**University of Pittsburgh**

Rules and Policies

for the

Interdisciplinary Program Leading to the

Master of Arts in Bioethics

***A Program of the Center for Bioethics and Health Law***

***and the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences***

September 2015

**INTRODUCTION**

This handbook is a compendium of program requirements for the Interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Bioethics Program of the University of Pittsburgh. The Bioethics Program is a joint program of the Center for Bioethics and Health Law and the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. Any discrepancy between the guidelines contained herein and those of the University shall be resolved in favor of the University’s guidelines.

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**

**NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT**

The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the University prohibits, and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the Universitys mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in University programs and activities. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications need to notify both the instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services no later than the 2nd week of the term. Students may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call 412-648-7890 (Voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The Office is located in 140 William Pitt Union. Upon matriculation students should also inform the Program Director of their particular needs.

**GUIDELINES OF THE PROGRAM**

**I. THE PROGRAM OF STUDY**

A total of 30 credits and successful presentation and defense of a Master’s paper are required for the MA in Bioethics. The program can be completed within one year, though it is anticipated that many students will extend study over an 18-24 month period. Each student will meet with the Program Director, and together they will arrange the students program. Incoming students register at the beginning of their first term. Continuing students must adhere to registration deadlines promulgated by the Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences each year. Students must also adhere to guidelines and deadlines for adding, dropping, or withdrawing from classes and must have the permission of the Program Director to do so. Course descriptions and schedules are available on-line. The Graduate Administrator will provide permission numbers to enable students to register after they have consulted with the Program Director.

Up to six credits of graduate work completed at another institution may be transferred. No more than six credits completed prior to being admitted to the Program may be applied toward the 30 credits required for the Program. See the Program Director for details.

Students whose grade point average falls below 3.0 or B will not be allowed to continue until the Program faculty have reviewed their work and decided whether or not they may continue in the program.

The program of study includes:

**A. CORE COURSES**

BIOETH 2658: *Philosophy of Medicine* (3 cr.)-- An examination of key philosophical issues, such as causality, concepts of health and disease, production of knowledge, and paradigms of medical reasoning.

BIOETH 2661: *Theoretical Foundations of Applied Ethics* (3 cr.)-- An examination of classical ethical theories focusing on the relationship between ethical theory and ethical decision-making.

BIOETH 2664: *Bioethics* (3 cr.)-- A graduate-level introduction to classic topics, texts, and approaches in contemporary bioethics, and critical examination of the practice of bioethics itself.

**B. RESTRICTED ELECTIVE**

The restricted elective requirement is designed to provide a particular disciplinary perspective (e.g., history or law) on issues in medicine and health care, or to focus on a particular aspect of health care (e.g., research or public health). Students must choose one course (3 cr.) from among those designated as restricted electives, such as: *Bioethics and Law; Ethical and Philosophical Issues in Genetics; Gender, Ethics, and the Body; Health Law;* and *Historical and Sociological Perspectives on Public Health.* Students may identify and propose to the Program Director particular courses to be approved to serve as a restricted elective.

**C. ELECTIVES**

A minimum of six additional credits of elective course work is required. Courses are chosen from the graduate offerings of the Schools of Arts and Sciences, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Law, Medicine, and Public Health. (A list of recently offered electives is appended in section VIII.) The choice of these courses should be made with a view to developing additional expertise related to the student’s Master’s paper and career objectives. Students may petition to take a maximum of three credits in advanced undergraduate courses as electives. Students should also be aware that neighboring institutions, including Duquesne University, Carnegie Mellon University, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, may offer relevant courses that students may petition to count as electives; reciprocal arrangements with these institutions enable full-time students to take such courses without paying additional tuition. More information is available at: [http://www.pchepa.org](http://www.pchepa.org/).

**D. CLINICAL PRACTICA**

Designed to acquaint students with the clinical environment in two stages, the Clinical Practica serve as a capstone learning experience of the Program. Depending on the student’s previous experience, students may be exempted from one clinical practicum; however all students will participate in the seminars that accompany the first clinical practicum. Students who successfully petition to be exempted from one practicum must substitute an additional 3 cr. elective course.

