



MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Linda L. Neider
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Neider', is written over the 'From:' field.

Date: August 31, 2021

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2021-05(B) – Creation of a Master of Arts in Medical Humanities and Bioethics, College of Arts and Sciences, Department, Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Miller School of Medicine, Department of Medicine

The Faculty Senate, at its August 25, 2021, meeting, had no objections to the approval of the creation of a Master of Arts in Medical Humanities and Bioethics, in the College of Arts and Sciences, Department, Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Miller School of Medicine, Department of Medicine as outlined on the enclosed proposal.

The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

LLN/rh

Enclosure

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost
Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Henri Ford, Dean, Miller School of Medicine
Maryann Tobin, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Daniel Pals, Professor, College of Arts and Sciences
Kenneth Goodman, Professor, Miller School of Medicine

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2021-05(B) – Creation of a Master of Arts in Medical Humanities and Bioethics, College of Arts and Sciences, Department, Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Miller School of Medicine, Department of Medicine

PRESIDENT’S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 9/17/21
(President’s Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences and Henri Ford, Dean, Miller School of Medicine

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(pending any additional approval by the Board of Trustees)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

Program Change Request

New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: 04/05/21 12:47 pm

Viewing: **MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics : NEW**

Last edit: 04/05/21 12:47 pm

Changes proposed by: Maryann Tobin (m.tatum)

Please list the authors of this proposal including name, rank/title, program/department, and school.

Proposer(s) Name

Maryann Tobin, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Professional Education
College of Arts & Sciences

Daniel Pals, Ph.D.
Professor of Religious Studies and History
Director of the MALS Program
College of Arts & Sciences

Career Graduate

Academic Structure

School/ College	Department
College of Arts and Sciences	Master of Arts Liberal Sci

Plan Type Major and/or Degree

Degree Type Master's

Degree Name Master of Arts

Proposed Plan Code MHUM_MA

Proposed CIP Code 24.0101 - Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies.

Plan Name MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics

Will there be any subcomponents within the program such as concentrations, specializations, thesis/non-thesis options, or tracks?

No

Effective Term Spring 2022

First Term Valid Fall 2021

Program Instruction Mode In Person

Where is the program offered?

Location	Please provide the % of instruction at each location.
Coral Gables Campus	100%

In Workflow

1. PG Initial Review
2. PG MLS GR Director
3. PG AS Assoc Dean
4. PG AS GR Sr Assoc Dean
5. PG AS Faculty
6. PG AS Dean
7. PG University Accreditation
8. PG GR School
9. PG Graduate Council
10. PG GR Dean
11. PG FS Office for GWC
12. PG FS GWC
13. PG Faculty Senate
14. PG FS for President
15. PG FS President Approved
16. PG Registrar

Approval Path

1. 03/23/20 2:28 pm
Patty Murphy (pxm491): Rollback to Initiator
2. 03/24/20 8:12 am
Jenny Vargas (j.zwanziger): Rollback to Initiator
3. 03/24/20 10:01 am
Patty Murphy (pxm491): Approved for PG Assessment and Accreditation
4. 03/31/20 3:40 pm
Patty Murphy (pxm491): Rollback to PG Assessment and Accreditation for PG MLS GR Director
5. 03/31/20 3:42 pm
Patty Murphy

Program Length (Years) 2

Total Credits 30

(pxm491): Rollback

to Initiator

6. 04/10/20 1:54 pm

Patty Murphy

(pxm491): Rollback

to Initiator

7. 04/13/20 9:34 am

Patty Murphy

(pxm491): Rollback

to Initiator

8. 01/25/21 2:16 pm

Patty Murphy

(pxm491): Rollback

to Initiator

9. 03/08/21 4:38 pm

Patty Murphy

(pxm491): Rollback

to Initiator

10. 04/08/21 12:00 pm

Patty Murphy

(pxm491): Approved

for PG Initial Review

11. 04/09/21 10:48 am

Daniel Pals (dpals):

Approved for PG

MLS GR Director

12. 04/09/21 11:16 am

Charles Mallery

(cmallery):

Approved for PG AS

Assoc Dean

13. 04/09/21 11:18 am

Kenneth Voss

(voss): Approved for

PG AS GR Sr Assoc

Dean

14. 04/09/21 12:06 pm

Maryann Tobin

(m.tatum):

