

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

Goal and Rationale

The Wake Forest University School of Divinity and the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences jointly offer a dual, three-and-a-half-year degree program, Master of Divinity/Master of Arts in Bioethics (Mdiv/MA). The program’s objective is to facilitate an interdisciplinary conversation between theology and bioethics and to provide resources for students whose vocational aims require knowledge and/or competence in both disciplines. By allowing some divinity courses to count as electives toward the MA degree, as well as allowing some graduate bioethics courses to count among the elective credits permitted within the MDiv curriculum, students are able to earn two advanced degrees in less time than it would take to earn the two degrees separately.

The rationale for the program is based on the premise that the goals of the University, as well as the academic and vocational goals of both fields of study, are enhanced by cross-disciplinary studies. A dual degree program in bioethics and divinity signals the commitment of both the School of Divinity and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to interdisciplinary collaboration and learning.

Structure

The joint degree program will save students up to a semester plus a summer of enrollment. A student typically will first complete 2 ½ years of work primarily in the Divinity School. The final two semesters will be completed in the Bioethics Program but with some electives taken in the Divinity School. A student will earn 72 credit hours from the MDiv program, 26 credit hours from the Bioethics program (including a 6-credit thesis requirement), and 4 elective credit hours from either program. In summary, students will complete a total of 102 credit hours in order to earn the dual degree. An outline of a typical MDiv/MA 7 semester schedule is shown below.

Typical Dual Degree Program Outline

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
<u>Year One</u>	Divinity (15 credit hours)	Divinity (15)
<u>Year Two</u>	Mainly Divinity (15)	Mainly Divinity (15)
<u>Year Three</u>	Mainly Divinity (15)	Mainly Bioethics (15)
<u>Year Four</u>	Bioethics (12)	

Application Process

Admission to the MDiv/MA program is a two-tiered process. Students interested in the program must apply separately to the School of Divinity 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 on each application their desire to be considered for the joint degree program. Alternatively, students may submit a separate application to enroll in the joint degree program if already admitted to either School. Applications will be reviewed separately by each program's admissions committee. Typically, students apply to the dual degree program by the time they complete one semester in either school. The Graduate Record Exam is typically required for application to the Bioethics Program, but can be waived under certain circumstances (<http://bioethics.wfu.edu/>). The School of Divinity recommends, but does not require, GRE scores. Final decision about admission to the program will be made by a joint committee of the MDiv/MA program. During five semesters of the program, students pay full-time Divinity tuition and are eligible for Divinity financial aid. For at least two additional semesters, students are enrolled in the Bioethics program through the Graduate School and pay Graduate School tuition. Divinity School financial aid is not available to students during these two semesters. A limited amount of aid may be available through the Bioethics program. Students should consult the prospectuses of both schools for information about tuition and financial assistance.

Governance

The student in the MDiv/MA program divides her or his time between the School of Divinity and the Bioethics Program and benefits not only from an array of course offerings from both curricula, but also from the social and general intellectual life of both academic programs. Every student in the joint program will be assigned a faculty advisor from each school with whom they are expected to meet regularly throughout the duration of the program. Students are required to follow the student handbook of the school through which he/she is enrolled.

List of Courses

- See the **School of Divinity Bulletin** for School of Divinity courses. The list is also available on the school's website: <http://www.wfu.edu/new/publications/academics/divinity2010-2011.pdf>
- See the **Graduate School Bulletin** for courses in the Bioethics Program, which is also available on the program's website: <http://bioethics.wfu.edu/graduate-degree-and-certificate-programs/course-offerings/>

Faculty Representatives

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