HEALTH CARE ETHICS, PH.D.
AND M.D. DUAL DEGREE

Students begin their health care ethics and medicine dual-degree studies as traditional first-year students in the School of Medicine. After the second year of medical school, students begin full-time study in health care ethics. Students are expected to complete the Ph.D. in three years, after which they return to the School of Medicine to complete the third and fourth years of medical studies.

For additional information see the catalog entries for the following programs:

**Medicine, M.D.** ([link](http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/medicine/medicine/doctor-medicine))

**Health Care Ethics, Ph.D.** ([link](http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/health-care-ethics/health-care-ethics-phd))

**Accreditation**

The Saint Louis University School of Medicine is fully accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting body for medical education in the United States.

**Admission**

Students must meet the admission requirements and be admitted into both the M.D. and health care ethics Ph.D. degree programs according to the processes of each of the participating academic units in order to pursue a dual-degree program. Individuals may apply to the Ph.D. degree program concurrently with application to the School of Medicine or following their admission to the School of Medicine; however, admission to the dual-degree program is contingent upon admission to both the Ph.D. and the M.D. degree programs.

**Requirements**

A minimum of 48 credits is required for SLU’s health care ethics Ph.D. This ordinarily includes 33 credits of course work, three credits of practicum, and 12 credits of dissertation research. SLU’s Center for Health Care Ethics accepts 7 credits from Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the M.D. curriculum. The required courses HCE 6110 Intro-Medicine for Ethicists (1 cr), one 3-credit Topics and Scholars elective and the HCE 6150 Practicum, Health Care Ethics (1-3 cr) are waived based on medical school coursework in Patient, Physician, and Society I and II, and in Fundamentals of Biomedical Science. M.D./Ph.D. students will be recognized as having satisfied all three Research Tools requirements based on trainee knowledge of medical terminology, biostatistics and library database searches. The remaining 27 credits of Ph.D. coursework, comprehensive exams, the dissertation and the public defense of the dissertation must be completed during the three years of Ph.D. study.

**Continuation Standards**

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.