

Scholarly Concentration: Biomedical Ethics

The practice of medicine requires much more than remembering facts. How we apply these facts in a complex society with a broad array of patients who hold varied beliefs requires a specific skill set. The knowledge of the interplay of bioethics with law is essential. Ethical dilemmas combine the science and art of medicine. There are varied approaches to ethical decision making, and mixing in the medical aspects provides another level of sophistication. All physicians must be familiar with the key tenants in medical ethics. Some trainees may have the desire to acquire a deeper understanding of medical ethics and this concentration offers that.

Lead faculty: Meggie Crnic, PhD

Other faculty: John F. McGeehan, MD, FACP, Isha DiBartolo, MD, Niharka Sathe, MD, and other faculty from the Selective: Medical Ethics and Medically Related Law

Goal: This scholarly concentration will develop students' knowledge and skills in medical ethics, with application to inpatient and outpatient cases and a focus on the law related to these issues.

Objectives: Upon completion of this scholarly concentration, students will be able

- Fully understand the four pillars of medical ethics
- Be competent in addressing issues involving capacity, and the surrogate process
- Have a strong grasp of all types of Advance Directives and be able to educate others on these topics
- Know how a Bioethics Committee functions by being present for these discussions
- Understand the need for open discussions when addressing ethical issues
- Each student will do a deep exploration of an issue of their choice as a Capstone project
- Students may choose to do an elective experience in their fourth year

Capacity: 4 students/class

Requirements

Within the MD curriculum, students must

- Complete the Applied Medical Ethics Selective in the first two years.
- Attend all lectures in Bioethics within the Foundations of Medical Practice Course
- Complete (if possible) the Selective: Medical Ethics and Medically Related Law
- Identify a faculty mentor and complete a Capstone Project related to Medical Ethics in the Scholar's Workshop, including an extramural poster presentation and article submission.

Outside the MD curriculum, students must

- Be members of the Bioethics Student Club and attend 80% of those meetings.
- Attend 60% of the Cooper University Hospital Bioethics meetings (monthly for 1 hour)
- Present a case or topic at one of the above meetings.
- Attend meetings of the student-run ambulatory bioethics groups of the CRC.

- Submit a final paper listing the activities they have participated in and led, briefly summarizing what they have learned from the scholarly concentration, and speculating on how they will use what they have learned in their careers.

Activity	Hours	Mandatory
Curricular		
Attend all sessions in the Selective: Applied Medical Ethics	12	Yes
Attend all sessions in the Selective: Medical Ethics and Medically Related Law	12	Yes
Complete a Capstone on a topic in Medical Ethics	30	Yes
Complete a one week Elective in the field of Medical Ethics in Phase II	30	Yes
Extracurricular		
Participate actively in the student Bioethics Club (80% attendance)**	8	Yes
Attend 50% Of the meetings of the Bioethics Committee at CUH* (M2, M3, M4)	15	Yes
Present a case or topic at one meeting	4	No
Participate in the student run committee of the CRC	6	No
Present a case at one of the above meetings	1	Yes
Prepare a paper in the M4 year	12	Yes
Total	130	
Hours needed to complete the Concentration	120	
** Meets 6 times per year		
* Meets 10 times per year		