



# Center for Ethics, Humanities and Spirituality

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## **Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program**

Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Requirements  
for the Graduating Class of 2021

### **Overview**

The School of Medicine through the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program offers a Certificate ("The Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate") for students enrolled in the School of Medicine who have demonstrated a substantive concentration in Medical Humanities 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.

### **Certificate Program Requirements**

As part of the requirements for the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate, course work will include three required seminar courses sponsored by the Center for Ethics, Humanities & Spirituality, the Summer Literature seminar, Introduction to Medical Humanities in the student's second year, and one fourth-year elective course in addition to 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 Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program (or his or her designee) ("The Director").

### **Maximum Enrollment**

For the Class of 2021 no more than 30 students may be enrolled in the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program at any one time.

### **Admission to the Certificate Program**

In order to make best use of the resources available, admission to the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program 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 MS1 year.

Each student admitted into the Medical Humanities and Ethics Certificate Program 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 Certificate in Medical Humanities and Ethics*. Students are required to complete at least one course during their MS1 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.

## **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 (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 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 deficiency.

## **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 Director, Dr. Cheryl Erwin at [cheryl.erwin@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:cheryl.erwin@ttuhsc.edu) or Joanna Franks at [joanna.franks@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:joanna.franks@ttuhsc.edu)