Information for Doctoral Students in Bioethics (DBE)

In addition to completing their regular coursework, doctoral students are required to pass a written and oral exam and then complete a two-semester doctoral capstone course sequence. Information about each requirement is explained below.

Track Course Requirements:
Clinical Bioethics
- Ethics Across the Care Continuum
- Ethics Consultation Simulation Seminar;
- Advanced Clinical Ethics Skills Course or Practicum in Clinical Ethics

Catholic Bioethics
- Moral Theology for Bioethics
- Catholic Bioethics in Clinical Practice
- Catholic Bioethics and Social Justice

Research Ethics
- Research Ethics
- Advanced Topics in Research Ethics
- Any one of the following: Empirical Bioethics, Global Bioethics or Practicum in Research Ethics

Public Health & Systems Ethics
- Public Health Ethics
- Social Determinants of Health or Advancing Health Equity Practice;
- Organizational Ethics I or Organizational Ethics II

Qualifying Exam
Before a student may embark upon capstone work in the doctoral program, the student must successfully pass a written and oral exam. The exam will consist of questions that reflect a general understanding of bioethics as well as examine more specific content related to the student’s area of concentration. The student will have a specified amount of time to complete the written questions, which will be followed with an oral examination that will be conducted via Zoom.

Capstone Courses
This course is an opportunity for advanced students in the Doctoral program to further develop a paper from a previous course in the program and revise it into a manuscript of publishable quality. The course director will work with the student to review the paper and provide critical feedback. Each student will also be assigned a faculty reviewer to serve as a content expert. In the first weeks of the course each student will identify their paper topic and the relevant journals in which they might publish that paper. The student will also conduct a literature review on their selected topic and draft a thesis statement for their manuscript. After receiving feedback from the course director and the faculty reviewer the student will write a draft of the manuscript. After receiving feedback and possibly completing a second draft, the student will revise their manuscript, formatting it in the style of the journal they have selected, and submit it for consideration for publication. Lastly, each student will develop a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation based on their paper.