Healthcare Ethics Minor Program

Program Overview

The Interdisciplinary Healthcare Ethics Minor is open to all majors in the university. Students have the option to pursue either the Basic Track or the Global Track. Both tracks are designed to expose students to the complex and growing field of biomedical ethics. The Minor program seeks to encourage learning and thinking from an interdisciplinary perspective and to foster a critical analysis of bioethical topics through the interplay between moral theory and medical practice.

More and more people are beginning to realize the inherent importance of ethics in the clinical setting. Health care professionals are confronted with numerous complex ethical dilemmas that they may not be well prepared to handle. Therefore, it is imperative that they or those preparing to work in the field of health care be trained to understand the principles of ethics and how they can be utilized to assist us in decision-making.

The Interdisciplinary Minor in Health Care Ethics offers several learning goals and objectives for its students:

- Develop a basic understanding of moral philosophy and theology.
- Understand the basic ethical principles – beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy and justice.
- Learn how to apply risk vs. benefit analysis to concrete ethical situations.
- Develop basic proficiency in the analysis of case studies in bioethics.
- Understand the distinction and interrelationship between ethics and law.
• Appreciate how advances in technology pose complex ethical questions for society.
• Identify a wide range of ethical challenges facing the medical, pharmaceutical and insurance industries.
• Understand the importance of bioethics for those who aspire to be health professionals.
• Attend and participate in events sponsored by the Institute of Catholic Bioethics, such as lectures, panels, service experiences, etc.
• Integrate ethical principles in the analysis of a topic in bioethics.

Basic or Global Track

Students have the option to pursue either the Basic Track or the Global Track.

The prerequisite course for both tracks is PHL 154: Moral Foundations

Requirements for the Basic Track

• THE 366: Christian Medical Ethics
• Any five (5) electives

(For the complete list of electives, please go to www.sju.edu/bioethics)

• In addition to the course work, every semester students are encouraged to attend the events sponsored by the Institute of Catholic Bioethics especially the annual McCormick lecture.

Requirements for the Global Track

• THE 366: Christian Medical Ethics
• Any five (5) electives
• One of the five electives should be:

  Take THE / IHS 368: Just Health Care in Developing Nations (Study Abroad for 2 weeks)

  OR

  To design a research project as part of an Independent Study course that has been approved by a faculty member associated with the Minor program or with the Institute of Catholic Bioethics
• In addition to the course work, every semester students are encouraged to attend the events sponsored by the Institute of Catholic Bioethics especially the annual McCormick lecture.

Elective courses for both tracks – choose any five (5)
1. PMK 190 SL Heath Care Delivery Alternatives
2. ECN 390 Economics of Health Care
3. ENG 450 Hospital Stories: Narratives of Illness, Medicine and Hope
4. IHS 110 Psychosocial Aspects of Chronic Illness and Disease
5. IHS 211 Health Care Systems & Their Responsibilities
6. IHS 253 Nutrition: Health & Disease
7. IHS 251 Health Care Law and Ethics
8. IHS 256 HIV/AIDS: Sexuality, Money, Politics, Research, Public Health and Ethics
9. IHS.295 Medical Terminology and Health Literacy
10. IHS 343 Helping & Healing: Ethics, Community & Personal Transformation
11. IHS 345 Seeking a Better Death: Hospice
12. PHL 250 Philosophy of Death
13. PHL 264 Topics in Moral Psychology
14. SOC 216 (IHS 216) Alcohol, Drugs and Society
15. SOC 217 (IHS 217) Mental Health & Society
16. SOC 323 (IHS 323)Health and Society
17. THE 261 Christian Social Ethics
18. THE 361 Catholic Social Teaching
19. THE 368 Just Health Care in Developing Nations

For more information, please contact:

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