Approved for PG AS

Faculty

15. 04/12/21 2:53 pm

Leonidas Bachas

(l.bachas):

Approved for PG AS

Dean

16. 04/12/21 5:11 pm

Patty Murphy

(pxm491): Approved

for PG University

Accreditation

To Be Published in the Academic Bulletin

- Page 3 of 14
- 17. 04/15/21 11:02 am
Tiffany Plantan
(tplantan):
Approved for PG GR
School
 - 18. 04/23/21 3:58 pm
Tiffany Plantan
(tplantan):
Approved for PG
Graduate Council
 - 19. 04/25/21 11:23 am
Guillermo Prado
(gprado): Approved
for PG GR Dean

Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Medical Humanities and Bioethics is an interdisciplinary graduate program designed to educate medical personnel on the legal, historical, ethical, and cultural contexts of medicine. *Medical Humanities* uses the perspectives and tools of humanities disciplines to study the human contexts of healthcare. Graduates of this unique degree program obtain a multidisciplinary understanding of medicine that can robustly influence their teaching, advising, ethical decision making, and patient care.

Course work in this program spans the many fields of the humanities, including religion, philosophy, history, literature, and art, in order to foster understandings of the culture, faith systems, and language essential to patient interactions.

The proposed MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics provides a curriculum based in the humanities and social sciences departments of the College of Arts & Sciences, with specific emphasis on topics related to health and medicine. This degree program is designed to provide a broad understanding of these issues and questions through a focused and systematic program of study drawing upon faculty from various disciplines in the humanities, the social sciences, and the domains of ethics.

In addition, students in this program will have the opportunity to engage in collaboration with the Miller School of Medicine’s Institute for Bioethics & Health Policy and the College of Arts & Sciences’ Center for the Humanities.

Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Arts in Medical Humanities and Bioethics is to prepare medical professionals who understand the historical, cultural, ethical, and practical aspects of health care, and who can influence our understanding of good medical practice and the importance of patient narrative in medical care.

Program Goals

The goal of the M.A. in Medical Humanities and Bioethics is to provide advanced training in the ethical and psychosocial approaches to understanding health and illness. Students will think critically and collaboratively about issues in healthcare within the framework of the humanities. Graduates from this degree program will develop culturally-relevant knowledge, skills, and behaviors that can be applied to their own clinical practice and developed throughout their careers.

Student Learning Outcomes

Effective programs focus on the design and improvement of educational experiences to enhance student learning. Expected student learning outcomes specify the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes students are expected to attain in the program. Please include an educational mission statement for the program, educational goals/objectives for the program, and specific student learning outcomes that you will use to assess the program. Student learning outcomes should start with "Students will be able to..." or "Students will demonstrate..." or similar phrasing.

The M.A. in Medical Humanities and Bioethics provides advanced training and practice in the ethical and psychosocial approach to understanding health and illness. Through the study and application of humanities to issues in patient care, students will:

- Acquire knowledge of concepts, methods and subject materials from core humanities disciplines (literature, ethics, history, and visual arts) in relation to current problems and issues in healthcare.
- Consider multiple perspectives from humanities disciplines on ethical ‘caring for the patient’, with particular focus on the patient and provider as persons in social and cultural contexts that shape their knowledge, behaviors and attitudes.
- Develop skills and tools from humanities-based knowledge about patients, providers, and practices that can be applied in clinical practice, studied in scholarly research, and taught in healthcare education.

Curriculum Requirements

Master of Arts in Medical Humanities and Bioethics

Required Core Courses

MLS 601	Aspects of Creative and Reflective Thought	3
MLS 602	Perspectives on Human Nature	3
MLS 604	Course MLS 604 Not Found (New course: Survey of Medical Humanities and Health Sciences)	3
MDR TBA	Course MDR TBA Not Found (New course in Bioethics from Medical Education)	3
Electives 1		12
MLS 696	Directed Readings	3
or MLS 697	Directed Readings	
MDR TBA	Course MDR TBA Not Found (New Medical Humanities and Bioethics Practicum from Medical Education)	3
Total Credit Hours		30

1 Students must take at least one elective course from three of the following areas:

Visual Humanities (ex. Art, Art History, Architecture)

Literature (ex. English, Classics)

Religious Studies

Philosophy

History/Cultural Studies (ex. History, Anthropology, Latin American Studies)

Social Ethics (ex. Sociology, Global Health, Environmental Ethics, Data Ethics)

Master of Arts in Medical Humanities and Bioethics

Sample Plan of Study. Elective courses will vary.