BIOETH 2604: *Clinical Practicum I* (3 cr.) -- During the first practicum, students observe many aspects of day-to-day clinical care in at least two settings within University of Pittsburgh affiliated healthcare settings (e.g., wards or intensive care units). Two seminars accompany the first practicum and are required of all Program students: *Clinical Ethics* and *Social Science and Medical Humanities Perspectives on Health Care*. The specific requirements of these seminars and of the clinical experience are set by practicum instructors. Additional activities may include observation of clinical ethics teaching, ethics consultation, and ethics committee meetings; nights on call; and meetings with a clinical mentor. The first practicum typically runs for eight weeks at the beginning of the Summer term (usually mid-May through June).

BIOETH 2606: *Clinical Practicum II* (3 cr.)-- The second practicum is an intensive four-week practicum in a clinical setting (e.g., surgery, psychiatry, transplantation, critical care medicine), which is chosen in relation to the student’s research interests. The second practicum is designed to provide a more intensive experience in one area of clinical medicine. Experiences in health policy, public health, or research settings may also be arranged. Students must write a brief proposal for their second practicum that states the proposed setting for their observational experience and on-site mentor, their goals for the experience, the specific experiences and activities that will be pursued, and the product they will produce (e.g., a paper, case analysis, journal). The proposal is submitted for approval to the Program Director. Students typically meet regularly with a mentor or the Program Director during the practicum. Following completion of *Clinical Practicum I*, this second practicum may be taken in any term by arrangement.

**E. MASTER’S PAPER**

Students must propose, research, write, and defend a Master’s Paper. Students typically count up to six MA Thesis Research credits toward their degree. (Students may instead take up to six additional credits of approved electives.) These research credits permit students to maintain their student status while allowing them time off from regular classes to engage in research. During this time, as during all terms while enrolled in the program, students are expected to attend Center for Bioethics and Health Law Visiting Professor lectures and CBHL Colloquia. One purpose of these activities is to acquaint students with CBHL faculty and their research, as well as various methodologies and topics within bioethics. Students must sign in at Visiting Professor lectures, and must RSVP to attend Colloquia. Students may miss one such activity during the term without jeopardizing their Satisfactory (S) grade for MA Thesis Research. Request for an excused absence must be made to the Program Administrator.

Students conduct research toward their Master’s papers under the close supervision of their advisor, who is responsible for determining whether they have made satisfactory progress and for awarding credits. Students participate in a Master’s Paper Seminar which is designed to help students identify a topic, hone it to a manageable scope, state a thesis statement or claim which will be pursued in the paper. The Program Director serves as the course director for this seminar, and other CBHL faculty participate; however, the primary activity of the seminar is a series of presentations by students as they progress through the process of proposing, researching, writing, and presenting their Master’s papers. The seminar begins in mid-fall and meets on specified dates throughout the academic year.

Students who register for research credits (“MA Thesis Research”) receive Incomplete (I) grades until they successfully present their paper proposal and subsequently successfully complete and defend the paper itself. After successfully presenting the proposal, three MA Thesis Research credits will be awarded a grade of Satisfactory (S). After successfully defending the paper, the second three MA Thesis Research credits will be awarded a grade of Satisfactory (S). If students register for three or fewer MA Thesis Research credits, a grade of Satisfactory (S) will be awarded only upon successful presentation and defense of the completed paper.

**II. JOINT PROGRAMS**

**MA/JD Program**. Students enrolled in the joint MA/JD program receive integrated training in

law and bioethics in a shorter period of time than if they were to pursue the degrees separately.

Pursued jointly, the degrees require 100 credit hours, as opposed to the 118 required for the two

degrees taken individually. Within the MA program, joint program students take the three core

courses (9 credits), a restricted elective (3 credits), Bioethics and Health Law Clinical Practicum

(the equivalent of Clinical Practicum I) and Clinical Practicum II (6 credits), and 6 additional

credits which may be in MA Thesis Research. Like all bioethics students, joint program students

must write a Master’s paper. Students typically spend four years in the joint program, including

one summer in the clinical practica. Students are required to consult with the Director of the

MA/JD Program during or prior to the spring registration period each year in order to assure that

they meet all requirements of the Joint Degree program.

