

Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics



stonybrook.edu/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.

“ 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

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.

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
- Three Special Topics Courses: Bioethics, Biotechnology, Medical Humanities
- Capstone Course
- Literature, Compassion and Medical Care
- Bioethics, Disability and Community
- Altruism and Bioethics
- Disease and Society
- Health Policy, History, Ethics
- Bioethics and Film
- Independent Study

“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

OUR FACULTY

CENTER DIRECTOR AND
MA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Stephen G. Post, PhD

Bioethics, Compassionate Care, Humanities

Julie Agris, PhD, JD, LLM, FACHE

Health Law, Medical Ethics, Confidentiality and Privacy, Professional Identity, Healthcare Management and Values

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 Ellison, PhD, MPP

Hope and Medical Ethics, Stem Cell Research, Sociology and Healthcare

Craig Malbon, PhD, MDiv, FAAAS, FRSM

Medical Ethics, Social Justice, End-of-Life Ethical Issues

Phyllis Migdal, MD

Medical Ethics, Health Disparity, Implicit Bias

Jeffrey Trilling, MD

Medical Humanities and Ethics, Physician-Patient Relationship, Primary Care and Family Medicine

OUR STAFF

MA GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

April Bortzfield, MSEd

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
- 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

What to Include When Applying

- A nonrefundable \$100 application fee
- Official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate courses taken for credit. For more information, visit: grad.stonybrook.edu/admissions/admissions_faqs.php
- Graduate and/or undergraduate degree verification, which can be posted on the academic transcript or certified by the academic institution from which the degrees 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



“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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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April Bortzfield, MSEd

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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



Stony Brook University

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