

HEALTH CARE ETHICS, PH.D.

Saint Louis University's doctoral program in health care ethics prepares students for a successful career in academic, corporate, research or clinical bioethics settings.

Faculty from the center have influenced numerous bioethics debates in U.S. society, serving as consultants to the Nancy Beth Cruzan case, NASA, the Institute of Medicine, the United Network for Organ Sharing, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services. The faculty are well-respected in disaster relief ethics, clinical ethics, research ethics and integrity, as well as religion and medicine. The faculty are also recognized for their numerous publications in academic journals and internationally renowned books.

Curriculum Overview

SLU's Ph.D. in health care ethics is offered by the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics. The health care ethics Ph.D. integrates an interdisciplinary curriculum with several practica and offers four concentrations to further specialize your doctoral studies.

You may opt to complete a concentration in one of four areas: catholic tradition, clinical ethics, empirical research methods, or research ethics.

Catholic Tradition Concentration

Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program in health care ethics may take 15 credits of coursework with an emphasis on health care ethics in the Catholic tradition and write a dissertation (12 credits) in the Catholic tradition to develop expertise in the area of Catholic health care ethics. To enroll in the concentration in health care ethics in the Catholic tradition, students must already hold a master's degree in theology or religious studies or be enrolled in the M.A./Ph.D. dual degree program.

Clinical Ethics Concentration

Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program in health care ethics may take 15 credits of coursework with an emphasis on clinical ethics (12 credits). They'll also write a dissertation on a topic relevant to clinical ethics to develop an expertise in clinical health care ethics.

Empirical Research Concentration

This concentration has two tracks, qualitative and quantitative. Both tracks require 15 credits of coursework. Some concentration courses will also satisfy the Ph.D. program course requirements. Because there may be up to six credits of overlap, students who enter the Ph.D. program with the prerequisite in inferential statistics will be required to complete just nine additional credits of coursework. Students may receive up to six credits of advanced standing within the concentration for methods courses completed elsewhere.

Research Ethics Concentration

Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program in health care ethics may take 15 credits of coursework with an emphasis on research ethics and write a dissertation (12 credits) in research ethics to develop expertise in the area of human research ethics.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

The mission of Center for Health Care Ethics is academic research integrated with teaching, learning and service in health care ethics. Our mission brings the Catholic, Jesuit tradition into interdisciplinary discourse with our pluralistic society.

Careers

Professionals from the fields of law, medicine, nursing, public health, philosophy and religious studies have joined SLU's Ph.D. program in health care ethics. Our graduates have been highly successful in finding excellent full-time positions both in education (teaching and conducting research in health care ethics) and in health care systems (as professional ethicists).

Admission Requirements

Students entering the Ph.D. program in Health Care Ethics will have an undergraduate or graduate degree in a relevant field, for instance philosophy, theology, a clinical field, social sciences or law. Successful applicants usually have a high GPA, high GRE percentiles (especially in the verbal and analytical writing categories), a strong normative writing sample and a demonstration of overall fit with the program's educational objectives.

The Catholic Health Association has recommended that ethicists working in Catholic health care with an interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree should additionally hold an M.A. in Theology. It is strongly recommended that students who do not already hold an M.A. in theology complete the dual degree program, offered in collaboration with the Aquinas Institute of Theology. Alternately, students should plan on completing an M.A. prior to commencing work in Catholic health care.

Application Requirements

- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE scores
- Résumé
- Writing sample
- Professional goal statement

Requirements for International Students

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

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<http://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.

Assistantship Deadline

Applicants who are admitted to the PhD program will be invited to submit a separate application for assistantship funding.

Review Process

Applications are reviewed by a committee of faculty members from the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics.

Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for graduate assistantships and tuition scholarships, applicants should complete their applications by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and health insurance for the duration of the award.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at <http://www.slu.edu/financial-aid>.

