



# Master of Art in Bioethics

## Graduate Handbook

University of Arizona

College of Medicine – Phoenix

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## 1. Introduction to the Master of Arts in Bioethics

### 1.1. About

The MA in Bioethics is offered 100% online and was developed to serve emerging and seasoned health professionals in Arizona, nationally and globally. The advanced study of bioethics at the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix brings together liberal arts disciplines including philosophy, history and sociology of science, psychology, sociology, and anthropology, with the expertise from the University of Arizona, College of Medicine – Phoenix faculty and other key university partners (College of Law, College of Public Health, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the College of Humanities).

Bioethics is a discipline dealing with the social, legal, and ethical implications of biological research and applications, especially in medicine. It includes medical ethics which focuses on issues in healthcare, research ethics which focuses on the conduct of research, and with public health ethics which addresses ethical issues in public health. We aim to give clinicians, social workers, chaplaincy, nurses, and lay individuals who wish to seek out a Master of Arts in Bioethics the background and training to engage in the teaching of ethics, ethics research, ethics consultations, and difficult bedside ethical issues.

The importance of a program like this became more evident during the recent pandemic; this has brought to light the difficult ethical decisions that need to be made regarding allocation of scarce resources, equity, diversity, and inclusion in healthcare. The current medical, ethical, and humanities literature over the last two years have identified the scarce resources and the allocation thereof. Training and education in ethics was found to be paramount in making the difficult moral and ethical decisions for the best and right care for patients. The value of the program: bring into focus the partnership of healthcare and ethics.

This master's program is an ideal fit for professionals in healthcare and biomedical fields, as well as biomedical and basic science research. Such fields include:

- medicine
- nursing
- dentistry
- social work
- veterinary medicine
- genetic counseling
- public policy
- biotechnology
- Graduate and professional students in any bioethics related fields are also welcome

This program is proudly supported by the [\*\*UArizona Health Sciences International\*\*](#), reshaping the future of global health care education, research, and practice.

### 1.2. Course Faculty:

David Beyda, MD  
Laura Howard, PhD  
Cynthia Standley, PhD  
Jennifer Hartmark-Hill, MD  
Robert Kravetz, MD  
Leila Barraza, JD MPH

Mabel Crescion, DrPH, JD, LLM  
Kristy Slominski, PhD  
Rae Dachille, PhD

1.3. Advisory Committee: <https://phoenixmed.arizona.edu/bioethics/masters/faculty>

Leila Barraza, JD MPH  
David Beyda, MD  
Jacque Chadwick, MD  
Jennifer Hartmark-Hill, MD  
Laura Howard, PhD  
Robert Kravetz, MD  
Karen Seat, PhD  
Tara Sklar, JD MPH  
Cynthia Standley, PhD

1.4. Staff

1.4.1. Graduate Coordinator: Molly Kurtz— [mgittelm@arizona.edu](mailto:mgittelm@arizona.edu)

1.4.2. Instructional Designer: Amber Serna – [sernaa@arizona.edu](mailto:sernaa@arizona.edu)

1.5. Resources & Facilities

The MA in Bioethics is a fully online program and therefore does not have a designated space on any of the University of Arizona Campus. The program is based out of the College of Medicine – Phoenix, where the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. David Beyda, has an office in [HSEB B563](#).

Resources available to all graduate students are outline in the Important Links section of this handbook.

1.6. Student Responsibilities and Professional Conduct

The guidelines center on how a MA student should conduct themselves, i.e., one's professional conduct. Professional conduct not only involves a commitment to follow the letter of an assistantship contract's requirements, but also implies that proper respect be given to the spirit behind these requirements. Award of a TA or RA is a privilege, not a right. Irresponsible actions exhibited while serving the program and the University not only damage the student's own reputation (who will want to hire you as TA in the future if you are known to disrespect rules?), but ultimately damage the reputation of the program. TA and RA positions are exciting opportunities for graduate students to develop professional skills that will carry through the rest of their careers. Enjoy them and benefit from them, but on no account abuse them!

1.7. Student Appeals

Students have the right to formally request exceptions to department policies and procedures or formally appeal department decisions by submitting in writing to the Director of the program. The appeal will be reviewed by the program faculty and may include a collective meeting with the student. The program faculty may place additional requirements/deadlines on the student as a prerequisite for continuing in the program.

For additional information regarding grievances, please see the Graduate College Grievance guidelines here: <https://grad.arizona.edu/policies/academic-policies/grievance-policy>

### 1.8. Advising

By the beginning of the second semester in residence the student must choose an advisor from among the Regular faculty. Until such time as the student has chosen an advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies, David Beyda, serves as the student's temporary advisor.

## 2. Important Links

### 2.1. Graduate College

The University of Arizona Graduate College is the best resource to access and review policies and procedures. Students may access Graduate College policies, contacts, information about resources, deadlines, and other useful information: <https://grad.arizona.edu/>.

