

Wake Forest University Bioethics Graduate Program

Where Theory Meets Practice

The questions of bioethics matter to everyone, especially those near the end of life, their family members and those tasked with providing quality palliative and hospice care for them. Wake Forest University launched the Bioethics Graduate Program in 2009 to provide an educational opportunity in bioethics at the graduate level for current professionals including health care providers, researchers in biomedicine and the life sciences, lawyers, and professionals in religion, health and research administration, and the biotechnology industry.

The staff and faculty in the Bioethics Program understand that clinical practitioners in a hospice care role encounter difficult ethical issues on a daily basis. The curriculum was developed with the understanding of skills and knowledge needed as a hospice care clinician: respect for diverse populations and perspectives, values of trust, integrity and communication and the desire to strengthen end of life care. Created utilizing the skills of expert faculty with national and international stature, the Program blends theory and practice in courses, thesis work and wide ranging opportunities for students.

Mark Corbett, 2016 alumni of the program and MD at the Hospice and Palliative Care Center in Winston-Salem states, "Bioethics is an essential component of my clinical armamentarium which allows me to successfully navigate the everyday ethical issues that arise in the provision of hospice and palliative medicine."

The Bioethics Program is interdisciplinary, flexible and personal. Said Nancy King, JD, Graduate Program Co-Director, "Our program's focus on mid-career professionals makes it possible to create a robust community of lifelong learners. In all our courses, our multidisciplinary faculty enables students to share diverse practice experiences and connect those experiences to scholarly literature and policy perspectives on ethical and social issues, including the many challenges arising near the end of life. We provide the tools and resources to help students learn and prepare them to help teach their colleagues as well."

Located in the newly renovated Wake Forest Innovation Quarter in downtown Winston-Salem, the small class sizes and versatile curricular options enable a student to tailor the program to individual interests. The interdisciplinary nature of the program is geared to working professionals with a diversity of academic and employment experiences in the clinical care, humanities, biomedical research and health policy. The Program takes advantage of Wake Forest University's unique attributes and strengths to build bridges among these areas and the professions.

The Program offers a Masters of Arts (MA) degree and Graduate Certificate options for professional students seeking to enhance their careers. The program is flexible for both full and part-time students:

- The MA requires 30 credit hours total. All core bioethics courses are offered in the late afternoon or early evening to accommodate working professionals. Students have up to 6 years to complete the degree. Full-time students typically complete the degree in 3 semesters.

- The Graduate Certificate Program is a freestanding program of graduate study in which students attend the same classes as students in MA graduate program. It requires 12 credit hours and is offered to increase the flexibility and attractiveness of graduate study in bioethics, particularly to working professionals who wish to add bioethics knowledge to professional practice.

The Bioethics Graduate Program accepts applications on a rolling basis throughout the year. For more information, including program philosophy, course and faculty listings, and application procedures, please visit www.wfu.edu/bioethics or contact Vicky Zickmund, Associate Director at (336)716-1499, zickmuvl@wfu.edu.