Students may begin combining courses in law and bioethics as soon as they matriculate in the joint program and should consult the Director of the MA/JD Program about doing so. Students matriculating in the joint program at the start of their studies (i.e., in their first fall term) may postpone Criminal Law until their second year and instead take one of the Bioethics core courses.

The writing requirements for both degrees are simultaneously satisfied by writing the Master’s paper on a subject in the field of bioethics and law. Many of the courses that students take in the joint law and bioethics program also satisfy the requirements for the Health Law Certificate Program in the law school. Thus, by taking only a few additional courses required for the Health Law Certificate Program, students may fulfill the requirements of this program as well.

Joint program students must pay tuition at the law school rate at least 5 semesters and must be registered as A&S students for 2 terms.  Students who complete the program in 7 or more semesters will be billed at the lower A&S tuition rate for two semesters. When coded as “primary A&S” and paying tuition at the A&S rate, a maximum of 15 credits are paid for by the A&S per-semester tuition rate. If a student takes more than 15 credits, the student will be billed extra for any credits over 15 at the A&S per-credit tuition rate.

Students in the joint program must be awarded the two degrees at the same time (i.e., in the same term); therefore, students must adhere to graduation deadlines for both the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Law. Students should be aware that if they withdraw from the joint program (e.g., if they decide to pursue only the JD or only the MA), they must then fulfill the requirements of the individual program in which they remain, and that some of the courses that they have taken in the degree program that they drop probably will not count toward the degree program in which they remain.

**MA/MD Program**. Students enrolled in the joint MA/MD program receive integrated training in medicine and bioethics. In all cases, the first two years of the medical school curriculum will be taken intact; in most cases, the first three years will be taken intact. Then, typically, the student will spend one full calendar year (August-July) earning 27 credits in the bioethics program. Because of their clinical experience, students in the joint program are exempted from the second clinical practicum and will take Clinical Practicum I in clinical settings related to their research interests. Their participation in the seminars accompanying Clinical Practicum I is required.

During their fourth year of medical school, students may elect to spend up to two of their Medical School Electives completing, defending, and revising their Master’s papers.

It is this sharing of credits and medical school electives that enables students to complete the two degrees in only five years. Because of the fixed time frame of study in medical school and the demanding nature of the fourth year, students in this joint program must begin work on their Master’s papers early in their year of bioethics study in order to complete the joint degree on time. Finally, in rare cases, students may pursue the Bioethics Program concurrently with their years in medical school. See the Program Director for information.

Students in the joint program must be awarded the two degrees at the same time (i.e., in the same term); therefore, students must adhere to graduation deadlines for both the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medicine. Students should be aware that if they withdraw from the joint program (e.g., if they decide to pursue only the MD or only the MA), they must then fulfill the requirements of the individual program in which they remain, and that they may need to complete additional work in order to satisfy the requirements of that program. Students should consult with appropriate authorities in the School of Medicine to determine whether writing the Master’s paper fulfills the Scholarly Project requirement of the School of Medicine. Finally, because many of the requirements of the School of Medicine’s Area of Concentration in Medical Humanities will be fulfilled in the course of pursuing the MA in Bioethics, students may want to consider enrolling in that Area of Concentration.

**III. THE MASTER’S PAPER (THESIS)**

All students in the Masters Program in Bioethics must write and successfully defend a Master’s paper. Like all requirements of the Program, the requirements for this paper must conform to the requirements of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. These requirements are published in the University of Pittsburgh’s *Graduate and Professional Bulletin* (<http://www.bulletins.pitt.edu/graduate/index.html>). All Master’s papers must be submitted electronically, and students are responsible for adhering to appropriate templates and guidelines (see <http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/etd>/).