### 2.2. Professional Development, Health, Wellness and Safety, Childcare and Family Friendly Information and Resources

Resources for all the above categories can be found here: <https://grad.arizona.edu/new-and-current-students>

### 2.3. Disability Resource Center

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is an excellent resource that is open to all students. "The University of Arizona DRC leads campus in a progressive and proactive approach to accessibility. Our goal is to ensure disabled students, employees and visitors have a similar, if not identical, experience to their non-disabled counterparts. We work to reduce the need for individual accommodations through proactive collaboration with University partners to impact the systemic design of campus environments."

Please visit the DRC website here: <https://drc.arizona.edu/>

### 2.4. UA Catalog

The UA Catalog is a comprehensive resource for information related to academic programs and policies: <https://catalog.arizona.edu/>

### 2.5. Academic Integrity

All students at the University of Arizona are responsible for review and knowing the Code of Academic Integrity. Integrity and ethical behavior are expected of every student in all academic work. This Academic Integrity principle stands for honesty in all class work, and ethical conduct in all labs and clinical assignments. This principle is furthered by the Student Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures established by **ABOR Policies 5-308 through 5-404** (see chapter 5), all provisions of which apply to all University of Arizona students. This Code of Academic Integrity (hereinafter "this Code") is intended to fulfill the requirement imposed by **ABOR Policy 5-403.A.4** and otherwise to supplement the Student Code of Conduct as permitted by **ABOR Policy 5-308.C.1**.

Students are strongly encouraged to review the code here: <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies/code-academic-integrity>

## 2.6. Responsible Conduct of Research

Students are required to review the responsible conduct of research documentation and complete the appropriate forms within UAccess Student (GradPath): <https://research.arizona.edu/compliance/RLSS>

*Important Note:* It is the program's policy that the student holds final responsibility for being aware of and responding to all Graduate College policies, requirements, formats, and deadlines as they pertain to progression towards and completion of their degree.

It is the responsibility of students to familiarize themselves with the general campus-wide requirements and information on transfer of graduate credit from other institutions, off campus graduate study, scholastic standards, forms that the student must submit to the Graduate College, and the time limit for the completion of requirements for graduate degrees.

## 3. Funding

### 3.1. Eligibility

Currently, the MA program does not have any funding for graduate students.

Graduate students may receive financial assistance in the form of Fellowships, Teaching Assistantships, and/or Research Assistantships. Students should recognize that financial support is a privilege and is not guaranteed. All graduate students are encouraged to seek out funding from a variety of sources; the Graduate College has online resources which can facilitate this effort.

*Note:* Graduate Certificate students are not eligible for financial assistance, unless concurrently enrolled in a separate Master or PhD program at the University of Arizona.

### 3.2. Financial Support for International Applicant/ International Students

Additional requirements for financial aid eligibility apply to international applicants. Please see the following page for more information: <https://grad.arizona.edu/funding/ga/english-speaking-proficiency-evaluation>.

### 3.3. Graduate College Resources

Additional resources are available for review through the Graduate College: <https://grad.arizona.edu/new-and-current-students>

## 4. Degree Program Requirements

### 4.1. Master of Arts in Bioethics

#### 4.1.1. Credits

The Master of Arts in Bioethics requires that students complete 30 units of coursework.

#### 4.1.2 Core/Required Courses

- ETH 500 - Foundation of Bioethics (3 credits)
- ETH 572 - Current Controversies in Bioethics (3 credits)
- LAW 515/ETH 515 - Healthcare Ethics (3 credits)
- ETH 909 - Master's Project (3 credits)

#### 4.1.3 Electives Courses

- ETH 501 - Biomedical Ethics and Global Corruption (3 credits)
- ETH 502 - Humanities, Ethics and Health: A Global Perspective (3 credits)
- ETH 503 - Biomedical Ethics and the Law (3 credits)
- ETH 504 - Applying Key Moral Theories to Issues in Global Ethics (3 credits)
- ETH 530 - Ethical Consideration in Aging (1 credit)
- LAW 608A/ETH 608 - Public Health Law and Ethics (3 credits)
- LAW 575B/ETH 575B- Clinical Research Ethics (3 credits)
- ETH 520 - Ethics Consultations Seminars (3 credits)
- ETH 506 - Chronicles of Medical Ethics: Past and Present (3 credits)
- ETH 521 - Narrative in Medicine (3 credits)
- ETH 516 - Pediatric Ethics (3 credits)
- ETH 522 - Controversies of Life and Death: The Beginnings and Ends (3 credits)
- ETH 517 - Ethics and the Arts (3 Credits)
- ETH 507 – Roots of Bioethics in Practice in Western Medicine (3 credits)
- Religious Diversity in Healthcare: Intercultural Training (3 credits) coming in Fall 24

You can see available courses here: <https://phoenixmed.arizona.edu/bioethics/masters/spring-fall-courses>

#### 4.1.4 Time to degree

It is expected that students can complete the program in as little as three semesters if enrolled full time (9 – 12 credit hours per semester). If enrolled part-time (under 6 credit hours per semester), the program can be completed in five to six semesters.

