

# MASTER OF BIOETHICS (MBE)

## About

From the ethics of food production to stem cell research, the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics (<https://bioethics.jhu.edu/about/what-we-do/>) is guiding the conversation about some of the most complex moral and policy issues affecting the health and well-being of people worldwide.

## Programs

Master of Bioethics (<https://bioethics.jhu.edu/education-training/master-of-bioethics/>) (MBE)

Offered in collaboration with the School of Public Health, the MBE is an innovative, interdisciplinary and cross-divisional graduate program that prepares students from diverse backgrounds to investigate and address the bioethics challenges of professional and civic life. The program combines approaches from science and technology, the humanities and arts, and public health and medicine.

Bioethics Certificate Program (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/certificates/bioethics/>)

Offers focused academic training in specific areas of bioethics and public health. Designed to appeal to:

- Current Johns Hopkins graduate degree students desiring specialization in particular topic areas
- Individuals seeking to learn more about specific areas of public health.

The Berman Institute's Bioethics Certificate Program is geared toward current JHU graduate students, non-degree-seeking students as well as a broader audience.

Summer Institute (<https://bioethics.jhu.edu/education-training/training/summer-institute-in-bioethics/>)

Explore the fascinating interdisciplinary world of bioethics in an interactive, intensive week-long summer institute. Leading bioethics faculty cover both theory and practical application for fields including public health, the life sciences, medicine, nursing, and law. Prior coursework or experience in bioethics is not required. For more information about the Summer Institute in Bioethics,

Please view our course site (<https://bioethics.jhu.edu/education-training/training/summer-institute-in-bioethics/>) or contact or Penny White (<https://bioethics.jhu.edu/people/profile/penny-white/>), Academic Program Administrator at (410) 614-5580.

## Curriculum

The program requires successful completion of a minimum of 64 term credits, including a thesis seminar, and a practicum option. Upon matriculation, each student charts a program of study to meet individual goals.

Full-time students typically complete the degree over four 8-week academic terms plus a few credits during the summer. Part-time students must complete program requirements within four years.

In addition to formal coursework, practicum, and thesis, all students will participate in a variety of supplemental seminars in bioethics, such as the

Berman Institute Noontime Seminar Series (<https://bioethics.jhu.edu/news-events/events/seminar-series/>), Robert H. Levi Symposium, Shallenberger Lecture in Ethics, and the Sheila Hutzler-Rives Memorial Lecture in Palliative Care. These events allow students to interact with a broad network of national and international leaders in bioethics.

## Courses

Course location and modality is found on the BSPH website (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/academics/course-directory/coursesection-numbers-explained/>).

PH.700.601 Foundations of Bioethics with Anne Barnhill (<https://bioethics.jhu.edu/people/profile/anne-barnhill/>) PhD (<https://bioethics.jhu.edu/people/profile/anne-barnhill/>) and BI Core Faculty Offers an introduction to central approaches and issues in bioethics. Includes a discussion of the history of the field and the issues that led to its birth and growth internationally. Introduces philosophical, empirical and non-empirical approaches to bioethics and core ethical issues in clinical care, public health, science and research. Provides a foundation for future study in bioethics.

PH.700.602 Hot Topics in Bioethics with Travis Rieder, PhD (<https://bioethics.jhu.edu/people/profile/travis-rieder/>) and BI Core Faculty Offers a continuation of the exploration of ethical theory and its use in bioethics begun in "Introduction to Ethical Theory". Utilizes the conceptual and methodological tools from "Ethical Theory" in analyzing topics and cases currently being discussed in bioethics. Although topics change from year to year, common themes include: discussion of legal changes concerning end of life; the ethics of new reproductive technologies; ethical challenges concerning genome-editing technologies; and global ethical challenges such as climate change and resource allocation.

PH.700.603 Introduction to Ethical Theory with Travis Rieder, PhD Explores the relationship between philosophical ethical theory and the practical world of bioethics. In particular, examines the classical accounts of moral obligation and virtue in the context of a variety of contemporary bioethical problems. Further presents the distinction between individual bioethics and collective bioethics, with the goal of determining how the theoretical grounding for these fields differ. The motivating questions are both methodological and substantive: First, how does theory contribute to bioethical investigations? And second, does reflection on ethical theory tell us what to do concerning particular, bioethical problems?

## Expected Courses

To gain a comprehensive view of bioethics, students are expected to take a range of courses during their time at Johns Hopkins. Some of the courses relevant to MBE course of study include:

- Bioethics, Human Rights, and Global Health
- Bioethics and the Law
- Ethics, Policy, and Emerging Biomedical Technologies
- Food Ethics
- Germs, Genes, Patients, & Populations
- Justice Theory and Health
- Understanding Addiction - Philosophy, Science, Ethics
- Vulnerability in Childhood: From Ethics to Advocacy

## **Focused on the Future**

As a graduate of the MBE program, students will be equipped to drive the responsible pursuit of new knowledge and will be prepared to help develop new tools to consider society's thorniest issues through a cross-disciplinary lens.

Advances in health care and scientific research benefit people around the world. From the first ventilator to the first vaccine, scientific and technological discoveries have prolonged life and alleviated human suffering while advancing health-related knowledge. However, such advancements often present challenging ethical questions for individuals and society related to appropriate use, access, safety, rights and obligations.

The MBE program prepares students to make meaningful contributions at the intersection of health sciences and societal impact.