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate a broad knowledge of the foundational disciplines, methods, topics and issues in health care ethics required for the scholarly analysis of issues in the field.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate a proficiency in formulating original, normative arguments on topics related to health care ethics.
3. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to conceptualize, develop and bring to successful completion an original, sustained and coherent independent research project that contributes to the field (i.e. the dissertation).
4. Graduates will be able to demonstrate an ability to generate appropriate job search materials (i.e. curriculum vitae, teaching portfolio, writing sample, etc.)

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Foundations of Health Care Ethics		
HCE 6010	Methods in Philosophical Ethic	3
HCE 6020	Methods in Religious Ethics	3
HCE 6040	Interdisciplinary Research in Health Care Ethics	3
Foundations Elective		
HCE 5020	Ethical Issues in Public Health	3
HCE 6050	Philosophical Foundations	3
HCE 6060	Psychosocial Foundations	3
HCE 6070	Foundations of Catholic Morality	3
Context of Health Care		
HCE 6110	Intro-Medicine for Ethicists	1
HCE 6120	Bioethics and the Law	2
HCE 6130	Clinical Ethics	3
HCE 6140	Research Ethics	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	3
Concentration Requirements		
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics ¹	3
HCE 6980	Graduate Reading Course ¹	3
Select one of the following concentrations: 9		
Clinical Ethics (p.)		
Catholic Tradition (p. 2)		
Empirical Research Methods (p. 2)		
Research Ethics (p. 2)		
Dissertation Research		

HCE 6990	Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters)	12
Total Credits		60

Clinical Ethics Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
HCE 6310	Health Care Ethics: Catholic Tradition	3
HCE 6540	Advanced Clinical Ethics Practicum	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	3
or HCE 6980	Graduate Reading Course	
Total Credits		9

Catholic Tradition Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
HCE 6070	Foundations of Catholic Morality	3
HCE 6310	Health Care Ethics: Catholic Tradition	3
Catholic Tradition Elective		3
Total Credits		9

Empirical Research Methods Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
HCE 6520	Quantitative Research in Descriptive Ethics	3
Qualitative Methods Elective		6
Total Credits		9

Research Ethics Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
HCE 6140	Research Ethics	3
Research Methodology Elective		3
Health Care Ethics Elective		3
Total Credits		9

Non-Course Requirements

Research Tools

These competencies are essential for success in health care ethics. Students may develop these competencies through different mechanisms.

1. Competency in medical terminology
2. Competency in library database skills
3. Competency in reading statistics and study design

Comprehensive Examinations

The comprehensive examinations occur after completing all course work and practica.

Dissertation Proposal

The student will work closely with the dissertation chair to select a dissertation topic and plan the dissertation proposal in a timely manner. In the dissertation proposal, the student must present substantial evidence of the ability to develop and sustain an extended normative project on a bioethics topic. Once the chair is satisfied with the proposal, it will be sent to the two faculty readers for their comments. It is at this stage that the readers are expected to influence the general outline of the dissertation. The student will then address the comments of the readers and submit a revised proposal to the Chair. This process may

be repeated until the Chair, Readers and student are satisfied with the proposal.

Dissertations: Non-Traditional Format

Ordinarily doctoral candidates in the Ph.D. program in Health Care Ethics will follow the traditional guidelines for dissertations. However, when appropriate, a student's dissertation committee may permit the student to write a dissertation using a "non-traditional format", the body of which consists of at least three thematically related original article-length manuscripts, at least two of which must be accepted for publication. As is always the case, all dissertation content must receive final approval by the student's dissertation committee. The mere fact that a manuscript has been published or accepted for publication does not guarantee that it can be used toward a non-traditional dissertation. Ordinarily, if a faculty member serves as a co-author on one of the publications, this faculty member would not serve as the student's dissertation chair. The non-traditional dissertation format requires that:

1. The three incorporated articles be preceded by a substantive introduction chapter and followed by a substantive conclusion chapter, which will integrate the three manuscripts into a coherent whole.
2. Ordinarily, the student is the sole or primary author of all three manuscripts.
3. At least two of the three manuscripts must be fully accepted for publication and the third at least under review.
4. Dissertations must satisfy the formatting requirements dictated by the "Policies and Procedures for Thesis, Project, and Dissertation Formatting".
5. All articles incorporated into the dissertation must have been submitted while enrolled in the Ph.D. Program.