Plan of Study Grid

Year One

	Credit Hours
Fall	
MLS 601 Aspects of Creative and Reflective Thought	3
MLS 602 Perspectives on Human Nature	3
MDR TBA Course MDR TBA Not Found (New Course on Bioethics from Medical Education)	3
Elective	3
Credit Hours	12
Spring	
MLS 604 Course MLS 604 Not Found (New course: Survey of Medical Humanities and Health Sciences)	3
MDR TBA Course MDR TBA Not Found (New Medical Humanities & Bioethics Practicum from Medical Education)	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
Credit Hours	12
Summer	
MLS 696 Directed Readings	3
Elective	3
Credit Hours	6
Total Credit Hours	30

Admission Requirements

Admission Requirements

The Master of Arts in Medical Humanities and Bioethics accepts rolling admissions. Interested students may apply to the program at any time.

Online Application

Please complete the online application by [clicking here](#).

Application Fee

An \$85.00 non-refundable application fee is paid online upon submission of the application.

Statement of Purpose

The statement of purpose is the most important element of your application packet. This letter needs to reflect who you are, your goals and how you plan to use this degree to improve and enhance your health care practice. It is very important to ensure it is grammatically correct and as detailed as possible. The statement of purpose should be no more than two pages in length. Please review before your submit.

Below is a link to help you get started:

[OWL Statement of Purpose Guidelines](#).

Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation must be provided. These letters should be from an employer, colleague, or other professional source. *If you are currently taking classes, or if you are a recent graduate (within two years), you must submit at least one letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

Official Transcripts

You must provide official transcripts from each post-secondary institution attended. Official transcripts in languages other than English must also be submitted with a certified English translation.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A minimum overall undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Rationale

Rationale

In May 2019, Miller School of Medicine Dean Henri R. Ford, issued a bold challenge to the faculty of the Medical School to imagine a multi-phase redesign of the M.D. curriculum, allowing students to develop a personalized pathway in a specialized area of interest, consisting of scholarly or joint degree pursuits.

To that end, the College of Arts & Sciences (A&S) was approached to consider the development of a graduate program, to be offered for medical students and medical professionals.

The College of Arts & Sciences' Center for the Humanities assembled a task force to survey the courses offered in the medical humanities (at both graduate and undergraduate levels) as well as the many faculty working in that field. The result was a robust list of classes and faculty across multiple departments of the College able to offer tailored special topics classes for this unique degree offering. A&S already offers minors in Medical Humanities and Social Sciences & Medicine, and master's degrees in Global Health and Society, Medical Anthropology, Latin American Studies, and Liberal Studies, all of which are taught by faculty able to teach graduate courses in the medical humanities. In short, the College was willing and able to put forth a proposal to satisfy the suggestions of the Medical School and the latest trends in medical education. In consultation with the Medical School's "Medicine as a Profession" team, the task force considered themes important to the physician of the future, such as clinical skills, health system science, social determinants of health, public health, and nutrition. Interdisciplinary study of values-oriented social sciences, bioethics, and the nature of human culture and communication are essential parts of career development for future practitioners. The task force emphasized that skills and attitudes such as leadership, teamwork, communication, and empathy must be part of what counts in the evaluation of students. Therefore, the goal of the M.A. in Medical Humanities and Bioethics is to provide a rigorous master's level education in the legal, historical, philosophical, and cultural contexts of medicine.

Graduates of this unique degree program will be able to use their multidisciplinary understanding of medicine in their teaching, advising, and ethical decision making. At the core of this program are the humanities, the art of medicine, and understanding the cultures and religious beliefs essential to patient interactions. Equally essential to this degree program is the acquisition of a breadth of knowledge to help in developing clinical empathy, an increased fluency of the interpersonal dynamics between physicians, patients, and their families, and the larger social contexts of care.

The curriculum reflects a flexible program for adult and working students, with evening and online classes. The College of Arts & Sciences has been successful in providing these types of interdisciplinary graduate programs for many years, relying on the College's expertise in providing multidisciplinary perspectives across the humanities.

