INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES: CONCENTRATION IN HEALTHCARE ETHICS (MA)

Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, concentration in Healthcare Ethics

Unit: Arts & Sciences (https://louisville.edu/artsandsciences)
Department: Philosophy (http://louisville.edu/philosophy)/Interdisciplinary Studies (http://louisville.edu/graduate)

Program Website (http://louisville.edu/bioethicsma)
Academic Plan Code(s): IS_ _MA_BMH, IS_ _MA_BMA

Program Information
The Healthcare Ethics concentration is a special track within the University of Louisville interdisciplinary master’s program. It is overseen by the Department of Philosophy/Interdisciplinary Studies and the Graduate School.

Healthcare ethics is an inherently interdisciplinary field, located principally at the intersection of philosophy, the law, and the healthcare professions, such as clinical medicine and nursing, but drawing as well from social science disciplines as diverse as sociology, clinical psychology, and social work. The aim of the program is to provide students with the skills necessary to work in their chosen field from an enriched ethical knowledge base. Students will be exposed to the philosophical underpinnings of healthcare ethics as well as real-time clinical moral decision-making. This program examines concepts of race, gender, and culture as well to incorporate an ethically sound appreciation of difference and diversity.

The master’s degree concentration in Healthcare Ethics provides professional enhancement and resources for the following groups of students:

- Current healthcare and bioscience practitioners or faculty
- Current or future members of ethics committees
- Seminary faculty or students with an interest in healthcare chaplaincy
- Dual-Degree students who wish to distinguish themselves with expertise in healthcare ethics for their future professional, educational, and scholarly pursuits in medicine, dentistry, law, nursing, social work, or other fields
- Post-baccalaureate students during their transition from undergraduate to professional or PhD programs

Note: Prior to 2019-2020, this concentration was titled “Bioethics and Medical Humanities.”

Admission Requirements
- Application (http://louisville.edu/graduate/apply) (online version preferred since it allows students to upload all other required materials)
- Application fee
- Transcripts from all previous academic work

- Standardized test scores: GRE, MCAT or LSAT preferred. Other scores may be accepted with prior approval. Applicants who have completed master’s- or doctoral-level degrees are exempt from this requirement.
- Two recent letters of recommendation. The letters should come from those familiar with the applicant’s academic work or life long learning and speak to your ability to complete graduate level education. Discursive letters preferred.
- Curriculum vitae (CV) or resume
- Personal statement
- Your personal statement should address the question: “Why have you decided to pursue a concentration in Healthcare Ethics?” and should be between 2–4 double-spaced pages (500 - 1000 words).

Additionally, we reserve the right to request additional materials as required. For example, current employees of the university are expected to provide a letter of support from their direct supervisor.

Individuals who can’t use the online application or need to send supplemental materials can email Graduate Admissions (gradadm@louisville.edu) or mail materials (marked with applicant name, date of birth and either your university issued ID number or your social security ID number) to:

Graduate School
Graduate Admissions
Houchens Building, Suite 105
University of Louisville
Louisville KY 40292

Program Requirements
The Healthcare Ethics concentration is a 33 credit hour MA 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 healthcare ethics, and the social and political context of healthcare 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 healthcare professions. Electives from the Schools of Law, Medicine, Public Health, and Social Work, as well as from the Arts and Sciences departments of History, Pan-African Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychological and Brain Sciences, Sociology, and Women’s and Gender Studies diversify and allow customization of the program.

For more details about courses or electives please refer to the posted curriculum at louisville.edu/bioethicsma/curriculum.

Coursework
The degree requires 21 credit hours (seven classes) of core courses and 12 credit hours (four classes) of electives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BETH 621</td>
<td>Ethical Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETH 680</td>
<td>Foundations of Bioethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETH 681</td>
<td>Current Controversies in Health Care Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BETH 682</td>
<td>Gender, Race and Culture in Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETH 683</td>
<td>Health Care, Justice, and Community</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
In addition to the core classes, 12 credit hours of electives (typically, four courses) are required for the MA. Courses must be at the 500- or 600-level. Of these four electives, one must address Social Context, one Healthcare Policy and Law and the remaining two must be relevant to the degree but are not otherwise restricted. Students are encouraged to browse the entire university catalog for elective courses relevant to the degree and their interests.

