

University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry Health Humanities & Bioethics **Pathway Information and Components**

(NOTE: These Requirements for Students Starting the Pathway in Spring 2026 and Later)

Pathway Director

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Pathway Description:

The Health Humanities & Bioethics Pathway program provides medical students with an enriched educational experience in the humanities and bioethics throughout their four years of medical school. The Pathway reinforces the biopsychosocial approach to patient-centered, humanistic practices and the principles of ethics applied across the healthcare spectrum. It provides students with the opportunity to develop a project that applies methods and perspectives from the humanities or theory, methods, and perspectives from bioethics to their medical education. Students participate in a variety of activities, including ethics, humanities, and arts-based courses, research, and special events and competitive awards. Students who complete the Pathway will receive a certificate at graduation and a notation about their Pathway work in their Dean's letter to residency programs.

Pathway Components:

Pathway Seminars

Students select and attend one six-week HHBE Pathway Seminar in both Phase 1 and 2.

Pathway Mentor

Each student works with a faculty mentor who oversees their Pathway progress and advises them on their Pathway project. Students meet with their mentors at least once/phase to discuss their interests and project.

Supervised Project

Students are required to complete a Pathway project on a health humanities or bioethics topic. A range of disciplines from the humanities and humanistic social sciences may inform these projects, including visual arts, literature, narrative, film, gender and women's studies, cultural studies, critical theory, art history, philosophy, and history. Projects may take a variety of forms—for example, a scholarly paper, an empirical research paper, a book of poems, a play, a collection of short stories, drawings, an educational module. Students are required to present their project in some venue, either to Department faculty or other audiences (conference presentation, poster, art exhibit etc.). Students receive substantial support from faculty in refining and submitting their work for publication.

Scholarship Component

In support of their Pathway Projects, students must take at least one Health Humanities elective (MHU615), bioethics research elective (MHU603), and/or a Clinical Bioethics elective (MHU 602). Alternatively, students may fulfil this requirement by participating in a HHBE summer research project.

Funded Summer Fellowships / Research Projects

The Paul M. Schyve, MD Center for Bioethics solicits applications for summer student fellowships in early spring. This 8-week experience allows medical students to focus on research relevant to bioethical issues. The students work with a team of faculty members and will have the opportunity to present their findings to the Schyve Center leadership group and/or other poster sessions. <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/paul-m-schyve-md-center-for-bioethics>

Health Humanities & Bioethics Events: Pathway students attend a minimum of 9 Department events in phases 1, 2, and 4 (grand rounds, special lectures, performances, screenings, Corner Society, etc.).

HHBE-sponsored events include:

- **HHBE Department Grand Rounds**
 - Interdisciplinary Clinical Ethics Grand Rounds
 - Health Humanities Grand Rounds
- **HHBE Sponsored/Related** – institutional EDIJ conferences, Schwartz Center Conferences, Clinical grand rounds that have a HHBE focus, MAG installations, performances, screenings, topic research conference, Humanities Center collaborations (joint initiative between HHBE & UR River Campus), Schyve Center Conference (each session counts for 1 event).

Pathway Timeline, Requirements, Due Dates

Phase 1 and 2

- In Phase 1, attend HHBE Pathway Meeting & one Health Humanities Pathway Seminar course in the Spring Semester.
- In Phase 2, attend one Health Humanities Pathway Seminar course in the Fall Semester.
- Students meet at least once with mentors in both phase 1 & 2 (indicate fulfillment on Blackboard).
- Students attend minimum 3 Health Humanities and Bioethics events in both Phase 1 & 2 (report attendance through QR code at each event).
- Students may complete their scholarship component and Pathway Project requirement by participating in a HHBE summer research project.

Phase 3 and 4

- If not already completed (through summer research project), develop Pathway Project proposal with mentor in phase 3, and project timeline. Submit Project Proposal / Timeline by June 1 of phase 3 on Blackboard (with signature of mentor).
- Complete Pathway Project under the supervision of a mentor (unless already completed through summer research project). Final Pathway Project Submission due by March 1st of Phase 4 (submit copy to mentor and on Blackboard).
- Meet with mentor at least once/phase (indicate fulfillment through Blackboard).
- Present Pathway Project in some format/venue (conference talk, poster presentation, teaching opportunity, etc.). Attend end-of-year Pathway Celebration in May of Phase 4 (students can present at the celebration).
- All pathway students must take at least one two-week elective but may elect to spend more time:
 - 2 or 4 weeks of elective MHU615 – Independent Creative/Research Projects in Health Humanities and Bioethics to work on Pathway Project or other health humanities projects.
 - 2 or 4 weeks MHU602 Clinical Bioethics elective
 - 2 or 4 weeks MHU603 Bioethics Research elective
- Students must attend minimum 3 Humanities and Bioethics events in both Phase 4 (report attendance through QR code at each event).
- Students interested in a Bioethics focus are encouraged to attend one URM Ethics Committee Meeting (Please arrange with Olivia Harrington).

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

For more information regarding the Health Humanities and Bioethics Pathway, visit:

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/medical-humanities/education/bioethics.aspx>