THEOLOGY AND HEALTH CARE ETHICS, PH.D.

Students who are interested in both bioethics and theological ethics and who wish to write a dissertation on bioethics from a theological perspective should consider Saint Louis University's joint Ph.D. in theology and health care ethics, offered by the Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics (https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/bioethics/) and the Department of Theological Studies (https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/theological-studies/). Unlike a dual degree, this SLU program offers one degree: a Ph.D. in theology and health care ethics.

Curriculum Overview

The degree consists of 60 credits: 27 credits in health care ethics, 21 credits in theology and 12 dissertation research hours. Pre-comprehensive exam coursework can usually be completed in three years (nine credit hours each fall and spring). Non-coursework requirements include reading comprehension of French or German (or another language with approval of both programs), three research tools requirements in library database skills, medical terminology, and 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. Students interested in the clinical ethics concentration can complete an additional advanced practicum in which students are placed in active clinical ethics consultation services for 300-plus hours. 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 theology departments, religion departments or bioethics centers, as well as administrative jobs in mission and ethics in health care institutions.

Admission Requirements

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

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Credit
Graduate Tuition	$1,450

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

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-current/)

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/types-of-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 an understanding of the theories and methods that structure the study of theology and religion.
3. Graduates will be able to demonstrate a proficiency in formulating original, normative theological arguments on topics related to theology and health care ethics.
4. 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).
5. 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
Health Care Ethics Courses		
HCE 6010	Methods in Philosophical Ethics	3
HCE 6020	Methods in Religious Ethics	3
HCE 6040	Interdisciplinary Research in Health Care Ethics	3
HCE 6070	Foundations of Catholic Morality	3
or THEO 5620	Forming of Christian Conscience	
HCE 6110	Intro-Medicine for Ethicists	1
HCE 6120	Bioethics and the Law	2
HCE 6130	Clinical Ethics	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	3
HCE 6310	Health Care Ethics: Catholic Tradition	3
HCE 5xxx/6xxx Graduate Course		3
Theological Studies Courses		
Courses chosen in consultation with faculty		
Historical Theology Courses		9
Constructive Theology Courses		9
Theology Graduate Elective		3
Dissertation Research		
HCE 6990	Dissertation Research	6

THEO 6990	Dissertation Research	6
Total Credits		**60**

Non-Course Requirements

- Research Tools Requirements (Statistics and Study Design, Library Research Skills, Medical Terminology).
- Reading comprehension of French or German (or another language with approval of faculty).
- Written and oral comprehensive exams.

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student's academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an "!" are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
HCE 6040	Interdisciplinary Research in Health Care Ethics [1]	3
HCE 6070	Foundations of Catholic Morality	3
HCE 6110	Intro-Medicine for Ethicists [2]	1
HCE 5XXX/6XXX	Graduate Course	3
	Credits	**10**
Spring		
HCE 6130	Clinical Ethics	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	1
THEO 6XXX	Theology Elective (Historical) [3]	3
	Credits	**7**
Year Two		
Fall		
HCE 6010	Methods in Philosophical Ethics	3
HCE 6020	Methods in Religious Ethics	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	1
HCE 6310	Health Care Ethics: Catholic Tradition	3
	Credits	**10**
Spring		
HCE 6120	Bioethics and the Law	2
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	1
THEO 6XXX	Theology Elective (Constructive) [3]	3
THEO 6XXX	Theology Elective (Historical) [3]	3
	Credits	**9**
Year Three		
Fall		
THEO 6XXX	Theology Electives (Constructive) [3]	6
THEO 6XXX	Theology Elective (Historical) [3]	3
	Credits	**9**
Spring		
HCE 6990	Dissertation Research	6
THEO 6XXX	Theology Elective [3]	3
	Credits	**9**
Year Four		
Fall		
Comprehensive Exams [4]		
THEO 6990	Dissertation Research	6
	Credits	**6**
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	**60**

1. Take the *Consuming Empirical Literature* exam the first day of class.
2. Take the *Medical Terminology* exam the first day of class.
3. Elective must be approved by theology/HCE joint faculty.
4. Written exam and oral exam.

Program Notes

Joint Ph.D. students are also required to demonstrate reading comprehension of French, German or another language with the consent of joint program faculty. This can be satisfied by previous coursework, an exam or by taking additional graduate-level language courses.

Contact Us

For questions regarding doctoral study in health care ethics, contract hce_info@slu.edu or call 314-977-1060. For additional questions regarding doctoral study in theological studies, contact theology@slu.edu or call 314-977-2881 and ask for the Ph.D. program coordinator.