



The rapid rate of scientific, technological, legal, and cultural change in today's world makes a broad education in bioethics and medical humanities more desirable than ever.

The Interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Bioethics and Medical Humanities at the University of Louisville is a professional degree intended to provide graduates with an enriched ethical knowledge base, preparing them to work in clinical or hospital settings, and to undertake scholarly research or teach in the field of bioethics and medical humanities.

The program will enhance graduates' contextual experience within their primary professional field, for example, law, philosophy, medicine, nursing, dentistry, religious studies, public health, health administration, or veterinary medicine. Degree holders from these professions will be better prepared to participate in hospital ethics committees, teach medical ethics and humanities, understand the interaction of religion/spirituality and medicine, and be equipped to interpret issues in bioethics to the general public and media.

Those students entering the program with a theoretical knowledge base in ethics will gain the tools to apply theory to real-world problems. Those entering with hands-on experience will gain the theoretical underpinnings for careful analysis of real-world problems.

Core courses will be drawn from philosophy and medicine, with electives available from the Schools of Law, Medicine, Public Health and Information Sciences, and Social Work, as well as the Arts & Sciences departments of History, Pan-African Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychological and Brain Sciences, Sociology, and Women's and Gender Studies. This breadth offers students a significant degree of flexibility to pursue their personal areas of interest and broaden their expertise beyond their core knowledge base.

The Interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Bioethics and Medical Humanities is a 33 credit-hour program, consisting of seven required core courses and four electives. The core courses provide essential grounding in ethical theory and the foundations of bioethics, current controversies in health care ethics, and the social and political context of health care decision-making; participation in hospital rounds emphasizes the practical realities of clinical ethics, and a capstone seminar integrates program courses with each other and with students' experience in the health care professions.

Core Courses

Foundations of Bioethics:

Grounding in the major theories and methods of bioethical decision-making, including contemporary controversies about the role of theory, principles, cases, narrative, and virtues.

Ethical Theory:

Recent developments in ethical theory, such as examinations of the status of moral facts; moral realism; impartiality and personal attachments; or moral agency.

Current Controversies in Health Care Ethics:

Topics in health care ethics currently attracting the most attention in both professional and public discussions.

Gender, Race, and Culture in Health Care:

Examines ways social groupings and systems affect the kind of health care needed and the kind of care that people receive. Addresses both biases and stereotypes, and empirical claims about biologically-based differences.

Health Care, Community, & Justice:

Examines theories of justice and equality as they apply to issues in health care delivery, considers explanations for why disparities exist, and explores practical ways that communities have addressed inequalities.

Clinical Ethics:

Application of ethical principles, virtues, and cases in the context of clinical care, with a practical approach toward ethics consultation and conflict resolution.

Integrative Bioethics: Self and Other in Theory and Practice:

Capstone seminar for Bioethics MA program in form of collaborative seminar. Students produce a culminating project.

The Interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Bioethics and Medical Humanities is designed to enhance the career and scholarly preparation of a number of individuals, including:

- Current MDs, JDs, RNs, DVMs and other biosciences and health care professionals who wish to enhance their career options with increased expertise in ethics for educational purposes
- Current faculty and staff serving on Hospital Ethics Committees
- Dual-degree students from the schools of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Law, Public Health and Information Sciences and Social Work who wish to add expertise in bioethics to enhance their future professional, educational and scholarly pursuits
- Post-Baccalaureate students in transition from a B.A. to a professional degree who wish to enhance admissions prospects and expand their knowledge of bioethics
- Seminary faculty and students who wish to expand their knowledge of bioethics and the health care field to enhance their current or future work in education, pastoral care and community service

Contact Us!

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