All electives with prerequisites require permission of instructor to enroll. Other courses may be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Students are encouraged to find interesting electives and submit the class information for approval.

### Elective Courses

**Electives (see lists below)**

Minimum Total Hours: 33

All electives require permission of instructor to enroll, unless otherwise noted.

#### Social Context Approved Electives

- **ANTH 608** Social and Cultural Theory
- **ECYP 663** Multicultural and Diversity Issues
- **HIST 589/689** History of American Sexualities - WR
- **WGST 532**
- **HIST 611/689** Studies in American History
- **WGST 691**
- **HUM 562** Selected Topics
- **PHIL 605**
- **HUM 635** Seminar in Humanities
- **HUM 663** Global Perspectives on Arts & Culture
- **LAW 826** Family Law
- **LAW 842** Domestic Violence
- **LAW 905** Women and the Law
- **LAW 906** Race and the Law
- **LAW 922** Legal Problems of the Poor
- **LAW 944** Poverty, Health and the Law
- **LAW 978** Disability Law
- **LAW 923** Elder Law
- **PAS 510** Advanced Topics in Afro-American and African Studies
- **PAS 615** Theories of Race and Racism
- **PHIL 616** African-American Philosophy
- **PHIL 619** Topics in Philosophy of Race and Racism
- **PHIL 690** Fundamentals of Diversity
- **POLS 668** Feminist Theory
- **SOC 612** Gender, Race, Work, and Welfare
- **SOC 685** Race and Ethnicity
- **SW 603** Diversity, Oppression, and Social Justice Practice
- **SW 633** Social Work and Human Sexuality
- **SW 684** Spirituality and Social Work
- **SW 697** Advanced Topical Seminar

**Health Care Policy and Law Approved Electives**

- **LAW 945** MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- **LAW 946** Introductions to Health Law
- **LAW 947** PSY, MENTAL HLTH, & LAW
- **LAW 958** Entrepreneurship Clinic
- **LAW 959** Genetics and the Law
- **LAW 978** Animal Law
- **LAW 998** REGULATORY LAW & POLICY
- **LAW 999** Special Topic ( Two )
- **NURS 613** Introduction to Health Care Policy
- **PHPB 705** Policy to Advance Health Equity
- **PSY 656** Legal, Professional, and Ethical Issues in Clinical Psychology
- **PHMS 603** Legal and Bioethical Aspects of Public Health
- **SW 602** Social Welfare Institutions, Policies and Services
- **SW 615** Mental Health
- **SW 622** Issues in Policy and Service Delivery
- **SW 697** Advanced Topical Seminar

### Other Approved Electives

- **COMM 690** Special Topics
- **HIST 651** Studies in Medieval History
- **HUM 635** Seminar in Humanities
- **LAW 893** NEGOTIATIONS
- **LAW 977** Animal Law
- **PHIL 605** Special Topics
- **PHIL 605** Special Topics
- **PHPB 612** Health Communications Campaigns: Theory and Practice
- **POLS 668** Feminist Theory
- **SW 626** Research Methodology and Design
- **SW 636** Death & Grief
- **SW 697** Advanced Topical Seminar
- **SW 697** Advanced Topical Seminar

Other courses may be allowed on a case-by-case basis. We encourage our students to find interesting electives and submit the class information for approval.

Most students will complete the degree requirements after two years of full-time coursework, though motivated students are welcome to complete the hours in four consecutive semesters instead. Additionally, the program has the flexibility to allow for part-time students to take up to six years to complete the degree.

For sample schedules please refer to our curriculum plans at louisville.edu/bioethicsma/curriculum-1/sample-curriculum-plans

### Two-Year Schedule

**Year 1**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>BETH 680</td>
<td>Foundations of Bioethics</td>
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<td>or BETH 682</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Approved Elective</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<td>BETH 681</td>
<td>Current Controversies in Health Care Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Interdisciplinary Studies: Concentration in Healthcare Ethics (MA)

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<td>BETH 621</td>
<td>Ethical Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BETH 684</td>
<td>Clinical Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BETH 685</td>
<td>Integrative Bioethics: Self and Other in Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Approved Elective</td>
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Minimum Total Hours: 33