Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care & Bioethics (HCB)

Graduate Program Director
Stephen G. Post, HSC Level 3, Room 080, (631) 444-9797

Graduate Program Coordinator
April Bortzfield, HSC Level 3, Room 080, (631) 444-8029

Degree Awarded
Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care & Bioethics

Website
http://stonybrook.edu/bioethics/masters.

Application
https://graduateadmissions.stonybrook.edu/apply/

Masters in Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care & Bioethics (HCB)

Our Program devotes equal attention to the mutually enhancing themes of bioethics, medical humanities, and the dynamic of compassionate care in a time when both patients and healthcare professionals find the healthcare system dehumanizing. Recognizing the need for an interdisciplinary approach to education, our faculty includes 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.

Those who should consider applying for the program include

1.) current MDs, RNs, JDs, PhDs, and other professionals seeking further expertise and career development;
2.) medical students and others pursuing professional degrees in fields such as health care, health sciences, humanities, pastoral care, law, business, social work, and journalism; and
3.) post-baccalaureate students in transition from the BA or BS to a professional degree who wish to expand their knowledge.

Admission
Requirements for admission to the MA in Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care & Bioethics include:

1. The admissions requirements of the Graduate School.
2. Writing Sample: A personal statement describing the applicant’s relevant academic and work experience, and immediate and long-term goals.
3. Letter of Recommendation: Three letters of recommendation. At least two need to be from professors/instructors.

Note: Students who do not meet the above requirements may be admitted conditionally. Their status will be reviewed after the first semester of graduate study.

Make sure to check the program website for the latest instructions, http://stonybrook.edu/bioethics/apply

Requirements for the MA Degree in Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care & Bioethics

The program requires students to complete 30 credit hours (10 courses) and can be completed in one to three years. Four core courses, including our capstone course, are required. For the remaining six elective courses, students must take at least four with our Center 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.

For a list of required courses, elective courses and course descriptions please visit our website.

Required Courses

HCB 501 Compassionate Care, Medical Humanities, and the Illness Experience
HCB 502 Landmark Cases in Bioethics OR HCB 521 Clinical Ethics Practicum
HCB 503 Traditions and Values in Bioethical Conflicts
HCB 599 Special Projects Capstone Course

Electives

HCB 502 Landmark Cases in Bioethics (if HCB 521 is taken as a required course, HCB 502 can be taken as an elective)
HCB 504 Special Topic in Biotechnology
HCB 510 Literature, Compassion, and Medical Care
HCB 511 Bioethics, Disability & Community
HCB 512 Altruism and Bioethics
HCB 513 Disease and Society
HCB 514 Global Bioethics
HCB 515 Health Policy, History & Ethics
HCB 516 Ethical Issues in Human Reproduction
HCB 517 The Problem of Evil: Philosophical, Biological, and Social Dimensions
HCB 518 Empirical Bioethics
HCB 519 Public Health Law
HCB 520 Bioethics and Film
HCB 521 Clinical Ethics Practicum (if HCB 502 is taken as a required course, HCB 521 can be taken as an elective)
HCB 522 The Role of Virtue Ethics in Medicine
HCB 523 Special Topics in Medical Humanities
HCB 524 Special Topics in Bioethics
HCB 598 Independent Study

Requirements for the MA Degree in Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care & Bioethics for those enrolled in the MD/MA program

The joint MD/MA program in Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics is designed to be easily completed in 4 years (concurrent with medical school coursework). The MA is 30 credit hours (10 courses), of which 12 credit hours (4 courses) are covered by enrollment in the Scholarly Concentration Program and the MCS curriculum. This leaves only 18 credit hours (6 courses) remaining for students to take during their matriculation at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University.