The final Master’s paper affords an opportunity for students to explore a topic in some depth and to demonstrate their abilities to engage in independent research and to mount a sustained argument in support of a claim (thesis statement or proposal). The Master’s Paper Seminar provides instruction on various ways of, or models for, researching and writing a Master’s paper in the program. At minimum, the Master’s paper should demonstrate a student’s sound understanding of relevant literature on the topic chosen. The Master’s paper should identify a significant question or problem and provide a productive response to the question. Although in rare instances, a student’s paper will be able to provide a solution to the problem identified or a “knockdown” argument in response to others in the literature, in most cases the Master’s paper should seek to increase the reader’s understanding of the question identified.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**A. CHOOSING A TOPIC**

The topic should be identified and developed by the student in consultation with the advisor, and thereafter with the committee (a second reader and any other faculty deemed pertinent by the student and advisor), as early as possible during the student’s tenure in the Program. The Program Director must approve the topic, selection of advisor, and committee composition prior to the paper proposal meeting (see below).

The topic should be one of enduring interest to the student and should be in an area in which the student already has adequate substantive and methodological background, including good familiarity with the relevant literature and a sense of how the paper’s argument would proceed. Once the student has a topic, he/she should approach a faculty member affiliated with the CBHL to ask that individual to serve as the Master’s paper advisor. The student might proceed by writing a paragraph stating the topic, idea, or question and ask the prospective advisor to read it in preparation for a meeting in which the student and prospective advisor will together consider the suitability of the topic and the suitability of the faculty member as an advisor.

**B. CHOOSING AN ADVISOR AND COMMITTEE**

For advice on the selection of an advisor, students should consult the Program Director. In consultation with the advisor, the student should then select a second reader and any other committee members who are qualified to judge the quality of the student’s work and who may offer helpful guidance and constructive criticism as the work progresses. At least one committee member must be a faculty member of the Center for Bioethics and Health Law. The Program Director must approve the final composition of the committee.

**C. THE PROPOSAL**

Under the guidance of the advisor and after some initial research, the student must write a proposal for the Master’s paper The proposal should clearly state the paper’s topic, provide some background on the topic so that the significance of the topic is clear, and indicate the specific aims and an outline of the argument, and clearly state the argument’s anticipated conclusion. The student should also provide a bibliography of the relevant literature which was consulted in writing the proposal and which will be used in writing the paper. The advisor may require that the bibliography be annotated or may instead require a literature review in essay form which is incorporated into the proposal.

**D. THE PROPOSAL MEETING**

The proposal meeting must be scheduled through the Graduate Administrator in the Center for Bioethics and Health Law. A form must be completed and filed with the Program Administrator. Students are expected to have a grade point average of a B+ or better prior to holding a proposal meeting. The proposal (and bibliography) should be given to all committee members two weeks prior to the proposal meeting. A copy of the proposal and a form stating the names of the thesis advisor and committee members and the date on which the prospectus meeting is to be held must be given to the Graduate Administrator two weeks prior to the meeting. The Graduate Administrator will ensure that the Program Director receives notice of the meeting.

At the proposal meeting, the student is likely to be asked to give a brief (approximately five minutes) oral presentation of the topic, proposed research methods, and outline of the proposed argument (i.e., a brief summary of the proposal). Then the advisor and committee members may ask the student questions about the topic and the relevant literature.

The committee will then confer in the student’s absence and will report to the student whether the topic is appropriate (e.g., sufficiently original and manageable within a reasonable period of time), whether there is additional literature to be taken into account, whether the research methodology is deemed adequate, and finally, whether the plan of research, the proposal itself, is approved. Following approval of the proposal, the student and advisor will outline a plan for research and writing. It is the responsibility of the student to supply a copy of the planned timetable to committee members and to the Program Director. Ideally this plan would include submission of drafts of portions of the Master’s paper on a bi-weekly basis. It is the responsibility of the student to supply drafts of the paper to the advisor at the negotiated intervals.

