

Master of Arts in Bioethics and Medical Humanities



**Creating a more just and ethical healthcare future by
exploring today's most complex medical questions**



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY**
School of Medicine

MA in Bioethics and Medical Humanities

The rapidly changing nature of healthcare brings into the spotlight the often behind-the-scenes, sometimes life-and-death decisions with which bioethicists and health humanists grapple daily. **From reproductive rights to death and dying choices, challenging—and increasingly complex—ethical and humanistic issues are at the core of nearly every healthcare question professionals face.**

At Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, we train experts prepared to identify, analyze and address such complicated topics.

Our Master of Arts in Bioethics and Medical Humanities program will help you deepen your insight into the ethical, cultural and social issues encompassing human health and healthcare.



An Innovative Curriculum

In our flexible program, the opportunities to tailor your studies are nearly as wide-ranging as the career outcomes possible once you earn your degree.

Study full or part time on a schedule that works for you, allowing you to finish the program in anywhere from nine months to three years. Plus, **you can opt to customize your curriculum with three areas of concentration, interdisciplinary electives, an array of short-term study abroad courses, and seven dual-degree programs**—each of which provides new possibilities for you to enhance your education.

You'll take experiential, fully immersive courses taught by leading scholars across multiple disciplines in the exciting—and affordable—city of Cleveland, Ohio. You'll have access to multiple top hospitals nearby for clinical ethics rotations and professional exploration. Whether in the classroom or in your rotations, **our bioethics and medical humanities master's program—among the most established in the country—is certain to provide some of the most intense, provocative and challenging learning you've ever experienced.**

Curriculum, Customization and Clinical Ethics Rotations

Our program leaders know students thrive when they study what they’re most passionate about, so every option within our Master of Bioethics and Medical Humanities can be tailored to your interests.

The traditional pathway

Our core offering, the traditional pathway, includes five required classes, including an interdisciplinary, seminar-style, two-part class on the foundations of bioethics and medical humanities. Not only will you discuss ethical issues related to reproduction, pediatrics, death and dying, genetics, public health, disability, and more, but you’ll explore these topics in real time through clinical cases and ongoing research. Plus, you’ll become familiar with the clinical, psychological, social, professional and institutional contexts in which ethical problems arise at one of several nearby hospitals during your clinical rotation course.

You’ll also complete a capstone paper in which, with the support of your faculty advisor, you can demonstrate mastery on a specific topic in bioethics and medical humanities.

And with 13.5 credit hours of electives in the traditional pathway, you can learn from CWRU’s nationally and internationally recognized faculty from across campus in areas such as social work, history, management, law and more, as well as electives within our own department, too.

9

months for full-time students

7

dual-degree programs

160

hours of clinical ethics rotations

13.5

credits of electives



The customized pathway

If you’re looking for more customization you can find your ideal academic path through options such as our three concentrations, seven dual-degrees and six study abroad offerings.

Our concentration in research ethics, for example will prepare you to address ethics-related work at the forefront of scientific advancement, while our concentration in medicine, society, and culture will empower you to explore fundamental questions involving concepts of illness, well-being, and justice across cultures and societal contexts. The health policy concentration will introduce students to the mechanisms and processes that influence the formulation and analysis of policy.



Each dual-degree has a separate application process, specific plan of study and financial structure. For more information, visit case.edu/bioethics or contact us at bioethics@case.edu

- **MA/JD:** Prepares students who wish to practice or have academic careers in health policy or clinical ethics
- **MA/MD:** Provides physicians with advanced knowledge and experience in bioethics integrated into the medical curricula.
- **MA/MPH:** Helps students understand how to apply ethics to public health practice and, in turn, increases bioethical leadership and scholarship in the public health community.
- **MA/MSW:** Offers students an interdisciplinary experience blending the similar values of social work and medicine.

- **MA/MSN:** Readies students to contribute to the integration of ethics in advanced practice nursing and increase the availability of ethics expertise to the nursing community.
- **MA/MS in Genetic Counseling:** Prepares students to participate in the ongoing national dialogue about the ethical, legal and social implications of advances in genetics/genomics.
- **Combined Bachelor's/Master's:** Allows students to complete their current CWRU undergrad degree alongside the MA program in 4-5 years.



Short-Term Study Abroad

Our education is hands-on, experiential and global in its perspective. Through our short-term study abroad options—offered over winter and spring breaks and in May—you’ll have the chance to engage in some of the most critical issues in bioethics and medical humanities while gaining perspectives from international cultures. At the same time, you’ll build the competencies necessary to find workable, human-centered solutions to the world’s most pressing and complex medical questions.

Three-credit-hour elective courses include:

- Health and Health Care: A Comparative Perspective: **Costa Rica** and the United States
- Bioethics: Comparison in Bioethics, Spanish and American Perspectives on Health, Wellness, Medicine, and Culture in **Spain**
- Environmental Ethics and Human Health Set in the **U.S. National Parks**
- Culture and Bioethics in **France**
- Death, Dying and Euthanasia: The **Netherlands** & the **USA**
- Leading Changes in Health: Bioethics and Positive Leadership in **Birmingham, England**



Alumni Around the World

Our alumni are trailblazers—pursuing diverse, innovative careers thanks to their CWRU education. And their vast experiences—from medicine and nursing to social work, law, nonprofit leadership and more—prove there is no limit to the career paths you can pursue after earning your degree. We also have alumni who live and work in almost every state across the country and every continent around the world.