Required Courses

HCB 501 Compassionate Care, Medical Humanities, and the Illness Experience
HCB 502 Landmark Cases in Bioethics OR HCB 521 Clinical Ethics Practicum
HCB 503 Traditions and Values in Bioethical Conflicts

Electives

HCB 502 Landmark Cases in Bioethics (if HCB 521 is taken as a required course, HCB 502 can be taken as an elective)
HCB 504 Special Topic in Biotechnology
HCB 510 Literature, Compassion, and Medical Care
HCB 511 Bioethics, Disability & Community
HCB 512 Altruism and Bioethics
HCB 515 Health Policy, History & Ethics
HCB 516 Ethical Issues in Human Reproduction
HCB 517 The Problem of Evil: Philosophical, Biological, and Social Dimensions
HCB 518 Empirical Bioethics
HCB 519 Public Health Law
HCB 520 Bioethics and Film
HCB 521 Clinical Ethics Practicum (if HCB 502 is taken as a required course, HCB 521 can be taken as an elective)
HCB 522 The Role of Virtue Ethics in Medicine
HCB 523 Special Topics in Medical Humanities
HCB 524 Special Topics in Bioethics
Requirements for the MA Degree in Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care & Bioethics for those enrolled in the MSW/MA program

The joint MSW/MA program in Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics is designed to be completed in 24 months for full-time students (4 semesters plus 2 winters and 2 summers) while part-time students would have up to 5 years (10 semesters, plus winters and summers) to complete the program. All students in the MSW program must complete the Integrated Health specialization. The MA is 30 credit hours (10 courses), of which 6 credits (2 courses) of elective credit is fulfilled by MSW coursework. This leaves only 24 credit hours (8 courses) remaining for students to take during their time in the MSW/MA program.

Required Courses

HCB 501 Compassionate Care, Medical Humanities, and the Illness Experience
HCB 502 Landmark Cases in Bioethics
HCB 503 Traditions and Values in Bioethical Conflicts
HCB 511 Bioethics, Disability and Community
HCB 521 Clinical Ethics Practicum
HCB 599 Special Projects Capstone Course

Electives

HCB 504 Special Topic in Biotechnology
HCB 510 Literature, Compassion, and Medical Care
HCB 512 Altruism and Bioethics
HCB 513 Disease and Society
HCB 514 Global Bioethics
HCB 515 Health Policy, History & Ethics
HCB 516 Ethical Issues in Human Reproduction
HCB 517 The Problem of Evil: Philosophical, Biological, and Social Dimensions
HCB 518 Empirical Bioethics
HCB 519 Public Health Law
HCB 520 Bioethics and Film
HCB 522 The Role of Virtue Ethics in Medicine
HCB 523 Special Topics in Medical Humanities
HCB 524 Special Topics in Bioethics
HCB 598 Independent Study

Program Faculty

Director
Stephen G. Post, PhD
Center Director
History of Bioethics; Geriatrics; Dementia; Healthcare; Compassion and Altruism

Research & Teaching Faculty

Michelle S. Ballan, PhD
Professor and Associate Dean for Research, School of Social Welfare
Professor, Department of Family, Population and Preventive Medicine

Maria A. Basile, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Human Values and Medicine; Literature and Medicine; Medical Professionalism; Medical Education; Leadership

Richard A. Bronson, M.D.  
Professor of Obstetrics/Gynecology and Pathology  
Reproductive Medicine; Poetry; Narrative in Medicine; Medical Education

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

Brooke Ellison, Ph. D.  
Research Assistant Professor  
Hope and Medical Ethics, Stem Cell Research, Sociology and Healthcare

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

Phyllis Migdal, MDClinical Assistant Professor  
Institutional Ethics Committee  
Medical Ethics, Health Disparity, Implicit Bias

Gretchen Mockler, MDAttending Physician  
Assistant Clinical Professor

Jeffrey Trilling, MDAssociate Professor  
Medical Humanities and Ethics  
Physician-Patient Relationship  
Primary Care and Family Medicine

Michael Vetrano, PhD  
Associate Course Director, Medicine in Contemporary Society  
Clinical Ethics and Decision Making, Doctor-Patient Communication, Spirituality and Health Care  
Religion and Bioethics

NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.