then, we are budgeting $1,500 for meals for 15 participants (plus est. six graduate organizers) for the week, as we provide breakfast and lunch each day of the camp to promote access to lower-income participants. Additionally, we aim to provide all in-person participants with a small journal in order for students to take notes and write questions down over the course of the week. All participants in the Iowa Lyceum receive a t-shirt and philosophy books for their participation. Because we received so many applicants when we extended the Lyceum internationally, we were only able to get each student one book (which we chose to match the theme for the year: Berkeley’s Three Dialogues to align with the theme “The Nature of Reality and How We Know It”). We are hoping to receive enough funding for the 2022 Lyceum so that we can get students 2-3 books to start their philosophical library. Additionally, because we are working with minors, each individual who is involved with the Iowa Lyceum must receive a federal background check, which costs $70 per person. Because we expect to have the five organizers from the 2021 Lyceum carry over to the 2022 Lyceum and the majority of the Iowa faculty who speak at the Lyceum have already received a background check, we expect to only have two or three new graduate organizers and speakers requiring background checks for the 2022 Lyceum. We estimate the cost of shipping books and t-shirts to online participants will be approximately $400 between domestic and international shipping costs. Lastly, because organizing the Lyceum requires quite a time commitment for graduate student organizers, we are hoping to also fund a small honorarium for graduate student organizers’ time. The past two years of the Lyceum have not received sufficient funding for this to happen, so organizers have volunteered their time; however, in order to combat the tendency in academia to expect unpaid labor for important work such as this, our hope is to receive enough funding that we can run the Lyceum with meals, journals, books, miscellaneous fees, and then give each organizer approximately $250 (dividing $1,500 among the organizers, expecting approx. six organizers) for their time. Between the full week of the Lyceum, which runs from 10 am to 3 pm CDT, the meetings required for organization, and the individual work done to run the Lyceum, organizers spend approximately 52 hours on the Lyceum. Although $250 per organizer would not be proportionate for the amount of work done, it would still be better and signal a more healthy respect for individuals’ time and effort to give an honorarium. In 2018, we had an honorarium built into the budget, but because we received a high turnout and did not want to compromise on the number of participants or books we could provide to students, the organizers agreed to use the honorarium funding to support the larger number of participants. Should the same happen for the 2022 Lyceum, the organizers will prioritize books and participant-oriented funding above the honoraria.

In-Person (est. 15 people)
Journals: $300
May 2022
Food: $1,500 (approx. $7.50/meal/person)
June 2022
Online (est. 25 people)
Shipping (domestic est. 20 people): $200
June 2022
Shipping (international est. 5 people): $200
June 2022
Both (est. 40 people)
T-shirts: $600
May 2022
Books ($45/person): $2,025
May 2022
Background checks (est. 3 people): $210
April 2022
Total Cost for Running the Lyceum:
$4,535 total
Honorarium for Organizers (est. 6 organizers)
$250/person: $1,500
June 2022
Breakdown:
Lyceum 6 hours/day for 5 days (30 hours)
Organizing meetings (12 hours)
Organizing work (10 hours)
Total: 52 hours / organizer
Other Funding Sources

In addition to the APA Small Grant Fund, we will also be seeking funding from PLATO Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization grant, University of Iowa Philosophy Department internal funding, University of Iowa CLAS Excellence and Innovation Grant. Each of these sources have provided funding to the Lyceum before; however, our hope in expanding the Lyceum to include a permanent cross-country and international presence will enable us to grow our program beyond the limited funding we have received in past years.

**$1,500 University of Iowa Philosophy Department

- $1,000 Food
- $400 Shipping (Int’l & Domestic)
- $100 Background checks

**$535 University of Iowa CLAS Excellence & Innovation Fund

- $110 Background checks
- $390 T-shirts
- $35 Meals

**$2,000 PLATO

- $1,025 Books
- $300 Journals
- $210 T-shirts
- $465 Meals

$2,500 APA Small Grants

- $1,000 Books
- $1,500 Organizer Honorarium

** Mark plan to apply for funding