

University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry

Bioethics Pathway Components

Pathway Director

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Pathway Description:

The Bioethics Pathway program provides medical students with an enriched educational experience in bioethics. Participation in the Bioethics Pathway will reinforce the principles of biopsychosocial practice with special attention to the principles of ethics applied across the healthcare spectrum, from individual patient care to community health. Students will explore the clinical, philosophical, and social-cultural domains of Bioethics throughout their 4 years of medical school, and develop a project that applies theory, methods, and perspectives from the field of Bioethics. Pathway students will participate in shared activities with the Medical Humanities Pathway (humanities and arts-based courses, special events), as well as ethics specific activities (institutional ethics rounds, ethics conferences).

Pathway Components:

Pathway Mentor

Each Pathway student works with an advisor/mentor who oversees their Pathway progress and advises them on their final Pathway project. The student selects a mentor from the Medical Humanities and Bioethics faculty, or other faculty approved by the Pathway Director.

Supervised Project

Students are required to complete a Pathway project of their choosing. Pathway projects can focus on visual arts, literature, narrative, film, music, gender and women's studies, cultural studies, religious studies, philosophy, history or theatre. Project may take a variety of forms, including (in no particular order) a scholarly paper, a research paper, a book of poems, a play, a collection of short stories, drawings, fabric designs, a musical production, an educational module, a blog, a wiki, etc.

In Phase 1 and 2, students must meet with their advisor to identify areas of interest, learning goals and appropriate activities; identify, research and develop a project. In Phase 3 and Phase 4, students must meet with their Pathway Project mentor to review progress on their Project.

Phase 1 and 2

- In Phase 1, attend MHBE Pathway Meetings & one Medical Humanities Pathway Selective course in the Spring Semester. Read assigned book & participate in book discussion. Attend 4 events or activities and submit written reflections to WordPress site.
- In Phase 2, attend MHBE Pathway Meetings & one Medical Humanities Pathway Selective course in the Fall Semester. Read assigned book & participate in book discussion. Attend 4 events or activities and submit written reflections to WordPress site.
- In Phase 2, must attend one URM Ethics Committee Meeting and present one case discussed to the Bioethics Interest Group. (Must arrange with Chris Donnelly.)
- Students must meet with their advisor to identify areas of interest, learning goals and appropriate activities; identify, research and develop a project.

Phase 3 and 4

- Continue working on and developing Pathway Project together with mentor.
- Take MHU602 Clinical Bioethics elective
- May take MHU603 Bioethics Research elective
- May take up to four weeks of elective MHU615 – Independent Creative/Research Projects in Medical Humanities and Bioethics to work on Pathway Project.
- Attend 4 events or activities and submit written reflections to WordPress site.

Medical Humanities/Bioethics Events or Community Engagement Activities

Must attend or participate in at least four (4) events or community engagement activities each year in Phases 1, 2 and 3/4 (in person or virtual online format), for example:

- **Bioethics Interest Group** – Regular attendance and active participation in the Bioethics Interest Group is expected. Each meeting attended counts toward the required four (4) annual activities.
- **Noon Conferences**
 - Interdisciplinary Clinical Ethics Noon Conference (1st Wed of each month at noon)
 - Medical Humanities Noon Conference (2nd Fri of each month at noon)
 - Schwartz Center Conference (3rd Wed of each month at noon)
 - Palliative Care Grand Rounds (4th Wed of each month at noon)
 - Spiritual Reflection Rounds (5th Wed of each month at noon)
- **Additional Special Interest Groups**
 - Corner Society for the History of Medicine
 - *murmur*, a literary and arts journal published annually and led by medical students
 - Progress Notes, a reflective writing group led by medical students
- **Events in Rochester that integrate medical humanities/bioethics and healthcare**
 - Films, musical presentations, theatrical productions, readings, lectures
 - Other groups or activities identified by student's mentor

Submit Summary of Activities

After attending events or activities, submit to the Pathways WordPress Website a brief reflection on the event or activity attended (200 word minimum).

Portfolio

To track activities and create a portfolio of work, each Pathway student completes a checklist of requirements and activities in Phase 1, 2 and 3/4. The student's mentor and Advisory Dean signs the form, and the check sheet is submitted to the Pathway Coordinator who will obtain the Pathway Director's signature.

Deadlines

Phase 1

Nov 16 – Pathway application due

Prior to April 1 - Pathway interest & preliminary project plans reviewed with mentor

July 30 – Phase 1 Check Sheet due

Phase 2

Jan 1 – Complete Y2 progress report due

Prior to June 1 – Meet at least twice with mentor to discuss project plans & proposal
July 30 – Phase 2 Check Sheet & completed Pathway Project Progress Check Sheet due

Phase 3

May 31 – Meet at least once with mentor to discuss developing project & reflect on its relationship to clinical work in Phase 3

Phase 4

Oct 15 – Pathway Project Progress Check Sheet due
March 1 – Phase 3/4 Check Sheet & completed pathway project due

NOTE: Failure to meet Pathway deadlines will result in the student being withdrawn from the Pathway.

Certificate and Dean's Letter

Students who complete all Pathway requirements will receive a Certificate in the Pathway Program at graduation and a notation about their Pathway work in their Dean's letter to residency programs.

For more information regarding the Medical Humanities and Bioethics Pathways, visit
<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/medical-humanities/bioethics.aspx>