Urban Bioethics, M.A.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (http://www.temple.edu/medicine)

About the Program

Urban Bioethics is a new and growing field that points a critical lens on the extreme inequalities of health and access to medical, legal, and other resources that leave many urban dwellers and communities distinctly disadvantaged, disenfranchised, and vulnerable. With its abundance of academic medical centers, Philadelphia should be one of the healthiest cities in the nation—yet health disparities persist in the city at levels surpassing national averages. Health status is especially troubling in North Philadelphia, where a disproportionately high number of residents suffer from preventable and treatable health conditions—and many battle chronic illnesses without health insurance. The interdisciplinary membership of Temple University’s Center for Bioethics, Urban Health, and Policy (CBUHP) includes community residents, faculty, students, and staff representing numerous schools within Temple University and the Temple University Health System, all working to improve health status for vulnerable urban populations and to position Temple University as a nationally recognized expert in the field of urban health and bioethics.

CBUHP is committed to defining and addressing the ethical challenges of urban health care, public health status, and policy. The M.A. in Urban Bioethics, offered through CBUHP, trains students in the ethics and values of health, health care delivery, and health law and policy underlying the urban context of density, diversity, and inequalities. Coursework is practical, methodological, and theoretical. The degree is designed for Temple graduate students and area professionals who face, or will soon face, the complexities and disparities of urban health, and want specialized training in the ethics, values, and politics of health care in our increasingly multi-dimensionally diverse society.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 4 years

Campus Location: Health Sciences

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: The degree program can be completed on a full- or part-time basis.

Interdisciplinary Study: The degree is designed for Temple graduate students and area professionals who face, or will soon face, the complexities and disparities of urban health, and want specialized training in the ethics, values, and politics of health care in our increasingly multi-dimensionally diverse society. Dual-degree students can take advantage of the inherent interdisciplinary nature of a dual degree, while stand-alone M.A. students must take 15 credits of coursework from outside the School of Medicine.

Job Prospects: Students graduating with the M.A. in Urban Bioethics have the practical skills, including grant writing experience, and theoretical and methodological training to advance in their existing careers and compete more competitively for residencies, job placements, or other advanced graduate training programs.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Non-matriculated students may register for courses after an interview with the Director, at which time they should present academic transcripts. Credit toward a subsequent degree program at Temple University is limited to 9 credits.

Financing Opportunities: Limited support is available for M.A. students concurrently enrolled in the M.D. program.

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

Application Deadline:

Fall: March 1
Spring: November 1
Summer: June 1

Late applications may be considered for admission, even as late as up to two weeks prior to the term’s start date.

APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program.

Letters of Reference:

Number Required: 2-3

Students applying to the Urban Bioethics M.A. program must submit 3 letters of reference and original transcripts from all post-high school institutions attended. However, students already matriculated into a graduate program at Temple University who are applying for a dual degree may:

- upon permission of their recommenders and their home school, use their home school letters of recommendation for the Urban Bioethics M.A. application; and
- ask the Urban Bioethics program administrators to request a transcript from the home school.
From Whom: Letters of recommendation should be obtained from college/university faculty members familiar with your academic performance and/or from professional supervisors familiar with your professional experience, accomplishments, and potential for success in a graduate program.

Bachelor's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: While a baccalaureate degree is required for admission to the M.A. program, the major studied for the undergraduate degree is not specified.

Statement of Goals: Two to three double-spaced pages should address how you see the M.A. in Urban Bioethics as integral to your current educational goals and current/future career development.

Standardized Test Scores:

GRE: Required for applicants graduating from traditional undergraduate programs. Applicants for the dual degree and those already holding an advanced degree are not required to submit GRE scores. Other applicants should contact the Director of Education or the Program Coordinator for clarification about their need to submit GRE scores as part of the application.

TOEFL: 79 iBT or 550 PBT minimum

Program Requirements

General Program Requirements:
Number of Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate: 32

Required Courses:

Core Courses
UBTH 5001  Urban Bioethics 1 (Professional Students) 3
UBTH 5002  Urban Bioethics 2 (Professional Students) 3
UBTH 5022  2
UBTH 5023  2
UBTH 5031  The Values, Ethics, & Economics of Health Care Delivery in Urban Communities (Professional Students) 2
UBTH 5041  Critical Social Science and Urban Bioethics (Professional Students) 2
UBTH 9996  MA in Urban Bioethics Thesis (Graduate Students) 3

Electives 15

Total Credit Hours 32

Culminating Events:

Thesis:
The thesis should make a novel contribution to the field. Toward this end, the student conducts an original research project, empirical or non-empirical, and produces a publishable paper. The research is undertaken with guidance from an approved thesis advisor from the School of Medicine; the Center for Bioethics, Urban Health, and Policy; or a dual-degree student’s home department.

