

BIOETHICS AND HEALTH STUDIES, B.A.

Saint Louis University's bioethics and health studies major asks students to analyze the ethical questions raised by advances in medical and scientific technology. It examines these questions both in the clinical context and in health policy. Well-known bioethical topics include abortion, euthanasia and stem cell research. But the field's area of study has grown dramatically in recent decades in keeping with the rapid pace of biotechnological advances. More recent bioethical work addresses developments in genetics, neuroscience, public health and various emerging fields in the biomedical sciences.

SLU's bioethics and health studies major gives students the tools to understand these developments. It does so through an interdisciplinary curriculum that fuses the humanities with the social sciences. It pairs this holistic education with unique service-learning opportunities in health care settings and a capstone project designed to guide students in their transition to a career in health care.

Through their coursework, students majoring in bioethics and health studies learn to think across the University and mobilize their knowledge in the world.

A particular focus of the bioethics and health studies major at SLU is the relationship of religion, health care and social justice. Students are exposed to a broad range of ideological and professional perspectives on health care dilemmas. This will prepare them to collaborate with others across existing professional and political divides. It will also help them clarify their views on topics that are often complex and highly personal.

The bioethics and health studies major provides a foundation for post-graduate study and employment in many health-related fields. Beyond that, it provides students with tools for addressing the ethical dilemmas they will face, not just on the job but also in the voting booth and in their own lives. When coupled with a strong commitment to social justice and intellectual diversity, this integrated approach to health care makes the major particularly reflective of Saint Louis University's Jesuit mission (<https://www.slu.edu/about/catholic-jesuit-identity/>).

Curriculum Overview

SLU's bioethics and health studies major requires 36 credits of coursework to be spread over three broad distribution areas: foundational courses, disciplinary frameworks, and advanced issues and practice in health care ethics.

Except for the major's introductory course, HCE 2010 Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics, these courses do not have to be taken in strict order. Students can choose courses to satisfy their disciplinary frameworks and advanced issues and practice in health care ethics requirements from many possible options. Courses taken for the bioethics and health studies major requirements may also fulfill core requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences. The major's flexible progression and course requirements give students a high degree of freedom in tailoring it to their interests and timeframe.

SLU's bioethics and health studies major offers a pre-med track for students planning on pursuing medical school.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

SLU's bioethics and health studies major has a service-learning requirement. Students can choose from several service-learning courses, each taking place in a distinct health care setting. Students can also receive credit for completing an internship in a professional setting related to health care ethics.

The major offers students opportunities to study abroad in Ireland and Spain.

Careers

The bioethics and health studies major provides an excellent foundation for professional education in many areas, including:

- Medicine
- Law
- Public health
- Health care administration
- Public policy
- Divinity school
- Various graduate programs in the humanities and social sciences

Through their service-learning courses and capstone, students will gain practical experience that will help them transition to employment in a wide range of health-related fields.

Admission Requirements

Begin Your Application (<http://www.slu.edu/apply.php>)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application.

Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- Proof of financial support must include:
 - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
 - A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$52,260

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer/>)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2022, 99% of first-time freshmen and 90% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$445 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by December 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit www.slu.edu/financial-aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to apply bioethical methodologies.
2. Graduates will be able to synthesize humanities and social science methods.
3. Graduates will be able to evaluate the impact of disparities in identity categories on health care access and quality.
4. Graduates will be able to justify recommendations for resolving complex ethical health care dilemmas.
5. Graduates will be able to integrate bioethical knowledge into patient care.

Requirements

Bioethics and health studies students must complete a minimum total of **36 credits** for the major.