Oral Defense of the Dissertation

Upon completion of the dissertation, students publicly present and defend their dissertation before their dissertation committee, CHCE faculty and Doctoral students.

Continuation Standards

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

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		
HCE 6050 or HCE 6070	Philosophical Foundations ¹ or Foundations of Catholic Morality	3
HCE 6040	Interdisciplinary Research in Health Care Ethics ²	3

HCE 6110	Intro-Medicine for Ethicists ³	1
Library Database Skills ⁴		0
Credits		7
Spring		
HCE 6130	Clinical Ethics	3
LAW 8005	Bioethics and the Law (PL)	2
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics ⁵	1
Elective	6xxx-level HCE course or course in a related discipline approved by the PhD Program Director	3
Credits		9
Year Two		
Fall		
HCE 6010	Methods in Philosophical Ethic	3
HCE 6020	Methods in Religious Ethics	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	1
Elective	6xxx-level HCE course or course in a related discipline approved by the PhD Program Director	3
Credits		10
Spring		
HCE 6140	Research Ethics	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	1
Elective	6xxx-level HCE course or course in a related discipline approved by the PhD Program Director	3
HCE 6980	Graduate Reading Course ⁶	3
Credits		10
Year Three		
Fall		
Comprehensive Exam (Written exam and oral exam)		0
HCE 6990	Dissertation Research	6
Credits		6
Spring		
HCE 6990	Dissertation Research	6
Credits		6
Year Four		
Fall		
HCE 6990	Dissertation Research	0
Credits		0
Spring		
HCE 6990	Dissertation Research	0
Credits		0
Year Five		
Fall		
HCE 6990	Dissertation Research	0
Credits		0
Spring		
HCE 6990	Dissertation Research	0
Credits		0
Total Credits		48

- ¹ Take either course depending on interest and career goals. May take both, with the second acting as an elective.
- ² Take the "Consuming Empirical Literature" exam the first day of class
- ³ Take the "Medical Terminology" exam the first day of class
- ⁴ An introduction to graduate-level database and library search skills, taught by library faculty
- ⁵ Complete the clinical shadowing eligibility requirements prior to beginning of class

Program Notes

- Students are encouraged to concentrate elective courses in a primary methodological or content area, versus a broad sampling of courses. Common choices are 6xxx-level courses in Theology and Philosophy.
- **Concentration in Research Ethics:** Electives will be focused on topics related to research ethics and dissertation will be written on a research ethics topic. One elective will be in research methodology; one elective will be an Advanced Research Ethics Practicum; one elective will be a non-HCE elective related to research ethics and the elective in the final semester will be a directed reading on Research Ethics, preparing the student's dissertation prospectus.
- **Concentration in Catholic Tradition:** Electives will be focused on topics related to Catholic Health Care Ethics and dissertation will be written on a Catholic health-care topic. HCE 6310 Health Care Ethics: Catholic Tradition (3 cr); one elective will be an elective related to health care and the catholic tradition, usually in Theology; the elective in the final semester will be a directed reading on Catholic Health Care Ethics, preparing the student's dissertation prospectus.
- **Concentration in Clinical Ethics:** Electives will be focused on topics related to clinical ethics and dissertation will be written on a clinical ethics topic. One elective will be HCE 6540 Advanced Clinical Ethics Practicum (3 cr); one elective will be a non-HCE elective related to clinical ethics and the elective in the final semester will be a directed reading on Clinical Ethics, preparing the student's dissertation prospectus.
- **Concentration in Empirical Research Methods in Ethics:** Electives will be focused on topics related to research ethics and dissertation will be written using an empirical research method. Two (preferably three) electives will be graduate-level methods courses taught outside HCE and the elective in the final semester will be HCE 6520 Quantitative Research in Descriptive Ethics (3 cr), preparing the student's dissertation prospectus.