

# MASTER OF ARTS IN BIOETHICS

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WAKE FOREST GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## WHERE THEORY MEETS PRACTICE

*Engaging the Ethics of Clinical Care, Biomedical Research,  
and Health Policy and Administration*



WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY

## WHAT IS BIOETHICS?

Bioethics is a field of scholarly endeavor that addresses ethical and policy issues raised by the life sciences and their human applications. It reaches from the laboratory to health care delivery to industry and government, affecting not only individuals but also the wider society. Bioethics is thus broadly interdisciplinary—both a theoretical enterprise and a practical competence.



“This is definitely where I’m meant to be. I feel rejuvenated and I’m betting on this new-found direction to keep me healthy and vital. This is not a small investment ... it’s an investment in my life.”

– Deb Love, JD, MBA, MA in Bioethics

## WHERE DO BIOETHICAL ISSUES ARISE?

Though bioethical issues occur in multiple arenas, MA in Bioethics students generally focus on the following areas of professional engagement:

### Clinical Care

Clinical practitioners encounter ethical concerns daily, including those surrounding the beginning and end of life; privacy and confidentiality; decision making by patients, families, and surrogates; and many more. These and other clinical and organizational topics are the focus of hospital ethics committees and ethics consultation services.



### Biomedical Research

Professionals engaged in the design, conduct, funding, and oversight of clinical, translational, and laboratory research regularly address ethical issues. Questions arise about research with human subjects, genetic research and biobanking, international research, animal and other preclinical research, and many other areas.



### Policy and Administration

Lawyers, administrators, public health officials and researchers, and policy-makers increasingly recognize the need to grapple with the moral dimensions of health care policy: equity and access, rationing and triage, medical insurance and malpractice, financing and regulation, health care system reform, and much more.



The Master of Arts in Bioethics emphasizes clinical ethics, research ethics, and health policy and administration.



## WHY GRADUATE EDUCATION IN BIOETHICS?

The increasing ubiquity and complexity of bioethical issues calls for the development of professionals who are grounded in theory and competent in practice. The Master of Arts in Bioethics equips graduates to practice, teach, and conduct research about bioethics, and is an excellent complement to other advanced degrees.

People already employed in health-related fields have found that the master's degree or graduate certificate enhances their careers by creating opportunities within their professions or allowing them to branch out into other areas. For graduates entering the workforce, graduate-level education in bioethics is relevant to a variety of jobs, including health administration, clinical care and research, law, and public policy.

"I was fascinated just by the array of issues that were out there. There are not just two sides, but three, four sides, five sides to every conflict, and I think you learn to appreciate these different points of view."

– Gerardo Maradiaga, BA, MA in Bioethics Student



## WHY BIOETHICS EDUCATION AT WAKE FOREST?

### Small in Size, Big in Resources

Wake Forest University is a top-tier liberal arts college coupled with highly ranked professional schools in medicine, law, divinity, and business. It has a national focus and a strong sense of

ethics and public mission. Bioethics is necessarily collaborative and interdisciplinary, forming natural bridges among the sciences, the humanities, and the professions. Wake Forest University's unique scale and composition and its highly collegial atmosphere create an ideal environment for students of bioethics to flourish.



## PROGRAM VISION – “WHERE THEORY MEETS PRACTICE”

The goal of bioethics graduate education at Wake Forest is INFORMED PRAXIS – our students stand at the confluence of theory and practice, capable of synthesizing the two to help foster thoughtful decision-making and improved performance and outcomes in clinical care, biomedical research, and health policy and administration.

Students can gain valuable practical experience in bioethics in a variety of ways. They can assist with educational and research projects undertaken by the **Center for Bioethics, Health & Society**. Students may also participate in practicum experiences, including observation in a variety of research and clinical settings.

## PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

### Customizable

Small class sizes and versatile curricular and research options enable students to tailor the program to individual interests and passions.

### Flexible

Evening and once-a-week classes and a number of different enrollment options ensure that the program can change with a student’s evolving needs.

### Personal

Our intentionally small program emphasizes face-to-face interaction, promotes essential scholarly and interpersonal communicative capabilities, and fosters close relationships among students and faculty.



Learn more about the  
Center for Bioethics,  
Health & Society at  
[www.wfu.edu/bioethics](http://www.wfu.edu/bioethics).



