Urban Bioethics, M.A.

LEWIS KATZ SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

About the Program

The Master of Arts in Urban Bioethics (MAUB) is the nation's only bioethics degree explicitly centered on health equity. The program provides a solid foundation in traditional bioethics along with practical training and resources for understanding and analyzing the ethics, values, and value conflicts that exist in urban settings.

Students who pursue the MAUB gain practical, theoretical, and methodological skills to address extreme inequities of health and access to medical, legal, and other resources in disparate, diverse, and dense urban areas. Due to the far-reaching impact of bioethics, students are welcomed from a wide variety of educational and professional backgrounds, including medicine, policy, philosophy, and law.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 5 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 graduate students and 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 multidimensionally diverse society. Dual-degree students can take advantage of the inherent interdisciplinary nature of a dual degree by applying approved electives from their primary program toward the M.A., while stand-alone M.A. students take 15 credits of applicable electives to round out their degree. Six dual-degree programs are currently offered:

- M.D./M.A. in Urban Bioethics within the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University
- D.P.T. in Physical Therapy/M.A. in Urban Bioethics with the Temple University College of Public Health
- M.A. in Philosophy/M.A. in Urban Bioethics with the Temple University College of Liberal Arts
- Ph.D. in Philosophy/M.A. in Urban Bioethics with the Temple University College of Liberal Arts
- M.A. in Sociology/M.A. in Urban Bioethics with the Temple University College of Liberal Arts
- Ph.D. in Sociology/M.A. in Urban Bioethics with the Temple University College of Liberal Arts

Job Prospects: Students graduating with the M.A. in Urban Bioethics have the practical skills, including qualitative research, writing for diverse audiences, and advocacy, as well as 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 with at least a bachelor's degree may register for courses by contacting MAUB@temple.edu. Credit toward a subsequent degree program at Temple University is limited to 9 credits, unless the student enrolls in the Urban Bioethics graduate certificate program. All 14 credits required to complete the certificate are applicable to the Urban Bioethics M.A.

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

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

Application Deadline:

- Fall: March 1
- Spring: November 1
- Summer: April 1

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

Dual-degree applicants should note that application deadlines for companion programs may be earlier than the deadlines for the M.A. in Urban Bioethics. Please visit the companion program's description in the Graduate Bulletin for details.

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: Optional 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.

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master’s degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:

• TOEFL iBT: 79
• IELTS Academic: 6.5
• PTE Academic: 53

Resume: Current resume or CV required.

Program Requirements

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

Required Courses:

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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 Lewis Katz School of Medicine, the Center for Urban Bioethics, or a dual-degree student’s home department.

Contacts

Program Web Address:
https://medicine.temple.edu/departments-centers/research-centers/center-bioethics-urban-health-and-policy/educational-programs

Department Information:
Center for Urban Bioethics
Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University
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 5022. Community Engagement I (Professional Students). 2 Credit Hours.
This is the first of a two-course series that incorporates a hands-on, community-based approach 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 those 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 5023. Community Engagement II (Professional Students). 2 Credit Hours.
This is the second of a two-course series that incorporates a hands-on, community-based approach 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 those 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.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of B- in UBTH 5022.

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 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: 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 5122. Community Engagement I (Graduate Students). 2 Credit Hours.
This is the first of a two-course series that incorporates a hands-on, community-based approach 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 those 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 5123. Community Engagement II (Graduate Students). 2 Credit Hours.
This is the second of a two-course series that incorporates a hands-on, community-based approach 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 those 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 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: 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 5189. Urban Bioethics Field Study 1. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
The student will identify a specific urban problem evident in North Philadelphia and collaborate with academic, medical, and community mentors to develop and begin implementation of an innovative intervention with the goal of improving health in a fiscally sustainable way.

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

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.
UBTH 5210. Special Topics: Social Science Approaches to Urban Bioethics. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.
This course features a rotating set of topics related to the intersections of the social sciences and urban bioethics. Offerings are not part of the regular course listings. Examples include ‘cultural competency and humility’; ‘health, illness, and the urban body’, and ‘public images of urban health and illness’. Please contact the listed Center for Bioethics, Urban Health, and Policy faculty member for more details on the current offering.

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

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

UBTH 5220. Special Topics: Urban Bioethics at the Bedside. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.
This course features a rotating set of topics related to the clinical urban bioethics. Offerings are not part of the regular course listings. Examples include ‘general clinical ethics in the urban environment’, ‘navigating clinical disagreements’, and ‘pediatric urban bioethics’. Please contact the listed Center for Bioethics, Urban Health, and Policy faculty member for more details on the current offering.

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

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

UBTH 5230. Special Topics: Current Topics in Urban Bioethics. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.
This course features a rotating set of topics related to current events in urban bioethics. Offerings are not part of the regular course listings. Examples include bioethics and political discourse; navigating the Ebola fear response; and public policies affecting violence and health. Please contact the listed Center for Bioethics, Urban Health, and Policy faculty member for more details on the current offering.

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

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

UBTH 5240. Special Topics: Research and Urban Bioethics. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.
This course features a rotating set of topics related to urban bioethics and research. Offerings are not part of the regular course listings. Examples include the social determinants of health in urban research and establishing and maintaining trust of community partners. Please contact the listed Center for Bioethics, Urban Health, and Policy faculty member for more details on the current offering.

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

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

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: Minimum grade of B- in UBTH 5082.

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: Minimum grade of B- in UBTH 5182.
**UBTH 9189. Urban Bioethics Field Study 2. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.**
This course continues its companion course, UBTH 5189: Urban Bioethics Field Study 1. The student, having identified a specific urban problem evident in North Philadelphia, and having developed and initiated the intervention, will continue to work with academic, medical, and community mentors to evaluate the intervention. This course also charges the student with laying the groundwork for future sustainability.

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

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

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of B- in UBTH 5189.

**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). 1 to 6 Credit Hour.**
Working in conjunction with a thesis advisor, who upon approval can be from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine, 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.