

MA in Bioethics

University of Washington, School of Medicine, Department of Medical History & Ethics

Director of Graduate Studies: Denise M. Dudzinski, PhD MTS dudzin@u.washington.edu

Associate Director: Helene Starks PhD MPH tiqiba@u.washington.edu

Graduate Program Assistant: Margaret Mitchell gradprog@u.washington.edu

Overall goal for the MA: The program provides students the foundational knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to develop core competencies in bioethics. The program prepares students who enter the program with an existing professional degree for future careers involving bioethics research and teaching. It offers training in empirical, normative, and clinical aspects of bioethics, with opportunities for more in-depth focus through elective course work.

Target Audience: The target population is primarily post-doctoral medical fellows and graduate students enrolled in other degree programs who are interested in dual degrees (i.e., law, nursing). This focus targets high caliber students who are further along on their career trajectory and thus increases the likelihood of graduates positively impacting the fields of medicine, law, nursing, and bioethics.

Course Requirements: Completion of the MA in Bioethics requires a minimum of **40** credits, of which **29** must be at the 500 level. Students must complete **25** required credits of MHE (or approved) courses, an additional **6** credits of elective courses, **3** credits of a practicum, and **6** credits of a masters project. Students are encouraged to take additional electives as they see fit to further develop their area of specialty knowledge and interest, with guidance from their faculty mentor(s). **This curriculum is designed as a 2-year, in-residence program of study. We plan to enroll students in the 2009-2010 academic year.**

Core Course Work and required credits in area	Required Course(s), Credits (quarters offered)	Electives/other options	Core Competencies	Teaching Resources
Ethical Theory: 10 Ethical Theory	MHE 402/Phil 412 (5), Ethical Theory (F) AND 5 additional credits from the list of electives	MHE 474/PHIL 411 (5) Justice in Healthcare (W) MHE 404 (5) Metaethical Theory (F) VALUES 511 (5) Ethics Matters VALUES 512 (5) Justice Matters	Students will gain an understanding of major theories of normative ethics, including both teleological and deontological approaches. Coursework will emphasize Western philosophy during the modern (post-enlightenment) period, and will include critiques of standard approaches, such as feminist and multicultural.	Jecker, Shellenberg, McCormick, Philosophy faculty

Empirical Research Methods: 6

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Core Course Work and required credits in area	Required Course(s), Credits (quarters offered)	Electives/other options	Core Competencies	Teaching Resources
Empirical Research in Ethics	MHE 527 (3) (Fall), AND 3 additional credits from the list of electives	MHE 552 (4) Advanced Qualitative Methods (W) HSERV 527 (4) Survey Research Methods (W) BIOSTAT 511/512/513 (4) Medical Biometry (F/W/S) BIOSTAT 517/518 (4) Applied Biostatistics (F/W) EPI 512/513 (4) Epidemiologic Methods (F/W) HSERV 523/524 (4) Adv HS Research Methods (F/W) HSERV 590L (3) Intro to Qualitative Methods (S) NMETH 582/583 (4) Interpretive Methods in Nursing Research (W,S)	Students will be exposed to a range of methods utilized in empirical research specifically targeting questions of ethics, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, and document analysis. Coursework will emphasize: how to ask a good research question, how to work with conceptual frameworks within empirical projects, how empirical methods inform normative questions (and vice versa)	Starks, Fryer-Edwards, Fullerton, PHG faculty, SPHCM faculty
Clinical Ethics Topics: 6 Methods in Clinical Ethics	MHE 548 (3) (F) Introduction to Clinical Ethics AND MHE 535 (3) Medical Ethics and Jurisprudence or MHE 549 Classic Cases in Clinical Ethics (Prereq: MHE 402, VIS 511 or 512, MHE 474, MHE 548 or permission of instructor)	MHE 523 (3) Biomedical Ethics (F)	Students will learn to recognize and apply utilitarian, deontological, feminist, virtue, casuistic, and other ethical reasoning in clinical cases and develop/improve ethics consultation skills. Students will study paradigm cases that have shaped clinical ethics and examine the relationship between classic and contemporary cases. Laws, policies, and organizational issues that pertain to routine ethics consultations will also be addressed. Students will be better able to articulate and substantiate arguments expressed in typical clinical ethics debates.	Burke, Dudzinski, Fryer-Edwards, Schellenberg, Wilfond

Research Ethics: 3

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Core Course Work and required credits in area	Required Course(s), Credits (quarters offered)	Electives/other options	Core Competencies	Teaching Resources
Research Ethics & Regulation	MHE 536/LAW H 536 (3) (W) Research Ethics & Regulation	MHE 597 (1+) Applied Research Ethics (Special Topics)	Students are introduced to dominant research ethics paradigms and regulations. Coursework includes case analysis, classic cases in research ethics, and special topics (e.g. genetics, research with women, emergency research).	Mastroianni, Starks, Burke, Fryer-Edwards., Fullerton,
Master's Project: 6	MHE 596 (6)		The Master's Project affords students the opportunity to prepare a 20-25 page research paper under the direct supervision of a faculty member (Master's Project Advisor). It provides students with an intensive writing experience that culminates in a potentially publishable paper. The final product aims to make an original contribution to the bioethics literature.	MHE, Philosophy, PHG, LAW, Katz Center, Fellowships
Practicum: 3	MHE 595 (3+)		The practicum offers experiential learning in an area of interest to the student. The practicum is designed to complement the student's existing clinical/research experiences. The practicum supplements formal coursework by helping students better appreciate how ethical deliberation, teaching, consultation, and/or research skills can be practically applied in clinical, classroom, &/or research contexts.	Dudzinski, Jecker, David Forster (WIRB), other MHE regular, adjunct & affiliate faculty.
Required & Other Electives: 6+		Health Policy: HSERV 514 (3) US Health & HC: Health Policy Research HSERV 552 (1-3) Health Policy Development Health Law: HSERV 551/LAWH 512 (2) Health Law		

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