Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM
Too often programs addressing bioethics focus exclusively on ethical dilemmas in healthcare and the life sciences without adequately attending to the patient’s illness experience. We devote equal attention to bioethics, medical humanities and the dynamic of compassionate care at a time when both patients and healthcare professionals find the healthcare 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 Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics.

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 healthcare 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 for more than three decades.

ABOUT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
Stony Brook is one of America’s most dynamic public universities and an internationally recognized research institution that is changing the world. Nobel laureates, Guggenheim fellows and MacArthur grant winners teach on our campus, making it a magnet for outstanding students. Stony Brook is a member of the prestigious invitation-only Association of American Universities.

Stony Brook Medicine, Long Island’s premier academic medical center, encompasses Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook Children’s Hospital, 50 community-based healthcare settings, and the schools of Dental Medicine, Health Technology and Management, Medicine, Nursing and Social Welfare. The Hospital serves as Suffolk County’s only Regional Trauma Center.
I'm delighted that the scope of Stony Brook University’s program retrieves what is most distinctive about bioethics since its emergence some 40 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 MA programs in this area.

— Warren T. Reich, PhD
DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH PROFESSOR OF RELIGION AND ETHICS
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

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
• Capstone Course
• Literature, Compassion and Medical Care
• Bioethics, Disability and Community
• Altruism and Bioethics
• Disease and Society
• Global Bioethics
• Health Policy, History, Ethics
• Empirical Bioethics: Moral Decision-Making
• Bioethics and Film

For full course descriptions see: stonybrook.edu/bioethics/masters

Our faculty
CENTER DIRECTOR AND MA PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Stephen G. Post, PhD
Bioethics, Compassionate Care, Humanities

Maria A. Basile, MD
Human Values and Medicine, Literature and Medicine, Medical Professionalism, Medical Education

Richard A. Bronson, MD
Reproductive Medicine, Poetry, Narrative in Medicine, Medical Education

John L. Coulehan, MD, MPH
Literature and Medicine, Empathy, Narrative, Clinical Ethics

Brooke M. Ellison, PhD, MPP
Stem Cell Ethics, Disability, Sociology of Medicine

Craig Malbon, PhD, MDiv
Medical Ethics, Social Justice, End-of-Life Ethical Issues

S. Van McCrary, PhD, JD, MPH
Clinical Biomedical Ethics, Health Law and Policy, Medical Decision-Making

Michael W. Roess, PhD
Biotechnology, Philosophy of Technology, Autonomy, Bioethics and the Family

Our staff
MA GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Michael Ortega

Requirements
Students must complete 30 credit hours (10 courses) in up to five years. Four core courses, including our capstone course, are required. For the remaining six elective courses, students must take four with our department faculty. The remaining two may be from select courses across campus. A joint MD-MA is available. Note: Core courses meet in the evenings.

Who Should Apply
• Current MDs, RNs, JDs, PhDs and other professionals seeking further expertise and career development
• Medical students and others pursuing professional degrees in fields such as business, healthcare, health sciences, humanities, journalism, pastoral care, law and social work
• Post-baccalaureate students in transition from the BA or BS to a professional degree who wish to expand their knowledge

To Apply (include the following)
• A nonrefundable $100 application fee
• Official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate courses taken for credit.
• 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 others familiar with the applicant’s ability and promise of performance as a graduate student
• Official GRE, MCAT, LSAT or other national test score
• Personal statement

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

Reform of the humanities and medical ethics departments at the Stony Brook Medical Center was led by Joseph J. Fins, MD, FACP, CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL ETHICS, WEIL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE.

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, PhD, and a strong interdisciplinary faculty, Stony Brook’s program is notable for giving voice to disciplines beyond the sciences that are essential to balanced deliberations and thoughtful scholarship.

— Joseph J. Fins, MD, FACP
CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL ETHICS
WEIL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE

To learn more about the program, contact:
Stephen G. Post, PhD
Stephen.Post@stonybrookmedicine.edu

Michael Ortega
Michael.Ortega@stonybrookmedicine.edu

Or visit our website:
stonybrook.edu/bioethics/masters