Contacts

Center Web Address:
http://www.temple.edu/centers/cbuhp/

Department Information:
Center for Bioethics, Urban Health, and Policy
School of Medicine
3440 N. Broad Street, Kresge Science Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19140
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215-707-7178

Mailing Address for Application Materials:
Graduate Division
School of Medicine
3500 N. Broad Street, MERB 1111 (556-00)
Philadelphia, PA 19140
Department Contacts:

Director of Education:
Dr. Nora Jones
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215-707-7178

Program Coordinator:
Dr. Matthew S. Lucas
matthew.lucas@temple.edu
215-707-9963

Courses

UBTH 5001. Urban Bioethics 1 (Professional Students). 3 Credit Hours.
In a seminar format, this course introduces students to the field of urban bioethics. Topics to be covered include: the history and theoretical foundations of bioethics; the role of values and ethics in health, health care, law, and policy; the role of values and ethics in understanding the social determinants of health and health disparities and inequities. The course features guest lectures from CBUHP faculty fellows. UBTH 5001 is the number of the course for MD, JD or other Professional students. UBTH 5101 is the number of the course for University Graduate Students.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Law, Medicine
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 5002. Urban Bioethics 2 (Professional Students). 3 Credit Hours.
In a seminar format, this course introduces students to the field of urban bioethics. Topics to be covered include: health policy, the ethics of research with vulnerable populations, clinical ethics, theories of cultural competency/humility, and critical epidemiology. The course features guest lectures from CBUHP faculty fellows. UBTH 5002 is the course number for Urban Bioethics 2 for MD, JD, and other Professional students. UBTH 5102 is the number of the course for other graduate students.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Law, Medicine
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 5021. Community Engagement (Professional Students). 4 Credit Hours.
This is a hands-on, community-based course that takes a holistic look at a community, analyzing both its strengths and challenges. Students will work in multidisciplinary teams and with a faculty advisor and community representative in different neighborhoods within the city of Philadelphia. Students will work in and with the community to learn how to identify the values underlying the community’s strengths and challenges, and then use that value-orientation to: perform a medical urban map, perform a needs assessment, analyze the bioethics dimensions and the social determinants of health and illness in the community, write a pretend grant to study health issues in the community, conduct oral histories with community members, and conduct photojournalism assignments, among other things.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Law, Medicine
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 5031. The Values, Ethics, & Economics of Health Care Delivery in Urban Communities (Professional Students). 2 Credit Hours.
This course focuses on the values, organization, funding, and logistics of community based health care delivery. Students will be introduced to the various agencies involved in urban health care deliver - FQHC, HRSA, NIH, and others. In addition, an introduction to grant writing in the area of urban bioethics and health delivery in urban communities will be provided.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Law, Medicine
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 5041. Critical Social Science and Urban Bioethics (Professional Students). 2 Credit Hours.
This course introduces students to the theories and methods of critical social science, such as critical medical anthropology (CMA). Students will gain an appreciation for the role and importance of political, religious, economic, and social lenses, and of understanding disease and illness as biocultural phenomena.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Law, Medicine
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 5082. Independent Study 1 (Professional Students). 3 Credit Hours.
Working in conjunction with an advisor, who upon approval can be from the Medical School, the CBUHP, or a dual-degree student’s home department, the student will craft and complete an independent study course on a topic/area of interest relevant to professional development. This is the first of two independent studies allowed for MA in Urban Bioethics credit. Please see the MA in Urban Bioethics Handbook for the most recent description of allowable approaches to the independent study.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Law, Medicine
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
UBTH 5101. Urban Bioethics 1 (Graduate Students). 3 Credit Hours.
In a seminar format, this course introduces students to the field of urban bioethics. Topics to be covered include: the history and theoretical foundations of bioethics; the role of values and ethics in health, health care, law, and policy; the role of values and ethics in understanding the social determinants of health and health disparities and inequities. The course features guest lectures from CBUHP faculty fellows. UBTH 5101 is the number of the course for University Graduate Students. UBTH 5001 is the number of the course for MD, JD or other Professional students.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate, Law Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 5102. Urban Bioethics 2 (Graduate Students). 3 Credit Hours.
In a seminar format, this course introduces students to the field of urban bioethics. Topics to be covered include: health policy, the ethics of research with vulnerable populations, clinical ethics, theories of cultural competency/humility, and critical epidemiology. The course features guest lectures from CBUHP faculty fellows. UBTH 5102 is the course number for Urban Bioethics 2 for Temple Graduate students. UBTH 5002 is the number of the course for MD, JD, and other Professional students.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate, Law Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 5121. Community Engagement (Graduate Students). 4 Credit Hours.
This is a hands-on, community-based course that takes a holistic look at a community, analyzing both its strengths and challenges. Students will work in multidisciplinary teams and with a faculty advisor and community representative in different neighborhoods within the city of Philadelphia. Students will work in and with the community to learn how to identify the values underlying the community's strengths and challenges, and then use that value-orientation to: perform a medical urban map, perform a needs assessment, analyze the bioethics dimensions and the social determinants of health and illness in the community, write a pretend grant to study health issues in the community, conduct oral histories with community members, and conduct photojournalism assignments, among other things.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate, Law Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 5131. The Values, Ethics, & Economics of Health Care Delivery in Urban Communities (Graduate Students). 2 Credit Hours.
This course focuses on the values, organization, funding, and logistics of community based health care delivery. Students will be introduced to the various agencies involved in urban health care delivery - FQHC, HRSA, NIH, and others. In addition, an introduction to grant writing in the area of urban bioethics and health delivery in urban communities will be provided.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate, Law Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 5141. Critical Social Science and Urban Bioethics (Graduate Students). 2 Credit Hours.
This course introduces students to the theories and methods of critical social science, such as critical medical anthropology (CMA). Students will gain an appreciation for the role and importance of political, religious, economic, and social lenses, and of understanding disease and illness as biocultural phenomena.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate, Law Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 5182. Independent Study 1 (Graduate Students). 3 Credit Hours.
Working in conjunction with an advisor, who upon approval can be from the Medical School, the CBUHP, or a dual-degree student's home department, the student will craft and complete an independent study course on a topic/area of interest that is relevant to professional development. This is the first of two independent studies allowed for MA in Urban Bioethics credit. Please see the MA in Urban Bioethics Handbook for the most recent description of allowable approaches to the independent study.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate, Law Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