Code	Title	Credits
University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		
Major Requirements		
Major Foundation Courses		
The Foundational Courses Requirement introduces students to the ethical dimensions of health care practice both in the U.S. and from an international perspective as well as the several methodological frameworks for addressing bioethical dilemmas. It also introduces students to differences in race, gender, disability, sex, national origin, religion, socioeconomic class, and other differences that can lead to disparities in health care. Finally, students are introduced to an interdisciplinary approach to bioethics as a field, which will help them transition to, and more effectively draw from, the "Disciplinary Frameworks" courses.		
HCE 2010	Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics	3
HCE 2050	Patients as Persons	3
HCE 2070	Health Care Across Difference	3
HCE 2090	Bioethics in an Interdisciplinary Perspective	3
Major Disciplinary Frameworks Courses		12
The Disciplinary Frameworks Requirement exposes students to diverse disciplinary approaches to promoting ethical discourse and social justice in the health care system.		
Students select one course in each of the following attribute categories: Humanities; Philosophy/Theology; Social Sciences; Professional. The list of courses within each attribute will be updated each semester. Listed below are some sample courses that would count for each attribute.		
Humanities (p.)	Literature, History, or Fine Arts Courses with Humanities Attribute	
Theology/Philosophy (p.)	Theology or Philosophy course with a Theology/Philosophy	
Social Science (p.)	Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology, African American Studies, or Women's and Gender Studies course with a Social Sciences Attribute	
Professional (p. 3)	Public Health, Social Work, Criminology and Criminal Justice, or Communication course with a Professional attribute	
Advanced Issues & Practice in Health Care Ethics		12

The Issues and Practice Requirement engages students in current and emerging ethical challenges of 21st century health care and prepares them to recognize, analyze, and facilitate appropriate approaches to resolution in pluralistic and multidisciplinary environments.

Advanced Clinical Problem-Solving (p. 3)	<i>A course with a Advanced Clinical Problem-Solving attribute</i>	
HCE 3000/4000 (p. 3)	<i>One Health Care Ethics elective</i>	
Service Learning (p. 3)	<i>A course with a Service Learning attribute</i>	
HCE 4960	Bioethics and Health Studies Capstone	
General Electives		49-52
Total Credits		120

Continuation Standards

A student must maintain a GPA in coursework for the major in bioethics and health studies of at least 2.00.

Disciplinary Frameworks

These requirements expose students to diverse disciplinary approaches to bioethics and health studies. Students select one course in each of the following attribute categories: humanities, philosophy/theology, social sciences and professional. The list of courses within each attribute will be updated each semester. Listed below are some sample courses that would count for each attribute.

Humanities Attribute (literature, history, fine arts)

Code	Title	Credits
ARTH 2070	Art and the Body	3
ENGL 3730	Introduction to Medical Humanities, Literature	3
ENGL 3740	Medicine and Literature	3
FREN 4170	French and the Sciences	3

Theology/Philosophy Attribute

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL 3360	Medical Ethics	3
PHIL 3600	Science and Religion	3
PHIL 4150	Philosophy of Science	3
PHIL 4280	Biology and Mind	3
THEO 2510	Christian Ethics	3
THEO 2815	Psychology and the Soul	3

Social Sciences Attribute (sociology/anthropology, political science, psychology, African American studies, women's studies)

Code	Title	Credits
AAM 4330	Psychology of Oppression	3
POLS 4840	Global Health Politics and Policy	3
PSY 3100	Brain, Mind, & Society	3
PSY 4350	Health Psychology	3
SOC 2480	Drugs and Society: Legal and Medical Implications of the "War on Drugs"	3
SOC 2490	Sociology of Medicine	3

SOC 3490	Sociology of Mental Health	3
SOC 3580	Deviant Behavior: Drugs, Alcohol and Addiction	3

Professional Attribute (public health, social work, criminology, allied health sciences, communication)

Code	Title	Credits
CMM 3090	Health Communication	3
CCJ 2050	Multiculturalism for Criminal Justice Professionals	3
CCJ 2150	Criminology: Nature of Crime	3
CCJ 3150	Contemporary Theories of Crime	3
CCJ 3200	Ethics in Criminal Justice	3
CCJ 3600	Mental Health & Crime	3
PUBH 4000	Politics and Public Health Advocacy	3
SWRK 3100	Social Policy for Social Justice	3
SWRK 3200	Dismantling Oppression: Exploring Equity & Inclusion	3

Service-Learning Attribute

Code	Title	Credits
HCE 3100	Public Health & Social Justice	3
HCE 4240	Ethics and Geriatric Care	3
HCE 4520	Ethics and Practice of Community Mental Health Care	3

