

BIOETHICS

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The interdisciplinary minor in bioethics encompasses work in the fields of biology, natural science, philosophy, sociology, and theology. It enables students to study topics in which the life sciences and ethics converge, such as biological and chemical weapons, human stem cell research, global warming, human and animal experimentation, pollution, genetic screening and gene therapy, and human population growth.

The bioethics minor helps prepare students for a range of future careers, or for advanced study in ministry, the health professions, the sciences, teaching, law, journalism, research, government, and social work. For many students, the study of bioethics not only deepens their understanding of science and its impact on human life, but also strengthens their ability to think broadly and critically. Students are able to use their knowledge of ethics and the social sciences to better understand and assess the implications of science and technology.



Picturesque Lake Shore Campus, situated on the shore of Lake Michigan and located on Chicago's North Side, is home to more than 3,400 undergraduate resident students.

THE MINOR

Why study bioethics?

Bioethics, which examines the ethical implications of science, addresses many of the issues that have—or will have—a major impact on individuals and on our society. Some of the many important questions raised by bioethicists include:

- Who should be screened for genetic diseases, and how should we make use of the genetic information we collect?
- What are the biological and philosophical underpinnings of our conceptions of race, gender, and sexual orientation, and how should we use these concepts?
- Can an understanding of issues such as global warming, pollution, and habitat destruction help us to understand the relationship between human beings and the natural world?
- What are the ends and goals of medicine and what does it mean to be a health care professional?
- What are some of the ways that philosophers and theologians define “personhood” and why is this concept important to bioethics?
- Should global inequalities and the needs of people around the world affect U.S. policies related to technology, science, the environment, and health care?



BIOETHICS

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Requirements

The minor in bioethics requires at least seven courses completed with a grade of "C" or better. The science requirement is satisfied by four courses in biology or three courses in natural science. The ethics requirement is satisfied by completing three courses in philosophy, theology, or sociology. At least one of the three ethics courses must be a 300-level course. Finally, one interdisciplinary course is required (Bioethics, BIET 395). See below for detailed information about which specific courses satisfy these requirements. Minors also must complete an "Intent to Declare" form and submit it to their dean.

SCIENCE REQUIREMENT

Students will choose one of the following areas to fulfill the science requirement.

Biology (BIOL) (all four)

BIOL 101, 102, 111, and 112

Life Sciences (any three)

Anthropology (ANTH) **101, 103, 104**

Natural Science (NTSC) **103, 104, 109, 273, 281, 282**

Environmental Studies Program (ESP) **104**

Environmental Science (ENVS) **273, 281, 282**

ETHICS REQUIREMENT

All sections of the following courses count for the minor:

BIET 164 Health Care Ethics—Civic Engagement

Philosophy (PHIL)

PHIL 184 Health Care Ethics

PHIL 187 Environmental Ethics

PHIL 369 Philosophy of Medicine

Theology (THEO)

THEO 182 Moral Problems: Medical Issues

THEO 184 Moral Problems: Ecology Crisis

THEO 342 Perspectives on Life and Death

THEO 343 Contemporary Christian Sexuality

THEO 344 Theology and Ecology
(Environmental Studies, ESP 344)

THEO 478 Issues in Medical Ethics

The following courses count for the minor if the specific topic treated relates to bioethics:

PHIL 183 Contemporary Ethical Issues

PHIL 324 Topics in Ethics

PHIL 389 Contemporary Issues

PHIL 398 Seminar in Contemporary Philosophy

THEO 180 Theology and Interdisciplinary Study

THEO 192 Moral Problems

THEO 393 Religion and Ecology (ESP 398)

THEO 480 Seminar in Christian Ethics: Religious Ethics and Ecology or Sexuality

THEO 481 Special Topics in Ethics

Note that 400-level courses may be taken only with special permission and preparation.

Only one of the following sociology courses counts for the minor:

Sociology (SOCL)

SOCL 126* Science, Technology, and Society

SOCL 225 Sociology of Health Care

SOCL 270* Sociology of Science

SOCL 272 Environmental Sociology (ESP 272)

**These courses count only when they address topics in bioethics.*

INTERDISCIPLINARY REQUIREMENT

The prerequisites for this capstone course are the completion of two of the required science courses and two of the required ethics courses.

BIET 395 Special Topics (for example, Biotechnologies and Bioethics; Biology and Philosophy of Women; Ethics of Reproduction and Reproductive Technologies; Environmental Ethics)

CONTACT US

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Minor

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Information in this brochure is correct as of July 2011.

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