

**Doctor of Medicine/Master of Arts in Bioethics Dual Degree Program**  
**Graduate School of Arts and Sciences**  
**School of Medicine**  
**Wake Forest University**

**Goal and Rationale**

The Wake Forest University School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences jointly offer a dual, five-year degree program, *Doctor of Medicine* and Master of Arts in Bioethics (MD/MA). The program's objective is to facilitate an interdisciplinary and comparative study of bioethics and medicine, and to encourage students whose academic or career interests require gaining competence in both disciplines. By allowing some graduate bioethics courses to count among the elective credits permitted within the MD curriculum, students are able to earn two advanced degrees in less time than it would take to earn the two degrees separately.

A dual degree program in bioethics and medicine signals the commitment of both the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to interdisciplinary collaboration and learning. By dividing their time between the Medical School and the Bioethics Program, students will benefit not only from an array of course offerings from both curricula, but also from the social and general intellectual life of both academic programs.

**Structure**

The joint degree program will save students a semester or a summer of enrollment by granting 8 fourth-year medical school credits for doing a research thesis relating to bioethics coursework, which also counts 6 hours of bioethics credit toward the MA degree. Students accepted to the program will spend four full years in medical school and two full semesters in the Bioethics program. The Bioethics semesters could come either after the second or third year of medical school. The Bioethics thesis will be completed during the 4<sup>th</sup> year of medical school, during two non-clinical elective rotations.

**Application Process**

Admission to the dual MD/MA program is a two-tiered process. Students interested in the program must first apply separately to the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and be accepted for admission by both schools. These applications do not need to be simultaneous, but students should indicate their intent to be considered for the dual degree program on their respective applications to the Medical School and the Graduate School. Alternatively, persons may submit a separate application to enroll in the dual degree program if already admitted to either School. In order to be considered eligible for admission, the MD/MA candidate must take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test is optional, however, and will be waived on request. Final decision about admission to the program will be made by a joint committee of the MD/MA program. Students should consult the prospectuses of both schools for information about tuition and financial assistance.

**Minimum Grade Requirements**

To continue in the program, students must remain in good academic standing under the minimum standards of each unit.

**List of Courses**

See *the Medical School Bulletin* for Medical School courses. The list is also available on the school's website: <http://www1.wfubmc.edu/school>

See the *Graduate School Bulletin* for courses in the Bioethics Program, which is also available on the program's website: [www.wfu.edu/bioethics](http://www.wfu.edu/bioethics)

**Faculty Representatives:**

Mark Hall, J.D., Bioethics Program

Pat Ober, M.D., School of Medicine