

PHILOSOPHY AND BIOETHICS, PH.D.

Saint Louis University students interested in both bioethics and philosophy who wish to write a dissertation on bioethics from a philosophical perspective should consider the joint Ph.D. in philosophy and bioethics, offered by the Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/bioethics/>) and the Department of Philosophy (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/philosophy/>). Unlike a dual degree, this program offers one degree: a Ph.D. in philosophy and bioethics.

Curriculum Overview

The degree consists of 66 credits: 24 credits in health care ethics, 30 credits in philosophy and 12 dissertation research hours. Pre-comprehensive exam coursework can usually be completed in three years (9 credit hours each fall and spring). Non-coursework requirements include three research tools requirements in library database skills, medical terminology, statistics and study design and written and oral comprehensive exams.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

All joint Ph.D. students take a three-semester, 150-hour clinical practicum to gain experience working in a clinical setting. In addition to these fieldwork opportunities, most Ph.D. students graduate with two or more publications.

Careers

Graduates of this program are highly qualified candidates for academic jobs in philosophy departments or bioethics centers, as well as administrative jobs in ethics in health care institutions.

Admission Requirements

- Transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE scores
- CV/Resume
- Writing sample
- Professional goals statement

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Credit
Graduate Tuition	\$1,370

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, Assistantships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for a graduate assistantship, apply by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and may include health insurance and a tuition scholarship for the duration of the award.

Explore Scholarships and Financial Aid Options (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>)

Learning Outcomes

- Graduates will be able to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of foundational philosophical theories and methodologies, historical and contemporary, that inform scholarly analysis of issues in bioethics.
- Graduates will be able to demonstrate a proficiency in formulating original normative philosophical arguments.
- Graduates will be able to demonstrate a proficiency in combining philosophical theories, concepts or methodologies with those of other disciplines in order to address practical ethical issues that arise in health care contexts.
- 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 both the fields of philosophy and bioethics.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Health Care Ethics Courses		
HCE 6010	Methods in Philosophical Ethic	3
HCE 6020	Methods in Religious Ethics	3
HCE 6040	Interdisciplinary Research in Health Care Ethics	3
HCE 6050	Philosophical Foundations	3
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
Philosophy Courses		
PHIL 6220	Advanced Logic	3
PHIL 5/6XXX: Ancient Philosophy		3
PHIL 5/6XXX: Medieval Philosophy		3
PHIL 5/6XXX: Modern Philosophy		3
PHIL 5/6XXX: History of Philosophy		3
<i>Select 9 credits in two of the following areas:</i>		9
Metaphysics		
Epistemology		
Social/Political		
PHIL 5/6XXX: Philosophy Electives		6
Dissertation Research		
HCE 6990	Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters, 12hrs total)	0-9
or PHIL 6990	Dissertation Research	
Total Credits		66

Non-course Requirements

Proficiency in a foreign language, if required for research

Other Content

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 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 6010	Methods in Philosophical Ethics	3
HCE 6110	Intro-Medicine for Ethicists ²	1
PHIL 5/6XXX:History of Philosophy		3
Library Database Skills ³		
Credits		7
Spring		
HCE 6140	Research Ethics	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics ⁴	1
PHIL 5/6XXX:Topics in Philosophy		3
PHIL 5/6XXX:Philosophy Elective		3
Credits		10
Year Two		
Fall		
HCE 6050	Philosophical Foundations	3
HCE 6040	Interdisciplinary Research in Health Care Ethics	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	1
PHIL 6220	Advanced Logic ⁴	3
Credits		10
Spring		
HCE 6130	Clinical Ethics	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	1
PHIL 5/6XXX:History of Philosophy ⁴		3
PHIL 5/6XXX:Topics in Philosophy ⁴		3
Credits		10
Year Three		
Fall		
HCE 6020	Methods in Religious Ethics	3
PHIL 5/6XXX:History of Philosophy ⁴		3
PHIL 5/6XXX:Topics in Philosophy ⁴		3
Credits		9

Spring

HCE 6120	Bioethics and the Law	2
PHIL 5/6XXX:History of Philosophy		3
PHIL 5/6XXX:Philosophy Elective		3
Credits		8

Year Four

Fall

Comprehensive Exams ⁴

PHIL 6990 or HCE 6990	Dissertation Research or Dissertation Research	6
Credits		6

Spring

HCE 6990 or PHIL 6990	Dissertation Research or Dissertation Research	6
Credits		6

Total Credits **66**

- ¹ Take the *Consuming Empirical Literature* exam the first day of class.
- ² Take the *Medical Terminology* exam the first day of class.
- ³ An introduction to graduate-level database and library search skills, taught by library faculty.
- ⁴ Written exam and oral exam.

Contact Us

For additional information about our program, please contact:

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