What our Alumni Do Next

Research associate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Biological Engineering

PhD student in cognition and cognitive neuroscience at University of Michigan

PhD student in bioethics and health humanities at University of Texas Medical Branch–Galveston

Graduate student in global medicine at University of Southern California’s Keck School of Medicine

Case manager at the behavioral therapy clinic
Creating Brighter Futures

Health policy lobbyist at the Health and Medicine Counsel

Research coordinator for Mayo Clinic’s biomedical ethics program

Business analyst for healthcare technology and services firm Quadax Inc.

Software designer helping genetic labs enter new markets

Graduate student in Islamic studies and humanities at the Institute of Ismaili Studies

Pediatric resident at The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Labor lawyer with the National Labor Relations Board

Research assistant and PhD candidate at the Institute for Biomedical Ethics at University of Basel

Project manager at electronic health records firm Epic

Clinical social worker at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas’ heart center

Resident in internal medicine at New Orleans’ Charity Hospital

A New Class of Humanists and Bioethicists

Each year, we welcome 40 to 50 new students as part of our incoming class. We are intentional about building a community that can be collaboratively competitive, academically diverse and intellectually curious. Check out our stats for an average incoming class to picture how you would fit in on our campus.

Undergraduate majors include:

Biochemistry
Bioethics and Medical Humanities
Biology
Biomedical Sciences
Cellular Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Cognitive Science
Economics
Exercise Science
French
Genetic Counseling
Health Sciences
Hispanic Studies
International Studies
Medical Anthropology
Medical Sciences
Molecular Biology
Music
Neurosciences
Nursing
Nursing Education
Nutrition
Philosophy
Political Science
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish
Urban Health

3.7

Average undergraduate GPA

10%

International students from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Colombia, France, Iran and the Philippines

52%

students identify as URM



Help Our Department; Help Fund Your Future

When applying to the program, you can also submit your application for a Student Assistantship. These need- and merit-based positions provide recipients with partial tuition waivers of up to \$12,000. As a student assistant in the Department of Bioethics, you could have a role in:

- 1 Teaching:** Partner with faculty to lead small group discussions, meet with students, grade assignments or even guest lecture for our undergrad courses.
- 2 Research:** Jump into an ongoing project or dive into a new one with faculty or staff through brainstorming, literature reviews, transcribing, coding, writing or presenting findings.
- 3 Administration:** Connect with faculty and staff in myriad activities, from being a program ambassador to helping expand our department's reach beyond our campus.

To be eligible, you must apply to our program before May 15 and submit your separate assistantship application by June 1.

Financing Your Education

There are many different ways you can fund your studies. From **scholarships** and **work-study**, CWRU's Office of Financial Aid has experts who can help you better understand the options available. If you are accepted into the master's program, you can apply for financial aid by submitting the **FAFSA**. The application is used to help determine your financial aid eligibility. Our university's Office of Financial Aid administers all financial aid and has comprehensive information for graduate students on its website.

case.edu/financialaid

About Case Western Reserve University

A member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), Case Western Reserve is an urban research university distinguished for its excellence across a range of disciplines and approaches. The university is considered:



Case Western Reserve is also home to the **Dittrick Medical History Center** and sits within **University Circle**, a one-square-mile district that features the **Cleveland Museum of Art**, **Cleveland Museum of Natural History**, **Cleveland Orchestra** and Uptown—a dining, retail and residential development that has won high praise from *The New York Times*, among other media.



“I wanted a secondary degree to explore my interests as an aspiring physician, scientist and advocate for my patients. ... Experiential learning is quite helpful in solidifying the knowledge in lecture and discussion with my peers, who are of all ages, backgrounds, and drives that brought us together to learn bioethics and medical humanities.”

– Brandon Lee '21

“I chose this program because I was interested in learning about bioethics. I had not taken a bioethics course in undergrad, so it was a little bit daunting to apply for a master’s, but the program had so much to offer. The field of bioethics raises some tough questions and brings to light things like patient autonomy, and I wanted to be prepared to answer these questions in my future career in medicine.”

– Shreyaa Mukund '22

About Cleveland

Fewer than 5 miles from Case Western Reserve’s campus is Cleveland’s bustling downtown, complete with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, renowned restaurants, major league teams, and Playhouse Square, the nation’s No. 1 arts district, according to *USA Today*. Nearby, there’s also Lake Erie and access to a 24,000-acre public park system.

Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine is affiliated with **Cleveland Clinic**, **Louis Stokes VA Medical Center**, **University Hospitals** and **MetroHealth Medical Center** (a county hospital). The first three are within walking distance, while MetroHealth is just a 15-minute drive. The school ranked No. 22 in annual National Institutes of Health funding in 2020 by Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research.





Application Details

Our alumni are trailblazers—pursuing diverse, innovative careers thanks to their CWRU education. And their vast experiences—from medicine and nursing to social work, law, nonprofit leadership and more—prove there is no limit to the career paths you can pursue after earning your degree.

How to Apply

When submitting your online application, available at applygrad.case.edu/apply, you'll need to prepare the following materials:

- Transcripts
- Resume/CV
- Letters of Recommendation (2)
- Statement of Purpose
- \$85 Application Fee
- Test scores (optional)

*For international students where English is not a primary language or who did not attend an English-speaking higher education institution, please submit the results of your English proficiency exam (IELTS, TOEFL or PTE). Find more information on our website. We recommend applying by March 1.

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Request more information

We'd love to discuss how our program can help you find your fit within the field of bioethics and medical humanities. Please get in touch by emailing bioethics@case.edu.

case.edu/bioethics



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