Alternatively, the committee may request revisions of the proposal and may request a second (and perhaps subsequent) proposal meeting(s). The committee may also request that the student take additional course work or that the student ask additional faculty members to serve on the committee. The appropriate form should be signed by the committee with its recommendation and returned to the Program Administrator. In rare cases, the committee may decide that the student is not qualified to write the Master’s paper and to complete the Program.

**E. RESEARCH**

After the student’s proposal is approved, research continues and writing begins. In consultation with the advisor, the student should determine when other committee members should be consulted and advised of progress. Frequent consultation with advisors and committee members avoids miscommunication, misunderstanding, and research errors which cannot be easily be corrected when the research has already progressed to a late stage. Advisor and student should meet regularly or communicate by email regularly, for example, on a bi-weekly basis. Students should consult the Program Director if there appears to be a breakdown in communication between student and advisor.

**F. PRESENTATION OF THE MASTER’S PAPER**

When the advisor and student deem the Master’s paper to be in its final draft form, a draft must be supplied to all committee members. A meeting to present the paper formally (a “defense”) may be scheduled no earlier than three weeks after the final draft is submitted to all committee members. The date of the meeting should be set so that all committee members can participate, and those members should endeavor to accommodate graduation deadlines and each other’s schedules so that setting the date of the presentation meeting is not an onerous task for the student. Although setting this date is the student’s responsibility, the advisor should facilitate this process as necessary. The date, time, and location of the meeting must be scheduled through the Program Administrator. Meetings to present and defend the Master’s paper are open to the public and are publicized. All deadlines for defenses and graduation must comply with deadlines established by the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. The student must provide the Graduate Administrator a one-page abstract of the Master’s paper at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

It is advisable for the student to ask whether committee members would like to meet individually with the student prior to the meeting. Committee members are not obligated to do so, but it is a courtesy to them to give them an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, or suggest possible topics of discussion prior to the meeting.

In the beginning of the meeting, the student should be prepared to provide a brief overview (approximately ten minutes) of the argument of the Master’s paper. The advisor serves as chairman of meeting. After the meeting, the committee members will meet without the student present to determine whether the Master’s paper was acceptable and successfully defended, and the advisor will inform the student of the outcome.

The committee has four options: (1) it may request no revisions and accept the paper as it stands; (2) it may require minor revisions which it is the responsibility of the advisor to oversee; (3) it may require major revisions and require a second meeting; or (4) it may fail the student and not afford an opportunity for revision of the paper. The appropriate forms, reflecting the committee’s decision, must be signed and filed with the Program Administrator. It is the student’s responsibility to be certain that appropriate forms are completed and filed.

The Master’s paper must conform to specifications ofthe Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and be submitted electronically; students are responsible for adhering to appropriate templates and guidelines (see <http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/etd>).

**G. SPECIAL NOTES ON EMPIRICAL RESEARCH**

Prior to the stage of selecting a specific topic and advisor, students should already have determined whether they wish to pursue empirical research. Anyone wishing to pursue empirical research in bioethics should consult with the Program Director, who will ensure the student possesses an adequate methodological background or will plan a curriculum of research methodology courses. The Master’s paper must include the specific aims of the research, the research methodology, and the anticipated results and interpretation.

Receipt of appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is the responsibility of the student; IRB approval should be sought prior to the proposal meeting so that the committee may assist the student in addressing any concerns of the IRB.

Pursuing empirical research will almost certainly require that the student spend more than one calendar year in the program. Students interested in pursuing such research, therefore, should consult with the Program Director as soon as possible following matriculation.

**H. JOINT MA/JD PROGRAM STUDENTS**

Students in the joint MA/JD program should consult the Law School’s Director of the joint degree program to determine whether their proposed Master’s paper will fulfill the writing requirements of the law school.

**I. JOINT MA/MD PROGRAM STUDENTS**

Students in the joint MA/MD program should consult with the Program Director about registering for Medical School Electives to complete their Master’s papers. One or two month-long electives may be so designated and used to complete the paper.

