

HEALTH CARE ETHICS, PH.D. AND THEOLOGY, M.A. DUAL DEGREE (AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY)

Students pursuing both a Ph.D. in health care ethics and M.A. in theology at Saint Louis University typically begin their Master of Arts in Theology studies at Aquinas Institute of Theology. In year one, students will complete 30 credits of 36 credits required for the M.A. from Aquinas:

- Biblical studies (six credits)
- Historical studies (three credits)
- Systematic theology (12 credits)
- Moral theology (nine credits)

During the second year, students enter the health care ethics Ph.D. program at SLU and follow the Ph.D. curriculum for students who already hold master’s degrees. In year two, dual-degree students also become eligible for assistantship funding. Aquinas Institute of Theology will count six credits from the Ph.D. coursework completed in year two toward completion of the M.A.

For additional information, see the catalog entries for the following programs:

Theology, M.A. (Aquinas Institute of Theology) (<https://www.ai.edu/MA-PhD/>)

Health Care Ethics, Ph.D. (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/health-care-ethics/health-care-ethics-phd/>)

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate a broad knowledge of the foundational disciplines, methods, topics and issues in health care ethics required for scholarly analysis of issues in the field.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate proficiency in formulating original, normative arguments on topics related to health care ethics.
3. Graduates will be able to demonstrate proficiency in applying interdisciplinary theoretical approaches to answer ethical questions in real-life health care contexts.
4. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to conceptualize, develop and bring to successful completion an original, sustained and coherent independent research project that contributes to the field (i.e. the dissertation).
5. Graduates will be able to demonstrate an ability to generate appropriate job search materials (i.e. curriculum vitae, teaching portfolio, writing sample, etc.).

Requirements

The following Ph.D. courses may be used to fulfill the final six credits toward the M.A.:

- HCE 6020 Methods in Religious Ethics (3 cr) or HCE 6310 Health Care Ethics: Catholic Tradition (3 cr) [Dual-degree students must enroll in both of these courses during their time in the Ph.D. program. Completion of 1 of the courses is required for completion of the M.A. These courses are offered in alternating spring semesters. Therefore,

- students will complete only one of them in Year 2 of the dual degree program.]
- A 3-credit elective in HCE
- A total of 6 credits taken toward the M.A. at AIT will count toward the fulfillment of the Elective requirements in the Ph.D. program.

Two of the following M.A. courses may be treated as Electives for the Ph.D.:

- Justice and Catholic Social Teaching
- Ethics of Human Sexuality
- Christian Anthropology

After the end of year two and completion of the major paper and comprehensive exams required for the M.A. degree, students are awarded the M.A. in Theology from Aquinas Institute of Theology. The timing for completion of the major paper and the comprehensive exams is to be determined in consultation with the M.A. advisor at Aquinas Institute of Theology.

In year three, students begin the coursework required for the Ph.D.

Joint Ph.D. students are also required to demonstrate reading comprehension of French, German or another language with the consent of joint program faculty. This can be satisfied by previous coursework, an exam or by taking additional graduate-level language courses.

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student’s academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an “!” are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
HCE 6040	Interdisciplinary Research in Health Care Ethics ¹	3
BIBD 502	Biblical Interpretation (AI)	3
HSTD 500	Church History I (AI)	3
MARD 596	Orientation (AI)	0
STHD 503	Introduction to Theology and Theological Method (AI)	3
Credits		12
Spring		
HCE 6130	Clinical Ethics	3
STHD 520	Christology (AI)	3

MORD 500	Foundations of Catholic Morality (AI)	3
BIBD 5XX	Scripture Elective (AI)	3
Credits		12
Year Two		
Fall		
HCE 6010	Methods in Philosophical Ethics	3
HCE 6020	Methods in Religious Ethics	3
STHD 532	Ecclesiology (AI)	3
MORD 528	Justice and Catholic Social Teaching (AI)	3
Credits		12
Spring		
HCE 5XXX/6XXX	Graduate Course	3
MORD 571	Ethics of Human Sexuality (AI)	3
STHD 516	Christian Anthropology (AI)	3
Credits		9
Year Three		
Fall		
HCE 6310	Health Care Ethics: Catholic Tradition	3
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	1
HCE 6110	Intro-Medicine for Ethicists	1
Credits		5
Spring		
HCE 6150	Practicum, Health Care Ethics	2
HCE 6120 or LAW 8005	Bioethics and the Law or Bioethics and the Law	2
HCE 6xxx	Elective chosen with counseling of PhD program director	3
Credits		7
Year Four		
Fall		
Comprehensive Exams (Written exam and oral exam)		0
THEO 6990	Dissertation Research	6
Credits		6
Spring		
HCE 6990	Dissertation Research	6
Credits		6
Total Credits		69

¹ Take the "Consuming Empirical Literature" exam the first day of class.

² Take the "Medical Terminology" exam the first day of class.

³ An introduction to graduate-level database and library search skills, taught by library faculty.

⁴ Complete the clinical shadowing eligibility requirements prior to beginning of class.

⁵ Elective must be approved by theology/HCE joint faculty.

Contact Us

For additional information about the health care ethics program, contact hce_info@slu.edu or call 314-977-1060.