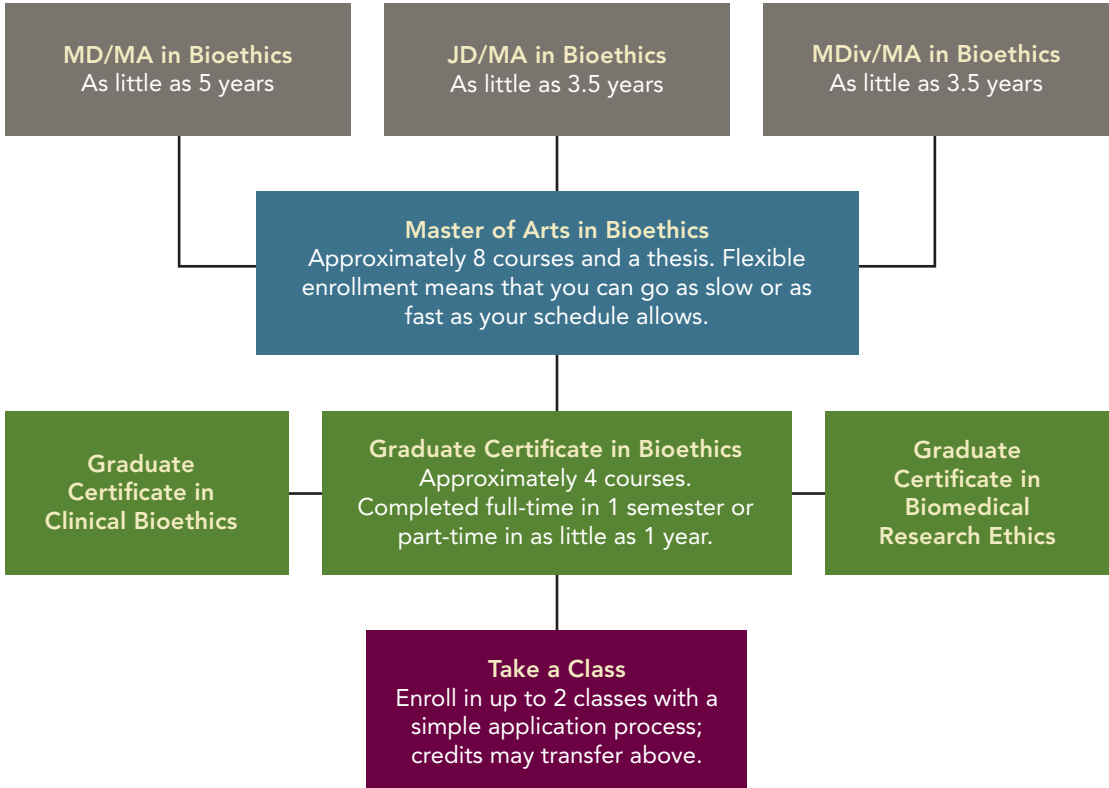
## DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE OPPORTUNITIES

**The Master of Arts in Bioethics** is a 30 credit-hour program that requires 24 hours of course work plus 6 hours of thesis work. Part-time students have up to 6 years to complete the degree. Full-time students typically complete coursework in 2 semesters and the thesis on- or off-site by the end of the following semester. After their first semester, full-time students can request permission to follow an accelerated schedule that allows for completion of the degree in 1 calendar year.

### Joint Degrees

- **The MD/MA in Bioethics**, in conjunction with the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, prepares students to engage bioethical issues in clinical practice and research.
- **The JD/MA in Bioethics**, in partnership with the Wake Forest University School of Law, is excellent preparation for work in health law and policy.
- **The MDiv/MA in Bioethics**, co-sponsored with the Wake Forest University School of Divinity, enriches the backgrounds of students who want to pursue careers related to bioethics or ministry.

**The Graduate Certificate in Bioethics** provides basic knowledge and skills to enhance health-related employment. The certificate requires 12 credit hours of course work, including at least 9 hours of required courses. There is no standardized test requirement for admission. In addition to the general program, students may specialize in either Clinical Bioethics or Biomedical Research Ethics.





## CURRICULUM

### Required Courses

Degree-seeking students are required to take a bioethics theory course and 2 of 3 core courses: Clinical Ethics; Biomedical Research Ethics; and Public Policy, Medicine, and Justice. MA students may complete a traditional thesis or choose from a variety of nontraditional thesis options.

### Elective Courses

Electives include courses on ethics and health communication, current topics in bioethics, and legal, religious, and global perspectives. Independent study is also available. Courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening to accommodate working professionals. Many courses are case-driven and emphasize student discussion and presentations. For a current course listing, see [www.wfu.edu/bioethics](http://www.wfu.edu/bioethics).

## FACULTY

Faculty are drawn from several schools of Wake Forest University, including Medicine, Law, Divinity, and the College of Arts & Sciences. Adjunct faculty include nationally recognized scholars and teachers of bioethics at other area institutions. For a complete faculty listing, see [www.wfu.edu/bioethics](http://www.wfu.edu/bioethics).



“One of the things that I really enjoy about this program is the diversity of the students—people with professional and graduate degrees, undergraduate degrees, and people from diverse backgrounds, not only in education but in life.”

– Roger Cole, MD, MA in Bioethics Student



### Faculty Co-Directors

**Nancy M. P. King, JD**, Co-Director, Center for Bioethics, Health & Society; Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy, School of Medicine

**Mark A. Hall, JD**, Fred D. and Elizabeth L. Turnage Professor of Law; Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy, School of Medicine.



## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Our program attracts professionals and students of diverse backgrounds from varied academic and professional paths, including current and future health care providers, researchers in biomedicine and the life sciences, lawyers, and professionals in religion, health and research administration, and the biotechnology industry.

We welcome both part-time and full-time students. Financial support is available. Admissions procedures, including tuition and financial aid, are described at [www.wfu.edu/bioethics](http://www.wfu.edu/bioethics). Review of applications will begin on January 15 for fall enrollment and November 1 for spring enrollment. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis following these dates.

## CONTACT US

Visit [www.wfu.edu/bioethics](http://www.wfu.edu/bioethics).

To make any inquiry or schedule a visit, please contact:

**Brad J. Tharpe**, MDiv

*Associate Director, Master of Arts in Bioethics*

Division of Public Health Sciences | Wachovia Center, 13th Floor

Medical Center Boulevard | Winston-Salem, NC 27157

p 336.716.1499 | [bioethics@wfu.edu](mailto:bioethics@wfu.edu)

### WFU Bioethics Students come from the following fields:

- Administration
- Biotechnology
- Business
- Consulting
- Clinical Research
- Journalism
- Law
- Life Sciences
- Nursing
- Medicine
- Ministry
- Pharmaceutical Industry
- Physician Assistant Practice
- Public Health
- Public Service

### Take a Class

Enroll in a course without applying for a degree.

For more information, see [www.wfu.edu/bioethics](http://www.wfu.edu/bioethics).



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