

HEALTHCARE ETHICS (CERT)

This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2025-Spring 2026 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

Graduate Certificate in Health Care Ethics

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<http://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/intro/>) (GA)

Department: Philosophy (<http://louisville.edu/philosophy/>)

Program Website (<https://louisville.edu/philosophy/academics/graduate/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): HCE_CGR

Program Information

Health care in the twenty-first century faces a series of ethical challenges arising from unprecedented advances in the medical sciences, combined with radical cultural and organizational change. The big business of health care can bring issues of social difference and injustice directly to our attention in the faces of individual patients.

The graduate certificate in Health Care Ethics is a 15 credit hour interdisciplinary graduate certificate is drawn primarily from coursework already offered for the MA and can be completed in one academic year. The certificate focuses on issues of social justice and the importance of race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, and culture on health and health care. The certificate is designed to serve mid-career professionals, faculty and staff on hospital ethics committees, and students in graduate and professional programs who want to enhance their credentials.

Admission Requirements

Students may be admitted to the graduate Health Care Ethics certificate program in any of the three ways:

1. Completion of a graduate admissions application (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/admission/apply/>);
2. Admission to any graduate or professional degree program at UofL, plus a letter of interest with the name of a faculty member who is willing to endorse the student's readiness to pursue the certificate;
3. A graduate or professional degree in a related field from an accredited institution of higher learning, plus a letter of interest with one professional reference; or
4. Meeting the admissions requirements already established for the MA in Applied Philosophy.

Certificate Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Select nine (9) credit hours from the list below:		9
BETH 621	Ethical Theory	
BETH 680	Foundations of Bioethics	
BETH 681	Current Controversies in Health Care Ethics	
BETH 682	Health and Social Justice	
BETH 683	Race, Medicine, and Health	
BETH 684	Clinical Ethics	
Select six (6) credit hours from the following:		6
ANTH 608	Social and Cultural Theory	

BETH 685	Health Care Ethics Internship
BETH 601	Independent Study in Bioethics
ECPY 663	Multicultural and Diversity Issues
HIST 589/ WGST 532	History of American Sexualities - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
LAW 826	Family Law
LAW 906	Race and the Law
LAW 923	Elder Law
LAW 924	Sexuality and the Law
LAW 944	Poverty, Health and the Law
LAW 946	Introductions to Health Law
LAW 947	Mental Health and the Law
LAW 959	Genetics and the Law
LAW 977	Animal Law
LAW 978	Disability Law
LAW 980	Medicine, Bioethics and the Law
PAS 615	Theories of Race and Racism
PHIL/PAS 616	African-American Philosophy
PHIL 690	Philosophical Foundations of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
PHPB 612/ COMM 652	Health Communication: Theory and Practice
PHPB 630	Social and Structural Determinants of Health
PHPB 635	Health Promotion Policy Development
POLS 668/ WGST 656	Feminist Theory
PSYC 656	Professional and Ethical Issues in Clinical Psychology
SOC 675	Social Inequality & Stratification
SOC 685	Race and Ethnicity
SOC 740	Social Policy
MSSW 602	Social Welfare Policy I
MSSW 603	Diversity, Oppression, and Social Justice Practice
MSSW 622	Social Welfare Policy II
MSSW 626	Research Methodology and Design
MSSW 633	Social Work and Human Sexuality
MSSW 636	Advanced Death & Grief
MSSW 684	Spirituality and Social Work

Minimum Total Hours

15

Students may graduate with the Certificate after completing nine (9) credit hours of core Bioethics (BETH) courses plus six (6) credit hours of electives drawn from either i) additional core courses, or ii) the list of approved electives in the HCE MA program, or another elective approved by the director of graduate studies for the Philosophy department.

At least nine (9) credit hours must be at the 600 level. An average of a B, with no more than one C, will be required for graduation; GPA of 3.0 or above.