Advanced Clinical Problem-Solving Attribute

Code	Title	Credits
HCE 4210	Controversies in Death and Dying	3
HCE 4220	Controversies in Reproductive and Pediatric Ethics	3
HCE 4270	Controversies in Organ Donation	3

Health Care Ethics Electives

Code	Title	Credits
HCE 3010	Ethics in Clinical Medicine	3
HCE 3030	Disability Studies: Medicine, Ethics, and Policy	3
HCE 3050	Bioethics in Popular Culture	3
HCE 3200	Freaks and the Medical Body	3
HCE 3220	The Desire to Dissect: Philosophical History of Anatomical Dissection	3
HCE 3230	Race, Gender, and Health Care	3
HCE 3250	God in the Clinic? Exploring the Tension Between Spirituality and Health Care	3
HCE 3300	Bioethics + Human Nature Film	3
HCE 4200	Warriors and Medics	3
HCE 4210	Controversies in Death and Dying	3
HCE 4220	Controversies in Reproductive and Pediatric Ethics	3
HCE 4240	Ethics and Geriatric Care	3
HCE 4250	Law and Bioethics	3
HCE 4260	Race and Research Ethics	3
HCE 4270	Controversies in Organ Donation	3
HCE 4280	Controversies in Neuroethics	3
HCE 4980	Independent Study	3

Graduation Requirements

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits (excluding pre-college level courses numbered below 1000).

- Complete the University Undergraduate Core curriculum requirements.
- Complete major requirements: minimum of 30 credits required.
- Complete remaining credits with a second major, minor, certificate and/or electives to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for graduation.
- Achieve at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, a 2.00 grade point average in the major(s), and a 2.00 grade point average in the minor/certificate, or related elective credits.
- Complete department-/program-specific academic and performance requirements.
- Complete at least 50% of the coursework for the major and 75% for the minor/certificate through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
- Complete 30 of the final 36 credits through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
- Complete an online degree application by the required University deadline.

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	2-3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community	1
CORE 1900	Eloquentia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication	3
HCE 2010	Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics (Fulfills Dignity, Ethics, & a Just Society Attribute)	3
General Electives		6
Credits		15-16
Spring		
CORE 3200	Ways of Thinking: Quantitative Reasoning	3
HCE 1600	Embodiment, Life, and Death in Context (satisfies CORE 1600)	3
HCE 2050	Patients as Persons	3
General Electives		6
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
CORE 1200	Eloquentia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication	3
HCE 1700	Death, Disability, Disease, and the Meaning of Life (satisfies CORE 1700)	3

HCE 2070	Health Care Across Difference (Fulfills Global Interdependence Attribute)	3
General Electives		6
Credits		15
Spring		
CORE 3800	Ways of Thinking: Natural and Applied Sciences	3
HCE 2090	Bioethics in an Interdisciplinary Perspective (satisfies CORE 3400)	3
Humanities (p.)	Literature, History, or Fine Arts Courses with Humanities Attribute	3
General Electives		6
Credits		15
Year Three		
Fall		
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	2-3
Theology/Philosophy (p.)	Theology or Philosophy course with a Theology/Philosophy Attribute	3
Social Science (p.)	Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology, African American Studies, or Women's and Gender Studies course with a Social Sciences Attribute	3
General Electives		7
Credits		15-16
Spring		
Professional (p. 3)	Public Health, Social Work, Criminology and Criminal Justice, or Communication course with a Professional Attribute	3
CORE 4000	Collaborative Inquiry (Could be fulfilled by HCE 4520 Ethics and Practice of Community Mental Health)	2-3
Advanced Clinical Problem-Solving (p. 3)	A course with a Advanced Clinical Problem-Solving attribute	3
General Electives		7
Credits		15-16
Year Four		
Fall		
CORE 3500	Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World	1
Service-Learning (p. 3)	A course with a Service-Learning Attribute	3
HCE 3000/4000 (p. 3)	Health Care Ethics Elective	3
General Electives		8
Credits		15
Spring		
HCE 4960	Bioethics and Health Studies Capstone	3
General Electives		12
Credits		15
Total Credits		120-123

Disciplinary Frameworks

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HCE 4270	Controversies in Organ Donation	3
HCE 4280	Controversies in Neuroethics	3
HCE 4980	Independent Study	3