

Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care, and Bioethics

M.A. IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



www.stonybrook.edu/bioethics

ABOUT OUR MASTER'S TRACK

Too often programs addressing bioethics focus exclusively on ethical dilemmas in health care and the life sciences, without adequately attending to the patient's illness experience itself. We devote equal attention to bioethics, medical humanities, and the dynamic of compassionate care at a time when both patients and health-care professionals find the health-care system dehumanizing.

This innovative program from the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care, and Bioethics provides students with a comprehensive overview of the paradigm cases and approaches to bioethics. We add to this an examination of the philosophical and religious traditions that inform contemporary debates. Students also learn about the human capacity for compassion that underlies effective clinical care. Finally, through engagement in the medical humanities, our students enhance their capacity to respond to the patient as a person. Upon successful completion of the program requirements, students will be awarded a Master of Arts in the Biological Sciences in this track.

Recognizing the need for an interdisciplinary approach to education, our faculty include experts in medicine, ethics, history, law, literature, philosophy, religious studies, the social sciences, and disability studies. Our clinical faculty integrate perspectives from the humanities with their experience as health-care providers.

This program, which serves students from a wide range of disciplines and professional backgrounds, builds on a commitment to medical humanism and ethics that has defined education for Stony Brook students over three decades.

At a time when we are learning more and more about the scientific basis for the healing power of belief and compassion comes an outstanding graduate program that will prepare a cadre of professionals to spread this knowledge in the academy as well as to the public. This can only enhance the stature of this humanistic area within medicine and provide a balance to the technological disciplines.

—Gregory Fricchione, M.D.
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
ASSOCIATE CHIEF OF PSYCHIATRY AT
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL
DIRECTOR, BENSON-HENRY INSTITUTE
FOR MIND BODY MEDICINE

ABOUT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

In a little more than 50 years, Stony Brook has established itself as one of America's most dynamic public universities. Nobel laureates, Guggenheim fellows, and MacArthur grant winners teach on our campus, making it a magnet for outstanding students. A member of the elite Association of American Universities, Stony Brook is one of the 62 best research institutions in North America.

Stony Brook University Medical Center is home to Suffolk County's only tertiary care hospital, with nearly half a million patient visits each year. Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center comprises the Schools of Dental Medicine, Health Technology and Management, Medicine, Nursing, and Social Welfare, and the Graduate Program in Public Health.

OUR CURRICULUM

Our curricular offerings define our commitment to an integrative approach:

- Compassionate Care, Medical Humanities, and the Illness Experience
- Landmark Cases in Bioethics
- Traditions and Values in Bioethical Conflicts
- Special Topics in Biotechnology
- Special Projects Capstone Course
- Literature, Compassion, and Medical Care
- Bioethics, Disability, and Community
- Altruism and Bioethics
- Disease and Society
- Global Bioethics
- Health Policy, History, Ethics
- Ethical Issues in Human Reproduction
- The Problem of Evil: Philosophical, Biological, and Social Dimensions
- Empirical Bioethics
- Public Health Law

For full course descriptions see:

www.stonybrook.edu/bioethics/masters



An exciting graduate program that is distinguished by its unique blending of elements and emphasis on the medical humanities and compassionate care, along with bioethics. Led by Stephen Post, Ph.D., and a strong interdisciplinary faculty, Stony Brook's program is notable for giving voice to disciplines beyond the sciences which are essential to balanced deliberations and thoughtful scholarship.

—Joseph J. Fins, M.D., F.A.C.P.

CHIEF, DIVISION OF MEDICAL ETHICS

WEILL MEDICAL COLLEGE OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

OUR FACULTY

DIRECTOR

Stephen G. Post, Ph.D.

Bioethics, Compassionate Care, Humanities

CO-DIRECTOR OF M.A. PROGRAM

Andrew M. Flescher, Ph.D.

Ethics, Religion and Health Care, Altruism, Justice, Organ Transplantation

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Maria A. Basile, M.D.

Human Values and Medicine, Literature and Medicine, Medical Professionalism, Medical Education

Richard A. Bronson, M.D.

Reproductive Medicine, Poetry, Narrative in Medicine, Medical Education

Stephanie Brown, Ph.D.

Compassionate Care, Evolutionary Theories of Altruism, Social Neuroscience, Hormones and Behavior

John L. Coulehan, M.D., M.P.H.

Literature and Medicine, Empathy, Narrative, Clinical Ethics

Brooke M. Ellison, M.P.P.

Stem Cell Ethics, Disability, Sociology of Medicine

Lynn E. Hallarman, M.D.

Medical Humanities, Death and Dying, Palliative Care

Carla Keirns, M.D., Ph.D., M.Sc.

Clinical Ethics, History of Medicine, Sociology of Medicine, Health Services Research

S. Van McCrary, Ph.D., J.D., M.P.H.

Clinical Biomedical Ethics, Health Law and Policy, Medical Decision-Making

Dylan M. Smith, Ph.D.

Medical Decision-Making, Health Psychology, Adaptation to Disability

Peter C. Williams, J.D., Ph.D.

Medical Education, Medical Jurisprudence, Medical Ethics

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Michael Dorn, Ph.D.

Project Staff Associate

Michael Roess

Graduate Assistant

REQUIREMENTS

The program requires students to complete 30 credit hours (10 courses) and can be completed in one to three years. Five core courses, including our capstone course, are required. For the remaining five elective courses students must take at least three with our Department faculty and may take the remaining two either from our own courses or from select courses across campus that meet the criteria for credit in the program.

Who Should Apply

- Current M.D.s, R.N.s, J.D.s, Ph.Ds, and other professionals seeking further expertise and career development
- Medical students and others pursuing professional degrees in fields such as health care, health sciences, humanities, pastoral care, law, business, social work, and journalism
- Post-baccalaureate students in transition from the B.A. or B.S. to a professional degree who wish to expand their knowledge
- Core courses meet in the evenings

To Apply

Include the following with your application:

- A nonrefundable \$100 application fee
- Official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate courses taken for credit. For additional information about transcripts, see: www.grad.sunysb.edu/admissions/faq.shtml#documents
- Graduate and/or undergraduate degree verification, which can be posted on the academic transcript or certified by the academic institution from which the degree(s) have been awarded
- Three letters of recommendation from former professors or other persons familiar with the applicant's ability and promise of performance as a graduate student.
- Official GRE score
- Personal statement

To apply through the Graduate School, visit www.stonybrook.edu/bioethics/apply



I'm delighted that the scope of Stony Brook University's program retrieves what is most distinctive about bioethics since its emergence some forty years ago: the integration of the ethics of the life sciences with the humanities that undergird it and the study and practice of compassionate care. The richly diverse Stony Brook Center will be in a position to set new standards for M.A. programs in this area.

—Warren T. Reich, Ph.D.

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH PROFESSOR

OF RELIGION AND ETHICS

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

To learn more about the program, contact:

Andrew M. Flescher, Ph.D.

Andrew.Flescher@stonybrook.edu

For application questions, contact:

Michael Dorn, Ph.D.

Michael.Dorn@stonybrook.edu

