CENTER FOR ETHICS

In this era of increased need for ethical discourse in academic, professional, and public spheres, the Center activities draw upon theological, philosophical, scientific and other areas of inquiry to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and scholarship on moral values and ethical issues of contemporary social import. The Center embodies the University’s commitment to intellectual excellence by offering educational and research opportunities and public programming enriched through moral values, religious concerns, scientific and scholarly study, and active engagement in creating a caring and just world.

Founded as an interdisciplinary, cross-university unit, the Center sponsors national conferences, professional workshops, and ethics seminars that create synergy among scholars, scientists, religious leaders, community advocates, industry leaders and policy makers for exploring rigorously and respectfully grounds of individual and collective moral thought and action. Through its funded research programs (including the Fordham HIV and Drug Abuse Prevention Research Ethics Training Institute) the Center provides opportunities for faculty and students to engage in empirical and theoretical study of ethical issues in health care, science, and public policy. The Center’s academic programs (including the Master’s Program in Ethics and Society, Graduate Certificate in Health Care Ethics, and the Undergraduate Minor in Bioethics) affirms the complementary roles of faith and reason drawing upon courses in theology, philosophy, social and physical science, law, economics, political science, business and other fields to provide multidisciplinary education to advance the common good.

For more information about the academic programs offered by the Center for Ethics, please visit our page on the Fordham website.

Admissions

Requirements
To apply for the Center of Ethics graduate programs include:

- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Coursework, experience, or training in at least one of the core areas of ethics scholarship (philosophy, theology, or the social or natural sciences)

Application Documents and Materials

- A statement of intent detailing both your academic aims and interests at Fordham (1-2 pages)
- GRE General Test scores* and, for all nonnative speakers of English, TOEFL scores
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume or CV
- Application Fee (currently $70)
- Official degree transcripts confirming prior degree conferral are required for all applicants, regardless of matriculation status. These should be ordered at least one month prior to the application deadline for your program of interest, and should be sent directly to the Office of Admissions via secure electronic delivery. If electronic delivery is not available, please request that your transcripts be submitted directly via post, in a sealed envelope, to: Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Office of Admissions, Fordham University, 441 E. Fordham Rd., Bronx, NY 10458. Please note: you may upload unofficial copies of your transcripts to your application while the Office of Admissions awaits receipt of your official transcripts.

*The GRE requirement may be waived for some applicants, including those who have been out of school for more than 6 years and/or are working in a job related to their chosen field of study or department.

Programs

- Ethics and Society (M.A.)
- Health Care Ethics (Adv Cert)

Courses

CEED 5050. ETHICS&SOCIETY:CROSS DISCIP PER. (3 or 4 Credits)
This introductory course will present methods of ethical inquiry from different disciplines and will demonstrate how these disciplines interactively and independently apply these methods to issues of contemporary social import. Relevant moral and ethical frameworks will be introduced, along with background on issues of current social importance. The intent of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the knowledge and critical thinking skills that will enable them to identify and understanding the ethical decisions that affect the welfare of individuals and society and the integrity of their professions.

Attribute: PMMA.

CEED 5100. HEALTHCARE ETHICS. (3 Credits)
The aim of this course is to explore issues in healthcare from the point of view of ethical theory. Some of the issues to be examined are the role of the medical practitioner within the context of healthcare currently, medical experimentation, informed consent, ethical questions surrounding life and death, and justice in the healthcare system.

CEED 5200. PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE: PRACTITIONERS, CONSCIENCE, & MORAL RESPONSIBILITY. (2 Credits)
The aim of this course is to examine the role of the medical practitioner within the context of current medicine. First, we will consider the history of the medical profession and the role of bioethics in medicine. Next, we will consider the ethical practice of medicine and the role of conscience. Finally, we will take up questions of moral responsibility in medicine, focusing on two challenging practical situations.

CEED 5250. BIOETHICS ANALYSIS OF CLINICAL CASE STUDIES. (3 Credits)
This course will focus on the fundamental principles of bioethics analysis and the application of these principles to clinical case scenarios. Through this analysis, recommendations of the best course of treatment and action can be determined and justified in even the most difficult of clinical case scenarios. You will learn how to recognize a true ethical dilemma and how to resolve it. This will be an interactive course that will involve case discussions and debate as a mock ethics committee. Clinical knowledge is not necessary to gain insight into the process and application of the ethical principles and theories in the resolution of these critical ethical dilemmas.

Attribute: CEMP.
CEED 5367. ETHICAL DIN. OF FINANCIAL RISK. (3 Credits)
This course will provide a critical, historically-informed introduction to
ethical theories and their relevance for financial risk management.
The course will introduce students to the theoretical foundations and practical
implications of ethics-related concepts in so far as they are relevant
to financial risk management; for example the notion of fiduciaries and
fiduciary relationships.

