

CTSC 5260

Methods and Foundations in Biomedical Ethics



Faculty: Richard Sharp, Ph.D. and Jon Tilburt, M.D.

Credits: 1

Quarter: Summer

Prerequisites: None

Overview

The methods of biomedical ethics provide a rigorous analytic framework for engaging ethical challenges in medicine and translational research. This course will introduce students to core methods in biomedical ethics through online and in-person lectures given by faculty, methodological specialists and experts from across Mayo Clinic. The aim is to prepare participants to develop research studies that examine topics in bioethics, develop their scholarly interests in biomedical ethics, and identify ethical issues in their work. Classes will examine how to develop a promising research topic, how to identify and critically assess relevant literature, how to design robust empirical research studies in bioethics, and how to select among potential research methods, including normative and conceptual analysis, qualitative methods, surveys, and other core methods in biomedical ethics. Specific case studies will be used to illustrate exemplary bioethics research.

Objectives

At the end of this course, scholars will be able to:

- evaluate bioethics research and scholarship
- critically engage empirical studies and other literature related to biomedical ethics
- understand core normative frameworks in biomedical ethics
- produce a research proposal focusing on topics in bioethics

Evaluation

Course attendance and participation, although not required, are critical to the overall understanding students will gain from course content. Student grades will be based on participation in class discussions, the preparation of an individualized research agenda or proposal and its presentation in class.

Students are expected to spend approximately two to four hours of time per week on this 1-credit course.

For specific dates and times this course is provided, please see the [quarterly detailed course schedule](#).