Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service. Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

Established in 1979 to provide ethics education and consultations within the Saint Louis University School of Medicine, the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics has grown into an academic department with a multidisciplinary faculty with vibrant research, service programs and educational offerings.

The mission of the Center for Health Care Ethics is academic research integrated with teaching, learning and service in health care ethics. Consistent with this mission, the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in health care ethics was established in 1996. The center’s faculty are nationally recognized, teach the vast majority of courses and supervise all dissertations in the center. The main program objective is to prepare individuals for careers in academic, corporate, research and clinical bioethics settings.

Students with master’s level or higher degrees complete 48 credit hours of coursework in four areas: foundations, context of health care, topics and scholars, and dissertation research. Student dissertations are on topics related to biotechnological, clinical, professional, organizational or research ethics. Students admitted directly after receiving their bachelor’s degree are required to complete an additional 12 credit hours of coursework.

Recognition:
Faculty from the center have influenced numerous bioethics debates in U.S. society, serving as consultants to the Nancy Beth Cruzan case, NASA, the Institute of Medicine, the United Network for Organ Sharing, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services. The faculty are well-respected in disaster relief ethics, clinical ethics, research ethics and integrity, as well as religion and medicine. The faculty are also recognized for their numerous publications in academic journals and internationally renowned books.

Career Paths:
Students from the fields of law, medicine, nursing, public health, philosophy and religious studies have joined the Ph.D. program in health care ethics. Graduates have been highly successful in finding excellent full-time positions both in the academy (teaching and conducting research in health care ethics) and in health care systems (as professional ethicists).

DEGREES OFFERED

• Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Dual Degrees:
• J.D./Ph.D.
• M.D./Ph.D.
• M.A.(Theology)/Ph.D.

Joint Degree:
• Ph.D. in Theology and Health Care Ethics

COURSES AVAILABLE

Days ✓ Nights □ Weekends □ Online □

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Transcript(s)
• Three letters of recommendation
• GRE G scores
• Résumé
• Writing sample
• Professional goal statement

POSTBACCALAUREATE ADMISSION:
Bachelor’s degree with major or minor in a field related to ethics in the humanities. Basic competencies in philosophical and applied bioethics are developed within the additional 12 credit hours of coursework.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Ph.D.

Fall: Dec. 1
Spring: N/A
Summer: N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

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314-977-1060
bioethics.slu.edu

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Postgraduate Admission:
Master’s or other advanced degree in a field related to health care ethics.
Health Care Ethics

FACULTY

Jeffrey P. Bishop, M.D., Ph.D.: Historical, political and philosophical conditions that underpin contemporary medical and scientific practices and theories

Harold Braswell, Ph.D.: Disability studies, end-of-life decision making, hospice, history and anthropology of bioethics

Stephanie Solomon Cargill, Ph.D.: Research ethics, research integrity, research with vulnerable populations, community engaged research ethics, genetic/genomic research ethics

Kelly Dineen, R.N. J.D., Ph.D.: Disenfranchised populations, end of life care, conflicts of interest, clinical research ethics

Erica K. Salter, Ph.D.: Pediatric ethics, ethics education, neuroethics, clinical ethics consultation

C. Griffin Trotter, M.D., Ph.D.: Disaster ethics, clinical ethics, health policy reform, American pragmatism in bioethics, political philosophy in bioethics

Tobias Winright, Ph.D.: Christian bioethics, moral theology, social ethics, political theology

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Graduate assistantships are awarded competitively to students who apply for full-time study in the Ph.D. program. The program seeks to fund coursework for all full-time students. Students engaging in dissertation research may be awarded graduate or research assistantships, external funding or dissertation research fellowships. Applications for assistantships should be submitted by Dec. 1.