

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Bioethics Program provides advanced training in bioethics for professional, academics, and other interested individuals in health care, law, the humanities, and public policy who wish to become prepared for teaching, research, policy development, and/or clinical work in the field of bioethics. The program curriculum consists of a robust combination of theoretical and clinical course offerings that provide a strong foundational knowledge base upon which students develop the skills and understanding necessary to analyze and address the difficult and evolving ethical issues encountered in health care today.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general [Graduate School admission requirements](#), this program has [Courses, \(2\) Clinical Bioethics Ex](#)

The curriculum for the Master of Arts in Bioethics program requires completing a total of 30 credits. Students should aim to complete the required courses (10210, 10209, 10223) early in their program, as they provide the foundation for the electives and the comprehensive exam.

The remaining credits of the program are elective courses of the student's choosing and may include credits for the Master's Thesis, if a student chooses to write a thesis.

Once the core curriculum (10209, 10210, 10223) and elective credits combined reach a total minimum of 24 credits, each student will complete a written comprehensive examination. This exam is designed to challenge the student's ability to critically analyze selected bioethical issues in depth.

Clinical Bioethics Experience

10231 Bioethics Consulting and Committees. *1 credit.*

Through attendance of ethics committee meetings and ethics consultations, this course will familiarize students with both the theoretical and practical aspects of institutional and consultative ethics. This course is required for students with no professional experience in clinical bioethics.

Elective Courses

10200 Clinical Bioethics I. *3 credits.*

This course provides an introduction to medical ethics in the clinical setting. It consists of daily rounds with various medical or surgical teams in selected hospital treatment areas, plus a weekly session to discuss and analyze issues encountered. Enrollment limited.

10203 Justice and Healthcare. *3 credits.*

This course will provide an overview of Justice and Health Care. We will begin with a close look at a number of philosophical perspectives on distributive justice, including John Rawls' Theory of Justice, Utilitarianism, Equality of Opportunity, various theories of Equality, and the concept of Triage. Students will then apply these perspectives to issues in access to healthcare/health insurance coverage, genetic enhancement, and the distribution of risks and benefits of medical research. The second part of the course will focus on the effects of managed care on contemporary medical practice in the US. In particular, students will examine how managed care arrangements alter the physician-patient relationship, the factors which have led to the development of managed care reimbursement systems, state and federal

10211 Ethics Beyond the Acute Care Hospital. 3 credits.

This course examines ethical issues in rehabilitation care, psychiatric care, hospice, long-term care, dental care, and other settings. The focus is on developing a framework and language in which to discuss and analyze moral problems in these settings. Care settings to be covered may vary.

10216 Race and Trust in Biomedical Research. 3 credits.

Using the ethical principle of social justice, this course will provide an overview of society's role in promoting or ensuring individual and collective health through biomedical research. The course will examine how attitudes toward race and difference have impacted protections of basic human rights in biomedical research, document past and present abuses in biomedical research, and examine how lack of trust stemming from past abuses impacts the ability to attain, maintain, and promote well-being through biomedical research.

10220 Critical Approaches to Bioethics. 3 credits.

Various alternative approaches in ethics and biomedical ethics will be explored in order to provide a broad understanding of the range of critical social and philosophical thought on biomedical issues.

10222 Ethics and Integrity in Science. 1 credit.

This course provides the basis for understanding the ethical issues related to basic scientific and medical research, including animal and human subject research, fraud, and misconduct, and governmental, institutional, and researcher responsibilities. Bioethics 10222 is offered in the spring and summer terms only.

10225 Religion and Bioethics. 3 credits.

This course will examine the diverse range of religious resources that are pertinent to the field of bioethics. Students will explore topics in bioethics, such as euthanasia, abortion, and informed consent from the perspectives of various religious traditions.

10226 Regulatory Issues in Human Subjects Research Protections. 3 credits.

There is no question that the fruits of research have fueled medical progress. Yet, the history of research involving human subjects is not unblemished. Federal regulations, based on ethical principles set forth in the Belmont Report, now govern much of the research undertaken in the United States. In this course, we will explore the history and substance of research regulations in the United States, the application of the regulations to specific research issues, and situations where the regulations do not provide clear guidance.

10228 Current Topics in Research Ethics. 3 credits.

Rapidly evolving scientific and technologic capabilities in medicine combined with an ever-increasing demand to translate these scientific developments to the bedside presents new challenges to regulating human subjects' research. This course seeks to keep pace with many of these new and emerging challenges, providing students an opportunity to critically examine the ethical and legal implications of these topics. Specific topics for analysis will be drawn from the current medical literature, popular press, and evolving policy guidance.

10231 Bioethics Consulting and Committees. *1 credit.*

Through attendance of ethics committee meetings and ethics consultations, this course will familiarize students with both the theoretical and practical aspects of institutional and consultative ethics. This course is required for students with no professional experience in clinical bioethics.

10233 Issues in Pediatric Ethics. *3 credits.*

This course will discuss the question of children's rights, the social value of children and cross-cultural issues of childhood. The objective of the course is to examine our individual assumptions about childhood and parenting that form the basis of approaches to pediatric ethics.

10234 Ethics and Human Reproduction. *3 credits.*

This course will provide an opportunity for students to explore some of the ethical issues related to human reproduction, including assisted reproductive technologies, genetics, and cloning. Students will also examine the various religious and philosophical arguments, as well as international perspectives, surrounding issues of human reproduction.

10275 Special Topics in Bioethics. *3 credits.*

This course focuses on topics of special interest in bioethics. Examples of topics include neuroethics, ethics at the end of life, ethical issues in mental health, and political issues in bioethics and public health.

taught in the online course Ethics and Integrity in Science, which is a prerequisite, but also to explore the gray areas of the individual topics. The intent is to offer students illustrative examples of ethical issues that might arise in their careers, to emphasize the ethical principles that apply in such situations, and to provide practical guidance on how these types of situations should be correctly handled. This course is offered as a discussion series. Students are expected to attend and participate in the discussion. Bioethics 10444 is offered in the spring term only.

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