



Overview

The School of Medicine through the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program offers a Certificate (“The Medical Humanities Certificate”) for students enrolled in the School of Medicine who have demonstrated an interest in Medical Humanities. The scholarly concentration and resulting Certificate is earned through course work, participation in the Medical Humanities community, a substantial written project, and relevant volunteer work experience. The award of the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate is noted on the student’s residency letter. Students completing the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program will be given the designation of John. P. McGovern Scholars at graduation.

Certificate Program Requirements

As part of the requirements for the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program (MHCP), course work will include a minimum of four required seminar courses sponsored by the Center for Ethics, Humanities & Spirituality, one of which must be completed during the student’s MS1 year. Additionally, students must complete the Summer Literature in Medicine seminar, Introduction to Medical Humanities in the student’s second year, the Practicum in year two, and the fourth-year Capstone elective course which builds on the Practicum and culminates in a research project to be completed during the student’s MS4 year. As detailed below, admission to the Certificate Program is through application only and must be approved by the current director of the MHCP (or his or her designee) (“The Director”).

Maximum Enrollment

For the Class of 2024 no more than 25 students may be enrolled in the MHCP at any one time. This normally allows space for 20 new applicants per year with exceptions made on a case by case basis.

Admission to the Certificate Program

In order to make best use of the resources available, admission to the MHCP is at the discretion of the Director. Students should apply by December 31 of their first academic semester in their first year. Late applicants will be considered through January 30 of the second academic semester of the first year if space allows.

Students must submit an application for admittance to the Program. The Director will accept applications to the program on a rolling basis through December 31. The application must include a short written statement of why the student wishes to pursue the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate, a resume, and, if applying after December 1 of the first year, the name of one current faculty reference. Applicants will also be asked to complete a pre-survey to be submitted at the time of their interview. All applicants will be interviewed by a member of the Center faculty. Matriculation into the program will occur on February 1 of the student's MSI year.

Each student admitted into the MHCP will be assigned a contact person at the completion of the Summer Literature Seminar, prior to the start of their second academic year. The student will be responsible for keeping track of his or her own progress towards meeting the requirements of the certificate, thus it is strongly suggested that all students maintain a portfolio of his/her progress in achieving program requirements. The student may consult with the Program Director to change to a different contact person, if desired. The change is subject to approval at the discretion of the Director.

Required Courses

A description of required courses and electives is provided on the accompanying *Requirements for the Medical Humanities Certificate Program*. Students are required to complete at least one course during their MSI year.

Good Academic Standing Requirement

The student must maintain good standing with the Medical School in all courses to remain in the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program. Good Academic Standing requires the student meet School of Medicine guidelines for passing all medical school courses with eligibility to advance to the next academic year. Students who fail a course or a year may be considered for retention in the MHECP at the Director's sole discretion and space availability.

Volunteer Requirement

Because the goal of the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program is to prepare students for the humanistic practice of medicine in a health care setting, no student may receive the Certificate without practical volunteer experience. Students seeking the certificate in Medical Humanities are expected to be active leaders in the activities of the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program and in the Medical School. The volunteer experience may be either through the Medical School's volunteer opportunities or an activity or experience approved in advance by the Director.

The Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program will sponsor informal events for students in the Program which may afford opportunity for individual students to participate in volunteer organizing and

leadership activities. Students are required to participate in at least one substantial volunteer activity by the end of their MS2 year. In order to receive credit, student must submit a one-page summary of his/her volunteer experience.

Writing Requirement

Students seeking the Certificate will be expected to demonstrate reflection and an interest in sustaining self-knowledge sufficient to promote their own growth as humanistic physicians. In the first and second years of medical school, students will be required to write a paper reflecting on a topic presented in one of the required courses, activities, or events. This paper must be a minimum of two pages in length, double-spaced, and in twelve-point font with one-inch margins; no footnotes are required. Students must submit this paper at the end of the Spring of both MS1 and MS2 years.

During the third year of medical school, students are required to keep a journal of personal reflections on their own experiences and feelings during each clinical rotation. Students must attend a writing workshop aimed at developing and refining their writing skills.

Students seeking the certificate in Medical Humanities and Ethics must in their fourth year (1) complete a scholarly research paper on a subject related to the Medical Humanities or Ethics, or (2) produce a substantial work of interpretive content under the direction of a member of the Center's faculty. This paper must be a minimum of 20 pages in length, double-spaced, and in twelve-point font with one-inch margins. The paper must include footnotes, which are in addition to and do not change the page length requirements. The paper must include citations to at least one journal outside the fields of medicine or public health.

The fourth year thesis paper must be certified by the Director as suitable for the Student Medical Humanities and Ethics Symposium **and must also be suitable** for submission to a Humanities, Law, Medicine or Health Policy Journal (publication is not required).

Students should consult with the Director early in the process if they have any questions. The paper must be presented at the Student Medical Humanities Symposium or other public setting in the spring semester of the student's fourth year. It must be completed no later than the end of February of the semester before the student plans to graduate. If a student plans to be absent in the spring semester of the final year, he or she must make plans to complete the paper and present it at the Student Medical Humanities Symposium for graduation unless he or she receives a specific waiver from the Director.

Make-Up Credit

In the event a student is unable to meet the stated program requirements, make-up credit may be obtained for each event missed by successfully completing a make-up assignment. To replace a missing event, students must complete a two-page, single-spaced paper (1,000 words) on an assigned reading; the assigned reading will relate to the missed event. "Missed event" refers to Program-sponsored activities and events, such as Grand Rounds in Clinical Ethics, Dinner Lectures, Speaker Events, etc. The deadline for make-up work is one month after notification of the missed event.

Other Information

There is no tuition requirement to be in the Medical Humanities Certificate Program and participation is entirely optional. Because we are funded by generous donors we are able to provide limited food at

our classes and events. We are not able to accommodate all food preferences or personal requirements. Feel free to bring a lunch from home if you have dietary restrictions.

I would like to hear from anyone who has a disability that may require some modification of viewing, seating, testing or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please see me before or after class, during office hours or make an appointment. Please bring your Student Academic Accommodation Request form with you.

Completion of the Program

Before the period for course registration is closed in the semester in which the student intends to graduate, he or she must submit a report to the Director indicating how he or she has met the requirements of the Certificate. This report will be completed as an assignment in the required fourth-year Medical Humanities Capstone Course.

No student may receive the Certificate without the approval of the Director, and the Director retains the discretion to drop a student from the Certificate Program for failure to comply with any of the requirements or for other good cause. The Director shall also have authority to modify, waive or reconfigure the Program Requirements where necessary to promote equity and fairness in the event of unforeseen complications or exigent circumstances.

For more information: Please contact the Program Coordinator, Madison Hood at mv.hood@ttuhsc.edu