UBTH 9082. Independent Study 2 (Professional Students). 3 Credit Hours.
Working in conjunction with an advisor, who upon approval can be from the Medical School, the CBUHP, or a dual-degree student's home department, the student will craft and complete an independent study course on a topic/area of interest relevant to professional development. This is the second of two independent studies allowed for MA in Urban Bioethics credit. Please see the MA in Urban Bioethics Handbook for the most recent description of allowable approaches to the independent study.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Law, Medicine
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits
Pre-requisites:
UBTH 5082|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.
UBTH 9182. Independent Study 2 (Graduate Students). 3 Credit Hours.
Working in conjunction with an advisor, who upon approval can be from the Medical School, the CBUHP, or a dual-degree student's home department, the student will craft and complete an independent study course on a topic/area of interest that is relevant to professional development. This is the second of two independent studies allowed for MA in Urban Bioethics credit. Please see the MA in Urban Bioethics Handbook for the most recent description of allowable approaches to the independent study.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate, Law Graduate

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits

**Pre-requisites:**
UBTH 5182|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

UBTH 9995. MA in Urban Bioethics Thesis (Professional Students). 3 Credit Hours.
Working in conjunction with a thesis advisor, who upon approval can be from the Medical School, the CBUH&P, or a dual-degree student's home department, the student will conduct an original research project (empirical or non-empirical) and produce a publishable quality paper. The thesis should be a novel contribution to the field.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Law, Medicine

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

UBTH 9996. MA in Urban Bioethics Thesis (Graduate Students). 3 Credit Hours.
Working in conjunction with a thesis advisor, who upon approval can be from the Medical School, the CBUH&P, or a dual-degree student's home department, the student will conduct an original research project (empirical or non-empirical) and produce a publishable quality paper. The thesis should be a novel contribution to the field.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate, Law Graduate

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.