**IV. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Students must be registered for at least one credit in the term in which they graduate. A student who plans to graduate must fill out an application for graduation in the Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences Office of Graduate Studies during the first three weeks of the term of expected graduation; graduation deadlines for Arts & Sciences occur in April, August, and December of each year. Students should clearly indicate **Bioethics** as the area of concentration on their application for graduation in the space marked “Academic Program.” Official forms can be found at <http://www.asgraduate.pitt.edu/node/376>.

All I and G grades, including those not relevant to the degree program, must be changed before the degree can be posted, or the Program must state in writing that the incomplete courses are not required for the degree.

Students in a joint program (MA/JD or MA/MD) must meet graduation deadlines both for their respective schools and for the Dietrich School of Arts and Science. Joint program students must complete the requirements for the joint program; students who withdraw from the joint program and elect to graduate with only one of the degrees (e.g., MA, JD, or MD) risk not having fulfilled requirements which apply when those degrees are pursued separately.

**V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

**A. MID-YEAR EVALUATIONS**

Members of the core faculty will meet each January to evaluate formally all students currently enrolled in the program. The student will be informed in writing as to whether the student is making good, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory progress. Students falling in the latter category will be given one warning, and if improvement to satisfactory is not made by the end of the term, they will be subject to termination from the program. Minimally, students must complete successfully the requirements as stated herein, within the stipulated time periods. In order to be in good standing a student must maintain a B+ average and must complete each core course with a B+ or better.

Incomplete grades (I or G) must be cleared within one year of the end of the course for which the incomplete grade was awarded.

Failure to complete the requirements will be considered grounds for termination from the program. Students also will have the opportunity to meet with the Program Director to discuss the results of the evaluation.

In addition to this formal evaluation meeting, in November, the Program Director will contact the instructors of the core courses to determine whether any of the students is experiencing academic difficulties and to assist the instructor(s) in intervening to advise the student of the perceived difficulty and to offer the student guidance.

**B. INACTIVE STATUS**

A graduate student who is not registered for at least one credit during a 12-month period is transferred to inactive status and must file an application for readmission to graduate study (application fee required) before being permitted to register again. Students on inactive status may not apply to graduate.

**C. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Students may request a leave of absence. Students should submit their written request to

the Program Director detailing the reason for and length of their proposed leave. The Program Director will consider such requests in consultation with core faculty. Leaves of Absence are of two kinds *Official* and *Unofficial*:

*Official*: A graduate student may apply for an official leave of absence from graduate study in cases of illness or personal concerns. The application may be made for a maximum of one year for Masters students. The length and rationale for the leave of absence must be stated in advance, recommended to the Dean by the Program, and approved by the Dean. Only one leave of absence can be obtained by a student during her or his graduate career. If the leave of absence has been approved, the statute of limitations for the degree is extended by the length of time of the leave. A student on an approved leave of absence must apply for readmission, but readmission is automatic and the fee will be waived. Leaves cannot be granted to inactive students.

*Unofficial*: Readmission is not automatic, the application fee must be paid, and the original statute of limitations remains in effect.

**D. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

Requirements for the Masters degree must be completed within a period of four consecutive calendar years from the student’s initial registration for graduate study. Under exceptional circumstances a candidate for an advanced degree may apply for an extension of this requirement, known as the statute of limitations. Such extensions are generally granted only for one year. Thus, part-time students must be especially mindful of the need to progress steadily through the program. Applications, available in the Office of Graduate Studies, must state the reason for the delay, provide evidence of continuing progress toward the completion of the degree, and include a plan and proposed date for completion. The request must be approved by the Program Director; it must then be submitted to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final action. Each student who requests an extension of the statute of limitations must be able to demonstrate proper preparation for the completion of all current degree requirements. An extension of the statute of limitations cannot be granted to inactive students or students on unofficial leave from the program.