CEED 5800. MORAL FOUNDATIONS OF CAPITALISM. (3 Credits)
This course will provide an interdisciplinary examination of alternative-
and largely incompatible-twentieth-century defenses of the morality
of capitalism, with a concentration on economic, Objectivist, and
Christian arguments, considered historically, economically, politically,
and philosophically. Readings from Adam Smith, Karl Marx, authors for
and against slavery, John Maynard Keynes, Theodore Roosevelt, Herbert
Hoover, Austrian School economists, Milton Friedman, Dinesh D'Souza.,
and George Gilder. The course will include a reading of Ayn Rand's Atlas
Shrugged and conclude with an application of studies theories to a few
recent public policy issues.

CEED 5900. Ethics and Society Field Practicum. (3 Credits)
The goal of practicum is to provide an opportunity for advanced students in
Fordham's Master's in Ethics and Society to spend one day per week
during a semester for "shadowing" professionals who ae engaged in
services that require ethical decision-making. Students selected for
the practicum will first be required to complete relevant ethics and
society coursework and/or possess relevant experience. Throughout the
semester, students will meet with the director of the master's program on
a bi-weekly basis to discuss their experiences. Enrollment is by special
permission only.

Attribute: CETH.
Prerequisite: CEED 5050.

CEED 6000. HEALTH CARE ETHICS CAPSTONE. (3 Credits)
CEED 6010. RESEARCH ETHICS AND SOC JUSTIC. (3 Credits)
This course will examine approaches to responsible research practices in
socio-behavioral research, with particular attention to research involving
human participants. The course will provide foundations in research
ethics and methods in research ethics decision-making that exemplify
scientifically valid and ethically sound research method planning,
implementation, and dissemination.

CEED 6015. HIV/DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION RESEARCH ETHICS. (3 Credits)
This course will introduce students to ethical issues and solutions
encountered in social science, public health, and medical research on HIV
and drug abuse involving vulnerable populations in the United States and
developing countries. Lectures are taught by an interdisciplinary faculty.
Topics informed consent, confidentiality and disclosure, assessing
population sensitive risks and benefits when using qualitative, survey,
epidemiological in-person and online methodologies.

Attributes: CENS, PSYC.

CEED 6100. THEORIES&APP IN CONTEMP ETHICS. (3 Credits)
CEED 6290. HEALTH DISPARITIES &SOCIAL INEQ. (3 Credits)
This course focuses on the psychosocial correlates and consequences of
health disparities involving individuals and groups that have been
historically marginalized by society and in some cases by the health
sciences and professions. Readings and class discussions will examine
the relationship of contextual factors such as poverty, racial/ethnic
discrimination, environmental hazards, incarceration, institutionalization
and public policy to social and health inequities faced by children
and adults with HIV/AIDS, mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and
substance abuse disorders. The role of psychology in the emerging
health and human rights paradigm in the United States and globally will
also be explored.

Attributes: CENS, LALS.

CEED 6322. NATURAL LAW:THE NATURE,FOUNDATIONS AND CONTENT
OF JUSTICE. (3 Credits)
This course will examine the theoretical foundations and practical
implications of natural law theory. Because "natural law theory" is often
taken to mean many different things, one of the course's first aims will
be to establish a common vocabulary for identifying and distinguishing
the various kinds of natural law theory (e.g. "natural law theory" as a
kind of moral theory, as a kind of legal theory, and as kind of theory
about human rights). Our ensuing discussion will open onto a series
of questions that will guide us through the rest of the course: "What is
the nature of justice?" "What are the different kinds of justice and what
does it mean to have a right?" "What do rights and justice have to do
with one another?" "What is the nature of law?" "What is the difference
between positive law and natural law?" "Is law reducible to the will of
the strongest, or is it the case-as the natural law traditions holds-that
unjust law is no law at all?" "What is meant by 'the good' and 'the common
good'?" "What is the nature, scope, and justification of authority (both
legal authority and other kinds of authority)? "What is the nature and
purpose of punishment?" "And how are we to make sense of the natural
law tradition in light of our contemporary understandings of autonomy,
governmental neutrality, and reasonable pluralism?" The course will not
only introduce the classical natural law tradition (based mainly on the
thought of Aristotle and Aquinas), but will place this classical tradition
in dialogue with contemporary thinkers. The ultimate aim of the course
will be to achieve an understanding of the natural law tradition and its
relevance for a variety of contemporary legal issues. No prior acquaintance
with philosophy or jurisprudence is assumed; the relevant concepts will
be developed in class.

Attribute: CEMP.

CEED 8999. INDEPENDENT STUDY. (1 to 4 Credits)