

How Do I Apply?

To apply for a dual-title Ph.D. in Bioethics, you must first apply to the appropriate home department, which will depend upon your undergraduate training and your professional goals. We ask that you indicate on your application that you also wish to be considered for acceptance into the dual-title Ph.D. program in Bioethics.

Please consult the websites of the home departments for information on the application process and admission. Links to these websites are available at <http://bioethics.psu.edu>.

Once you are admitted by the home department, your application will be forwarded by that department to the Bioethics Graduate Committee, which reviews all applications. Students who have been admitted to Ph.D. programs at Penn State but did not apply for admission to the dual-title Ph.D. in Bioethics may apply for admission in their first year of graduate study at Penn State, and will be considered with the regular applicant pool.

If you have questions, please send an e-mail to bioethics@psu.edu.

This publication is available in alternative media format on request. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. U.Ed. LBA 12-55

Bioethics Program The Pennsylvania State University

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Bioethics Without Borders



ROCK
ethics
INSTITUTE

PROMOTING
ETHICS
EDUCATION

Dual-Title Ph.D. in Bioethics

Join the first interdisciplinary graduate
bioethics program of its kind



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Why a Dual-title Ph.D. Program?

There are more than twenty master's degree programs in bioethics in North America, but Penn State is the first institution to offer a dual-title Ph.D. program in bioethics. This provides students with an unparalleled opportunity to write an interdisciplinary dissertation that directly integrates research in bioethics with research in a primary discipline.

Interdisciplinary bioethics training

Students who earn this degree will join a new cadre of interdisciplinary bioethics scholars and practitioners. Successful graduates will be equipped to address the complex problems that society faces, and to engage with novel developments in biomedical research, professional practice, public health, and the environment, among other areas. They will also have the skills and knowledge to help address the serious social and ethical implications of these problems and the proposed solutions.

Creating novel opportunities

Graduates of the new dual-title Ph.D. program in bioethics will have a competitive advantage in the job market. Their interdisciplinary training will make them eligible for academic positions in their primary discipline and in centers for bioethics; they may also be suitable candidates for joint hires. In addition, their novel training will assist graduates when they apply for jobs in the private sector, or pursue grants to support their interdisciplinary research.



Our Dual-title Degrees

- *Anthropology and Bioethics*
- *Biobehavioral Health and Bioethics*
- *Communication Arts and Sciences, and Bioethics*

Students may apply and, if accepted, enroll now for any of these three dual-title Ph.D. programs. In the coming months, we will be adding new dual-title offerings in collaboration with other departments. For updates, please check our website at <http://bioethics.psu.edu>.

Our Graduate Faculty

We have more than thirty faculty from across the University representing a variety of disciplines including law, medicine, philosophy, anthropology, biobehavioral health, communication arts and sciences, literature, science studies, biochemistry and molecular biology, health policy, demography, sociology, psychology, nursing, neuroscience, women's studies, food science, and genetics.

Join Our Community

The Rock Ethics Institute sponsors a broad variety of events: lecture series, seminars, conferences, and symposia that bring our faculty and students together with experts from across the globe. Topics in recent years include neuroethics, food ethics, bioethics without borders, Islam and bioethics, and health and human rights. For forthcoming events, please visit the Rock Ethics Institute's website at <http://rockethics.psu.edu>.



Course Requirements

Students are required to take 18 course credits. There are three required courses:

- BIOET 501** Perspectives and Methods in Bioethics
- BIOET 502** Perspectives in Macro-Bioethics
- BIOET 590** Bioethics Colloquium

In addition, students will be required to take at least three additional BIOET credits at the 500 level. The range of course offerings will expand over time. Courses currently offered include:

- BIOET 503** Ethics and the Responsible Conduct of Biomedical Research
- BIOET 594** Research Topics
- BIOET 595** Internship
- BIOET 596** Individual Studies
- BIOET 597/8** Special Topics in Bioethics (e.g., neuroethics, food ethics, and global health ethics)

Further credits may also be obtained by participating in additional bioethics colloquia. Students may satisfy the remaining course requirements by taking courses from a list of more than forty electives offered across the University. Topics currently include health law, world health promotion, health communication theory, health education, and environmental ethics.

A small investment for a large return

Graduate students are expected to take another semester—a year at most—to fulfill the requirements for the dual-title degree. In some cases, it may be possible to obtain the dual title in the same time as a stand-alone degree in the primary discipline. Where extra time is needed to complete the dual title, additional funding may be available.