**E. REQUIREMENTS OF STUDENTS IN RESIDENCE**

All students in residence who have not successfully petitioned for a leave of absence must attend Center for Bioethics and Health Law Visiting Professor lectures and CBHL Colloquia. Participation in these activities for at least two terms is required to receive a grade of Satisfactory (S) for MA Thesis Research credits. Although it is recognized that class meetings and participation at professional conferences may interfere with such attendance, students are expected to avoid such conflicts in so far as possible Students who have such conflicts must inform the Program Director in writing at the beginning of the term. Employed part-time students whose employment conflicts with these activities should consult with the Program Director. Students are expected to respond to electronic mail “invitations” to attend colloquia. Absences from these events should be explained by electronic mail to the Graduate Administrator.

**F. ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Students are invited to present their work in Center for Bioethics and Health Law Colloquia and are invited to attend Center informal lunches. Students are also encouraged to attend local and national bioethics meetings. These include the annual meetings of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (<http://www.asbh.org/meetings/annual/index.html>) and the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (<http://www.indiana.edu/~appe/>) and local forums such as: the annual Messer Lecture and Medical Ethics Update Conference and the History of Medicine Lecture series. The Cultural Studies, Global Studies, and Women’s Studies Programs and the University Center for International Studies also frequently have programs of relevance to bioethics. With appropriate permissions, which may be facilitated by the Program Director, students may also attend Ethics Committee meetings and meetings of the Institutional Review Board. Students should be aware that national and regional meetings often offer special student registration rates or scholarships to support attendance; students are urged to take advantage of these opportunities. Student paper prizes are also offered by the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities and the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.

**G. GUIDELINES, REQUIREMENTS, AND DEADLINES**

Students are responsible for obtaining and adhering to relevant guidelines, requirements, and deadlines described in University documents and on University websites, including:

*Academic Integrity Code*: <http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html>

* *Guidelines for Ethical Practices in Research*: [http://www.provost.pitt.edu/documents/GUIDELINES%20FOR%20ETHICAL% 20PRACTICES%20IN%20RESEARCH-FINALrevised2-March%202011.pdf](http://www.provost.pitt.edu/documents/GUIDELINES%20FOR%20ETHICAL%25%0920PRACTICES%20IN%20RESEARCH-FINALrevised2-March%202011.pdf)

*Research Integrity Policy*: <http://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/11/11-01-01.html>

*Regulations Governing Graduate Study at the University of Pittsburgh*: <http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/regtoc.html>

*Graduate Studies Policies/Regulations* (Office of the Provost): <http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/policies.html>

*Graduate Studies Dissertation/Thesis*: <http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/dissertation.html>

**VI. THE CENTER FOR BIOETHICS AND HEALTH LAW**

Founded in 1987, the Center has become renowned for pioneering empirical research in bioethics, developing clinical ethics training programs and round-the-clock ethics consultation services, and drafting innovative bioethical policy. In addition to administering the Bioethics Program, the Center Coordinates ethics training in the School of Medicine; the Medical Humanities Area of Concentration for medical students; and the Consortium Ethics Program to provide clinical ethics training to representatives of regional hospitals. Bioethics Program students are strongly encouraged to become acquainted with all of the Center for Bioethics and Health Law faculty and to participate in Center activities.

The Center for Bioethics and Health Law is composed of faculty from the fields of history, law, medicine, nursing, philosophy, rhetoric, and public policy, who have made extensive contributions through their research, publications, and professional service to the field of bioethics and health law. Faculty members have participated in the work of state and federal government commissions, committees, and task forces, including the White House Commission on Aging; the White House Task Force on Healthcare Reform; the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI); and the President’s Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research. Others are or have been officers of national professional organizations.

Center faculty engage in research on a wide range of issues. Recent topics include:

aging

behavioral and psychiatric research

clinical communication and informed consent

conscientious objection in health care

definition of death

end of life decision making

ethics consultation

gender and race in health care

genetics and genetic research

global health care

health and human rights

human subjects research

humanities in medical education

long term care

managed care

occupational health and safety

palliative care

professional-patient relationship

quality of life

**VII. FACULTY**

**CORE PROGRAM FACULTY**

Robert M. Arnold, MD

Elizabeth Chaitin, DHCE

John Lyne, PhD

Alan Meisel, JD (Bioethics & Law MA/JD Joint Program Director)

Lisa S. Parker, PhD (Bioethics Program Director)

Mark R. Wicclair, PhD

**CENTER FOR BIOETHICS AND HEALTH LAW FACULTY**

Robert M. Arnold, MD (medicine)

Elizabeth Chaitin, DHCE (healthcare ethics)

Howard B. Degenholtz, PhD (health services research)

Judith A. Erlen, PhD (nursing)

Gary S. Fischer, MD (medicine)

Lawrence A. Frolik, JD, LLM (elder law)

John Lyne, PhD (communications)

Alan Meisel, JD (health law)

John Mendeloff, PhD (public policy research)

Lisa S. Parker, PhD (philosophy)

Valerie Satkoske (healthcare ethics)

Mark R. Wicclair, PhD (philosophy)

Students should also consult the list of faculty affiliated with the Center for Bioethics and Health Law. This list varies each year. Affiliated faculty members are especially good candidates to serve on thesis committees and to serve as resources to students.

**VIII. RECENTLY OFFERED ELECTIVES**

This list is intended only to suggest the range of potential electives.

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| **COURSE NAME** | **DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL AND**  **COURSE NUMBER** |
| Bioethics and Law | Law 5464 |
| Biomedical Technology Law | Law 5121 |
| Dimensions of Aging: Culture and Health | Anthropology 2715, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences 2532 (GSPH) |
| Ethics (core) | Philosophy 2300 |
| Ethics and Aging | Gerontology 2001 |
| Feminist Theory | Womens Studies 2242 |
| Ethical and Philosophical Issues in Medical Genetics | Bioethics 2698 (Special Topics) |
| Ethics and Regulation of Clinical Research | Medicine CLRES2050 |
| Gender, Ethics, and the Body | Bioethics 2698 (Special Topics), Womens Studies 2240 |
| Genes and Behavior | History and Philosophy of Science 2662, Philosophy 2672 |
| Global Feminism | Womens Studies 1150 |
| Health Care Law and Ethics | Health Care Ethics Program HCE546, Duquesne University |
| Health and Illness | Sociology 1450 |
| Health Law and Policy | Law 5395 |
| Health Psychology | Psychology 1215 |
| Historical and Sociological Perspectives in Public Health | Behavioral and Community Health Sciences 2585 (GSPH), History 2091, Sociology 2426 |
| Jewish Health Care Ethics | Health Care Ethics Program HCE651, Duquesne University |
| Justice and the Ethics of Health Care Delivery | Health Care Ethics Program HCE652, Duquesne University |
| Kantian Ethics | Philosophy 2171 |
| Law, Biomedical Science, and Human Dignity | Health Care Ethics Program HCE679, Duquesne University |
| Medical Anthropology 2 | Anthropology 2731 |
| Moral Psychology | Philosophy 2315 |
| Moral Theory | Philosophy 2310 |
| Narrative Ethics and Medicine | Medicine 5910 |
| New Reproductive Practices and Law | Law 5580 |
| Philosophical Perspectives on Feminism | History and Philosophy of Science 2696,  Philosophy 2340 |
| Philosophy of Science | History and Philosophy of Science 2501, Philosophy 2600 |
| Political and Legal Factors in Public Health | Behavioral and Community Health Sciences 2552 (GSPH) |
| Public Health Approaches to Womens Health | Behavioral and Community Health Sciences 2599 (GSPH) |
| Risk Communication | Behavioral and Community Health Sciences 2572 (GSPH) |
| Social Inequalities in Health | Behavioral and Community Health Sciences 2598 (GSPH) |
| Social Movements | Sociology 2341, History 2043, Political Science 2380 |
| Sociology of Medicine | Sociology 2406 |
| Theories of Masculinity | Womens Studies 2240 |
| Women in Development | Behavioral and Community Health Sciences 2553 (GSPH) |

1. John Lyne, PhD, is to be credited for articulating most succinctly these desiderata for thesis projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)