



THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

Program Code: 5156

PROGRAM REGULATIONS:

Master of Bioethics

[MBEth]

Responsible Owner: National Head of the School of Medicine
Responsible Office: Faculty of Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery & Health Sciences
Contact Officer: PCAC Executive Officer
Effective Date: 1 July 2021

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2 AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these regulations will be made in accordance with the General Regulations.

Version	Date Amended	Amendment Details	Approved by
1	April 2020	New Program	Deans
2	November 2020	Additional Courses	Professor Philip Matthews
3	January 2021	Program description added	PCAC EO
4	March 2021	Amendments to: Eligibility requirements Required courses Electives Practicum Specialisation Exit qualifications	G Chaney

3 PURPOSE

These Program Regulations set out the approved requirements for the Master of Bioethics.

4 OVERVIEW

4.1 Campus Availability

The Master of Bioethics has been approved for delivery on the Fremantle Campus and the Sydney Campus.

4.2 Student Availability

The Master of Bioethics is available for enrolment to domestic students. Enrolment is also available for offshore students.

4.3 Australian Qualifications Framework

The Master of Bioethics is accredited by the University as a Level 9 AQF qualification.

4.4 Duration

The Volume of Learning for the Master of Bioethics is one (1) year of equivalent full-time study.

4.5 Maximum Duration

The maximum period of time within which a student is permitted to complete the Master of Bioethics Award is 5 years (including any periods of approved leave of absence) from the date on which they were first enrolled into the program by the University.

4.6 Study Mode

The Master of Bioethics is offered fully online.

4.7 Professional Accreditation

There are no professional accreditation requirements applicable to this Program.

5 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5.1 University Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to The University of Notre Dame Australia, all applicants must meet the [University's minimum requirements for admission](#). The requirements for admission are detailed in the University's Policy: *Admissions*.

5.2 Specific Program Requirements for Admission

To be eligible for admission to the Master of Bioethics applicants must meet both the following two (2) specific requirements.

- 1) A bachelor degree (or equivalent) in a related field of study, such as medicine, health sciences, life sciences, law, philosophy, social sciences, AND
- 2) One year of full-time (or equivalent) related professional experience or a related postgraduate qualification

6 PRACTICUM OR INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

6.1 There is no requirement for a practicum or internship

7 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Program Description

The Master of Bioethics explores major societal issues in relation to new technologies in medicine, science, law, politics, and philosophy. This program is designed for professional people who require a strong foundation for bioethical decision-making. This necessitates integrating theory and practice. The program provides the basis for understanding debates within clinical, legal, philosophical and theological bioethics. Contemporary bioethics explores issues that have been debated for centuries. However, scientific developments in the middle of the twentieth century, exploded into the multitude of bioethical issues that we deal with today. These have included organ transplantation, genomics, abortion, assisted reproduction, euthanasia, information technology, artificial intelligence, transhumanism, and freedom of conscience. This program allows professionals from various disciplines to both learn from and engage with leading experts in this important field of study. A particular emphasis of this bioethics program is developing a community of inquiry for people working in disciplines that are regularly confronted by bioethical issues. Graduates will learn to understand and apply a structured approach to bioethical decision-making from a range of perspectives, including that of the Catholic intellectual tradition. The application of that knowledge will be further enhanced through the development of a research thesis on a chosen topic.

7.2 Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Master of Bioethics graduates will be able to:

- 1) Critically analyse knowledge and understanding of principles, debates, and arguments in bioethics with a focus on traditional and contemporary approaches to bioethics including religious, secularist and humanist
- 2) Demonstrate philosophical and analytical skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts in bioethics at an abstract level, including presenting them in debate and in the public square
- 3) Apply critical insight in bioethical knowledge and skills to professional practice
- 4) Engage in critical reflection in relation to issues raised in bioethics with high levels of accountability and responsibility.

7.3 Required Courses

To be eligible for the award of Master of Bioethics students must complete a minimum of 200 Units of Credit chosen from the courses listed in Appendix A comprising of 150 units of credit from five (5) required courses and 50 units of credit from two (2) elective courses.

The required courses are:

PHIL6210 Philosophy of the Human Person (25)

MEDI6006 Contemporary Issues in Bioethics (25)

MEDI6007 Putting Bioethics into Practice (25)

LAWS6008 International Perspectives on Bioethics and Law (25)

Plus

50 Units of Credit for a 6000 level Supervised Research Project.

7.4 Elective Courses

Students enrolled in the Master of Bioethics are required to complete two (2) elective courses chosen from the list of courses below. Not all of these courses are available every semester.

MEDI5002 Environment, Society, and Health

MEDI5004 The Australian Health Care System

PHIL6080 Natural Law

PHIL6410 Political Philosophy

THEO6350 Foundations of Moral Theology

THEO6490 Bioethics a Catholic Theological Analysis

LAWS6006 International Human Rights Law

LAWS6012 Law and Religion

LAWS6014 Philosophy of International Law

7.5 Course substitutions

Course substitutions, where permitted, must be approved by the Head of School and published on the Masters of Bioethics webpage located on the School of Medicine webpage. Weblinks to the Masters of Bioethics webpage will also be located on the School of Philosophy and Theology and the School of Law webpages.

7.6 Specialisations

There are no specialisations within the Master of Bioethics Award.

7.7 Exit Award

The Graduate Certificate in Bioethics is available as an Exit Award for students who have successfully completed 100 Units of study from the following compulsory Masters of Bioethics courses:

MEDI6006 Contemporary Issues in Bioethics (25)

MEDI6007 Putting Bioethics into Practice (25)

PHIL6210 Philosophy of the Human Person (25)

LAWS6008 International Perspectives on Bioethics and Law (25)

8 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these Regulations, the following definitions are available in the General Regulations.

- Leave of Absence
- Major
- Units of Credit
- Pre-requisite Course
- Minor
- Elective
- Co-requisite Course
- Specialisation
- General Elective

9 APPENDIX A: PROGRAM SCAFFOLD

The program Scaffold for the Master of Bioethics involves a minimum of 200 Units of Credit consisting of 150 units of credit from five (5) required courses and 50 units of credit from two (2) elective courses.

Compulsory Courses	Units of Credit
PHIL6210 Philosophy of the Human Person	25
MEDI6006 Contemporary Issues in Bioethics	25
MEDI6007 Putting Bioethics into Practice	25
LAWS6008 International Perspectives on Bioethics and Law	25
6000 level Supervised Research Project	50
Elective Courses	Units of Credit
MEDI5002 Environment, Society, and Health	25
MEDI5004 The Australian Health Care System	25
PHIL6080 Natural Law	25
PHIL6410 Political Philosophy	25
THEO6350 Foundations of Moral Theology	25
THEO6490 Bioethics a Catholic Theological Analysis	
LAWS6006 International Human Rights Law	25
LAWS6012 Law and Religion	25
LAWS6014 Philosophy of International Law	25
TOTAL	200

A list of 5000 and 6000 level elective courses for the Master of Bioethics is published on the Masters of Bioethics webpage located on the School of Medicine webpage every semester. Weblinks to the Masters of Bioethics webpage will also be located on the School of Philosophy and Theology and School of Law webpages.

In accordance with the General Regulations, up to 100 units of credit, as approved by the Dean, may be studied at one of the University's international partner institutions.