Am I prepared to deal with the ethical complexities of my chosen field?

Our society faces significant bioethical challenges in this era of globalization and rapid biomedical discovery. Stem cell research and utilization, artificial reproductive technologies, the ongoing need for human subjects’ protection, the role of corporate sponsorship in research, and the fragmented economic infrastructure of health care delivery are only a few of the more vexing challenges that face us as we move into the twenty-first century. Society will turn to healthcare professionals, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry leaders, life science researchers, civic leaders, and others to lead the ongoing public deliberation on these important topics.

Should I enroll in the Master of Arts in Bioethics program?

Emory’s MA in Bioethics program provides rigorous, advanced, interdisciplinary study in bioethics for professionals and students interested in social and ethical challenges in medicine and the life sciences. Graduates will be able to help advance the national conversation on important issues influencing public policy, scholarship, clinical practice, and education in the field.

How can a Master of Arts in Bioethics enrich my career?

This Masters degree can complement any advanced degree in the life sciences and medical fields, as well as degrees in law, theology and business. Many graduates have found that a MA in Bioethics broadens their expertise and helps create unique opportunities in their profession, whether in clinical care or research, law or business, NGOs or the academy.

The Emory Center for Ethics, which administers this program, is an international leader in the exploration of ethics and is dedicated to exploring how ethical issues underlie the decisions that shape our minds, lives and society.
The Emory Distinction
Consistently ranked in the top 20 among national universities, Emory University is renowned for its outstanding liberal arts college and superb professional schools, for its national and international partnerships and collaborations, and as one of the Southeast’s leading health care systems. Emory’s Master of Arts in Bioethics program emphasizes our university’s commitment to ethical thinking and action. With its complementary strengths in the health sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities, Emory offers a unique opportunity for its faculty, students and graduates to be at the forefront in bioethics education and research.

The Center for Ethics
The Center for Ethics is in the unique position to offer a truly interdisciplinary focus. As an independent, university-wide program, the Center includes faculty from every school in the university and fosters education and scholarship across the university. Center faculty are leaders in the field of bioethics, sit on major national commissions and Boards, are editors of premier journals, and are involved in multisite grants and collaborative projects with other universities and institutions nationwide and internationally. The Emory Center for Ethics, which administers this program, is an international leader in the exploration of ethics and is dedicated to exploring how ethical issues underlie the decisions that shape our minds, lives and society.

What sets our program apart:
Three areas of specialization make the Emory MA in Bioethics a unique opportunity for students.

NEUROETHICS: Emory University, a world leader in neuroscience research, is also a world leader in the ethical and social implications of neuroscience. The Center for Ethics is home to Emory’s neuroethics program, which includes teaching in the graduate neuroscience program, research with top neuroscientists, and an annual Neuroscience and Ethics Award and lecture. The Center is also the home to the American Journal of Bioethics Neuroscience, the premier journal in the field of neuroethics and the official journal of the Neuroethics Society.

PUBLIC HEALTH ETHICS: With our partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as the work in which faculty are engaged throughout the region, students in Emory’s MA in Bioethics Program have the opportunity to confront some of the most pressing ethical challenges facing today’s public health workforce. Students may have an opportunity to participate in public policy development, revision, or implementation, and may have the opportunity to work directly with partners at the CDC for their practicum and/or capstone experience.

UNIQUE CLINICAL ETHICS OPPORTUNITIES: There are a multitude of clinical ethics opportunities in Atlanta, but particularly noteworthy is Grady Health System in mid-town Atlanta. As one of the largest public hospitals and busiest emergency rooms in the country, students interested in clinical ethics will have an invaluable opportunity to explore the ethical challenges that arise in the care of patients at the only Level 1 Trauma Center within a 100-mile radius.
The Master of Arts in Bioethics degree immerses students in a sea of provocative ethical questions generated by advances in health care, science and technology, and encourages students to engage creatively with the issues in order to derive their own conclusions.

A curriculum as deep and diverse as its applications.

The MA in Bioethics requires a total of 30 credits including 18 credits of required bioethics courses and 12 credits of elective courses.

Required courses:
- Bioethics foundations courses (9 credits) – Three core courses which provide foundational material in the field of bioethics.
- Bioethics seminar (2 credits) – A one credit class, taken twice, that develops students' critical thinking skills through interdisciplinary discussion and critical engagement with contemporary issues in bioethics.
- Bioethics practicum (4 credits) – An experiential course which provides an opportunity to observe or participate in real-life bioethics settings.
- Capstone (3 credits) – A course emphasizing a particular project in the field of bioethics.

Elective courses (12 credits) – Classes are chosen from existing, pre-approved classes in a variety of related disciplinary fields and professional schools at Emory, or as an approved independent study. The goal of elective courses is to allow the student to broaden their understanding of bioethics by drawing from the rich multidisciplinary environment at Emory and engaging in focused work in an area of interest to the individual student.

Part-time or full-time study available

FULL TIME STUDY: Students can complete the MA in Bioethics in 12 months (fall, spring, and summer terms). This option may be particularly attractive to students who plan to pursue doctoral or professional degrees in related fields.

PART-TIME STUDY: Part-time students can take as few as one class each semester, which would put them on track to graduate in approximately three years. This option may be particularly attractive to full time professionals who desire career enhancement but have time constraints that limit their availability to take courses.
Program Requirements
All students must have a degree from an accredited four-year college or university before beginning the program. Additionally, most entering students will have also acquired an advanced degree in a related discipline, such as medicine, nursing, law, business, public health, or theology. Many students will be practicing professionals who have interest or experience in bioethics and who wish to integrate the MA in Bioethics into their career plan. Some students will combine graduate work in Bioethics with their professional education.

Applicants understand that the MA in Bioethics is not considered a final degree or one granting entry into the profession.

Dual Degrees
MA IN BIOETHICS/MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (MTS): A dual MA in Bioethics/MTS is offered in conjunction with the Candler School of Theology. The purpose of the program is to train a small number of elite students to pursue careers in faith-based organizations, to teach at secondary schools, or to pursue advanced studies in bioethics and moral theology. This degree allows the student to earn both the MTS and MA in Bioethics in two years rather than in the usual three. Candidates for the dual degree program must apply to and be accepted by both Candler and Laney.

Application Requirements
Applicants for the MA in Bioethics must include the following with their application to the Laney Graduate School:

- A personal statement that describes the student’s interest in bioethics and goals for obtaining the MA degree;
- A curriculum vitae;
- A writing sample;
- GRE scores from the last 5 years, except in the case of career professionals with advanced degrees who may submit an example of professional writing instead (with permission of the Director of Graduate Studies);
- TOEFL scores from the last 5 years for international applicants.

Contact
For more information about our program of study, please visit our website at ethics.emory.edu and explore the links to information about admissions, courses, research and more.

For further insight, please contact:
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