

**Doctor of Medicine/Master of Arts in Bioethics Joint 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 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. Students are able to earn two advanced degrees in less time than it would take to earn the two degrees separately.

A joint 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 because students will complete a research thesis relating to bioethics coursework (which counts as 6 hours of bioethics credit toward the MA degree) during the third and fourth years of medical school. Students accepted to the program will spend four full years in medical school and two full semesters in the Bioethics Program. The bioethics semesters come after the second year of medical school. Students will complete two semesters in the Bioethics Program from August-May, and then return to the School of Medicine to finish their third and fourth years.

**Application Process**

Admission to the joint 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. Application to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences should be made during a student's first year in the School of Medicine. 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 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.

**Curriculum/List of Courses**

The Medical School Curriculum is available on the school's website:

<http://www.wakehealth.edu/School/MD-Program/Our-Curriculum.htm>

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

**Faculty Representatives:**

Mark Hall, J.D., Nancy M. P. King, J.D., Bioethics Program Directors

Mary Claire O'Brien, School of Medicine, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs