Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM
Programs addressing bioethics all too often focus exclusively on ethical dilemmas in healthcare and the life sciences without adequately attending to the patient’s illness experience. At Stony Brook, we devote equal attention to bioethics, medical humanities and the dynamic of compassionate care at a time when patients and healthcare professionals may find the healthcare system dehumanizing. Our 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 fellows 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, which serves as Suffolk County’s only Regional Trauma Center; Stony Brook Children’s Hospital; a variety of community-based healthcare settings; and five health sciences schools: Dental Medicine, Health Technology and Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Renaissance School of Medicine.

“By 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, MD
Professor at Harvard Medical School, Associate Chief of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital, Director of the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine
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

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
WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE

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For full course descriptions, to apply through The Graduate School or to learn more about our innovative program, visit: stonybrook.edu/bioethics/masters