

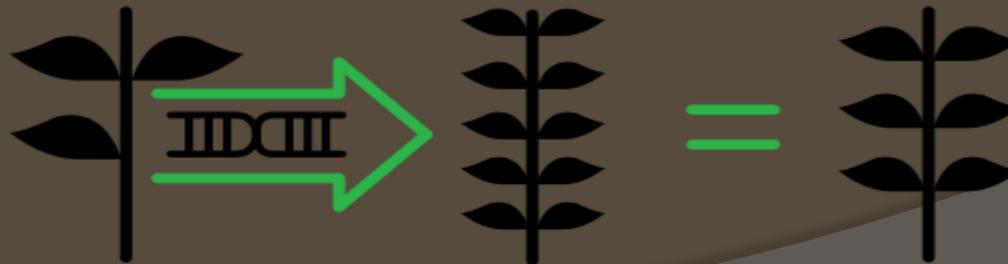
Master of Science
BIOETHICS

What is a Degree in Bioethics?

- A bioethics degree is an interdisciplinary course of study that addresses the overlapping of issues in a number of areas, such as medicine, law, science, theology, philosophy, biotechnology and politics. A bioethics education is likely to address possible important medical and health-related decision making situations, including how to come up a plan for executing ethical decisions.
- There are bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs in the field. Programs combining a master's degree in bioethics with a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree are also available, as are those combining a master's in bioethics with a Medical Doctor (M.D.) degree. Several colleges offer programs partly or fully online.
- With a degree in Bioethics, you will be able to find careers at hospitals, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, law firms, governmental departments, medical societies, medical counseling offices and human rights organizations. If you pursue the joint degree in law and bioethics, you may be able to practice law. Completing a Ph.D. program will qualify you to become a college professor, or to work on a hospital ethics committee, a board of health or a team of ethical consults.

Topics in the Study of Bioethics

- genetic testing and screening
- reproductive and therapeutic cloning
- the use of stem cells
- embryo research
- abortion
- assisted reproduction
- prenatal screening
- end-of-life issues, including euthanasia
- the use of human tissue
- organ donation
- xenotransplantation
- the use of animals in research
- genetically modified crops
- research with human subjects
- the ethics of research related to healthcare in developing countries
- patenting DNA
- pharmacogenetics
- patient confidentiality
- resource allocation



Does Bioethics Suit You?

The Bioethics program is appropriate for students who are interested in working in various capacities in biomedical and health-related areas. The program includes and benefits four types of students:

- **Recent undergraduates** who plan to work in the healthcare profession and are interested in bioethical issues, such as medical ethics. Students will have a diverse range of backgrounds, and may have majored in the social sciences, the humanities, or the sciences.
- **Pre-med students** who wish to strengthen their application to medical school by adding the breadth and experience of Columbia's bioethics program to their curriculum vitae, while also enriching their eventual training in medicine with a grounding in critical ethical issues and perspectives.
- **Graduate students** in fields such as medicine, science, business, law, public affairs or journalism who wish to combine their training with the study of bioethics.
- **Professionals in healthcare or related fields** such as law, medicine, nursing, or related industries, who are interested in enhancing their skills and problem-solving abilities concerning bioethical issues.

Sample Curricula

from Columbia University School of Continuing Education

15 Month Sequence

Summer 2014

Biostatistics/Methods
Ethics & Pharmaceutical Industry or Environmental Studies

Fall 2014

History of Bioethics
Philosophy of Bioethics
Research Ethics
Health Policy and Political Analysis

Spring 2015

Intro to Clinical Ethics
Global Bioethics
Law and Bioethics
Science for Bioethicists
Reproductive Ethics or Neuroethics

Summer 2015

Thesis

24 Month Sequence

Fall 2014

History of Bioethics
Philosophy of Bioethics

Spring 2015

Intro to Clinical Ethics
Law and Bioethics
Global Bioethics

Fall 2015

Research Ethics
Advanced Clinical Ethics
Qualitative Methods and Research

Spring 2016

Science for Bioethicists
Abortion: Law in Context
Reproductive Ethics

Summer 2016

Thesis

Popular U.S. Schools

that feature Bioethics programs

- ◉ [Columbia University School of Continuing Education](#)
- ◉ [Einstein-Cardozo Bioethics Education Programs](#)
- ◉ [Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai](#)
- ◉ [Keck School of Medicine of USC](#)
- ◉ [Loyola University Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics](#)
- ◉ [New York University Center for Bioethics](#)
- ◉ [Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine](#)
- ◉ [University of Pennsylvania](#)
- ◉ [Johns Hopkins University](#)

Articles of Interest

- [Bioethics in 2025: What Will Be the Challenges?](#) courtesy of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics
- [Bioethics Programs Evolve as They Grow](#) by David Magnus, *Nature Biotechnology* (2001)
- [Microethics: The Ethics of Everyday Clinical Practice](#) Hastings Center Report (2015)
- [Graduate Education and Employment Opportunities in Bioethics](#) by Leigh Turner, *Nature Biotechnology* (2004)
- [Paternity Leave in Medical Residency](#) by Nathan Derhammer, MD, *AMA Journal of Ethics* (2015)
- [Should All Research Subjects be Treated the Same?](#) Hastings Center Report (2015)

For Additional Information

- [Center for Practical Bioethics](#)
- [NIH Bioethics Resources on the Web](#)
- [University of Washington Bioethics Topics](#)
- [American Medical Association Journal of Ethics](#)
- [The American Journal of Bioethics](#)
- [American Society for Bioethics & Humanities](#)
- [ActionBioscience.org](#)
- [The Hastings Center – Bioethics and Public Policy Research](#)
- [Nuffield Council on Bioethics](#)
- [Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues](#)