#### 4.1.5 Expected Outcomes

<b>Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)</b>
PLO 1. Students will interpret bioethical dilemmas utilizing ethical principles and theories
PLO 2. Students will produce and justify ethical opinions on bioethical dilemmas, informed by ethical principles and theories.
PLO 3. Students will explain the ethical issues related to clinical research studies and data.
PLO 4. Students will evaluate the impact of public health policy and law as they relate to bioethical dilemmas.
PLO 5. Students will review current ethical issues as perceived by current medical ethics concepts throughout history.
PLO 6. Students will summarize the importance of humanities in biomedical ethics by having a sound narrative.

#### 4.1.6 Annual Review

Graduate students are subject to annual evaluation for satisfactory progress based on their grade point average and overall progress towards completion of degree requirements. The plan of study should also be reviewed at this time.

#### 4.1.7 Satisfactory academic progress

What is satisfactory progress? The absolute minimum criteria for satisfactory progress include:

- Maintain a grade point average of no less than 3.00 in all graduate course work. GPA is calculated at the end of each semester.
- No final grades below a “B” in core courses.
- Students may not carry more than two “incompletes” at any time.
- Satisfactory progress must be made toward completion of the degree, and this should be documented in the annual review process with the faculty and advisor/program coordinator.

What happens when students are deemed to be not making satisfactory progress?

An evaluation of “not making Satisfactory Academic Progress” is grounds for removal of funding from IIA program and may be grounds for removal from the program. Students judged to have academic difficulties (e.g., poor grades, failing or at risk of failing to satisfy program requirements) will receive written notice from the Committee with specific suggestions as to how these problems might be remedied and the date by which such actions must be taken. This notification will be copied to the Graduate College. The Graduate College has established guidelines, which departments must follow in order to dismiss graduate students from their programs. Students should familiarize themselves with the steps in process so they will know their rights, responsibilities, and remedies should such a situation develop. Students who fail to remediate by the deadlines specified may be dismissed from the program.

#### 4.1.8 Transfer Credits

Students are allowed to transfer up to **3** units of coursework into the program. Students are responsible for completing the plan of study, transfer credit documentation and must obtain permission from the Chair, faculty advisor or program coordinator prior to completing the first semester of the program.

#### 4.1.9 Incomplete Policy

Students earning a grade of Incomplete, “I” for a course should submit a completed Report of Incomplete Grade form (<https://registrar.arizona.edu/faculty-staff-resources/grading/grading-policies/incomplete>) to the Graduate Advisor/Coordinator for inclusion in their academic record. Incomplete grades should be completed in a timely manner and are submitted at the discretion of the course Instructor.

#### 4.1.10 Master’s Report

Each student must enroll in ETH 909 and complete a Master’s Report. Students may choose to either participate in a research project along with a summary report or complete an applied final project. For the applied final project, students must design a detailed and research-informed interdisciplinary proposal to innovate on a problem or opportunity. Only one of the above is required.

#### 4.1.11 Sample Degree Plans



Full-time student: 4 semesters

Semester 1		Semester 2		Semester 3		Semester 4	
Course prefix and number	Units	Course prefix and number	Units	Course prefix and number	Units	Course prefix and number	Units
ETH 500 – Foundations of Bioethics	3	ETH 515- Healthcare Ethics	3	ETH 572 - Current Controversies in Bioethics	3	ETH 909 - Master's Project	3
Elective 1	3	Elective 2	3	Elective 4	3	Elective 6	3
		Elective 3	3	Elective 5	3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

Full time student: 3 semesters

Semester 1		Semester 2		Semester 3	
Course prefix and number	Units	Course prefix and number	Units	Course prefix and number	Units
ETH 500 – Foundations of Bioethics	3	ETH 515- Healthcare Ethics	3	ETH 909 - Master's Project	3
Elective 1	3	ETH 572 - Current Controversies in Bioethics	3	Elective 4	3
Elective 2	3	Elective 3	3	Elective 5	3
				Elective 6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

Part time student: 2 courses per semester

Semester 1		Semester 2		Semester 3		Semester 4		Semester 5	
Course prefix & number	Units	Course prefix & number	Units	Course prefix & number	Units	Course prefix & number	Units	Course prefix & number	Units
ETH 500 – Foundations of Bioethics	3	ETH 515- Healthcare Ethics	3	ETH 572 - Current Controversies in Bioethics	3	Elective 4	3	ETH 909 - Master's Project	3
Elective 1	3	Elective 2	3	Elective 3	3	Elective 5	3	Elective 6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>