Historically, the College of Arts & Sciences has offered unique classes highlighting faculty experience in bridging the humanities and the sciences. Of note is the current class taught by President Frenk and Dr. Felicia Knaul on *Introduction to Global Health: Topics in Latin America and the Caribbean*. In the past, former Provost Luis Glaser and Professor Emeritus Dr. Stephen Sapp co-taught a groundbreaking interdisciplinary course open to all students on Ethics and Genetics.

The MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics draws upon faculty from various disciplines in the humanities, the social sciences, and the basic sciences, with special topics courses specifically offered for the M.D. students. The College of Arts & Sciences already has an extensive catalog of courses (and faculty) across the humanities and social sciences with expertise in these topics.

The MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics will be administered by the MA in Liberal Studies (MALS) program. The College of Arts and Sciences, particularly the MALS program, has a history of offering coursework grounded in interdisciplinary approaches to issues and questions central to the history and development of human culture. The goal is to provide students with a broad understanding of these issues and questions, which can be applied to any field, including medicine and health care.

Market Demand

There are examples of medical humanities degrees at several peer and aspirational peer institutions across the country, including Northwestern, Stanford, Duke, and Drexel, to address the growing demand for professionals in the medical fields to comprehend and appreciate the ethical, social, and cultural aspects of healthcare. Specific to the demand for programs in the medical humanities are the importance of understanding the interactions between human experience and medical practice, and the socio-cultural contexts of a wide range of topics including empathy, belief systems, and ethics.

In order to meet this unique demand, and because the College did not have a formally organized degree program in the medical humanities, it is necessary to create a new degree for this purpose.

Given the equally unique and demanding schedule of working medical professionals, it was necessary to provide a framework of flexibility, in both course offerings and schedule. The College of Arts & Sciences already hosts a similarly flexible graduate program: the M.A. in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree. Through the MALS programs, courses are able to be offered in the evenings, over the summer, and online. MALS is also able to regularly offer special topics courses independent of, or co-listed with, courses in the History, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Art & Art History, and English departments. Therefore, the College already has a model in place to negotiate courses and seats for students pursuing interdisciplinary graduate degrees. We also have the budgetary and curricular mechanisms in place for adding this M.A. in Medical Humanities and Bioethics as part of our offerings, utilizing existing MALS courses, as well as courses across the college that deal with issues relating to the medical humanities.

This degree will be also offered as part of the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine NextGenMD program. The goal of offering this degree to MD students and medical professionals is to encourage them to think critically and collaboratively about issues in healthcare within the framework of the humanities. Coursework specific to this degree program will strengthen and deepen their knowledge, skills and behaviors that can be applied to their own clinical practice and developed through their careers. To that end, it is also necessary to provide a flexible plan of study to accommodate for M.D. students and medical professionals unique interests and time constraints.

For example, a student with a particular interest in ethics may elect to take more classes from the Depts. of Philosophy or Religious Studies. Similarly, a student who wishes to open a family practice in a diverse setting may elect to take more courses that familiarize themselves with cultural beliefs, histories, and traditions, and may take more courses from the Depts of Anthropology, Sociology, or History, as well as Religious Studies.

Graduates of the M.A. in Medical Humanities & Bioethics will be able to obtain critical professional knowledge of the context and experience of illness and healthcare through their studies of the humanities and hopefully practice as empathetic and reflective physicians.

Relationship to Other Programs

Across the humanities departments of the College, there are several faculty and courses in the medical humanities that will be offered as electives for this program. In addition, core courses currently exist through the existing Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) program.

Relationship to Undergraduate and Professional Programs

A&S offers undergraduate minors in Medical Humanities and Social Sciences and Medicine, and master's degrees in Global Health and Society, Medical Anthropology, Latin American Studies, and Liberal Studies, all of which are accessible to students seeking graduate study in the medical humanities. In addition, the PhD programs in History, Philosophy, and English, have elective courses that are also applicable to this degree.

Library Resources Available and Needed to Support the Program

No additional library resources will be needed to support this program.

Laboratory Facilities, Equipment, and Space Available and Needed to Support the Program

No additional facilities will be needed to support this program.

Other Resources Available or Needed to Support the Program

None.

Curriculum

Program Curriculum

This program will examine the ethical implications of medicine, public health and other health professions from a variety of perspectives. The Miller School's Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy and Department of Medical Education will partner in offering thesis advisors, elective courses, and special events for students in this masters program.

Patterned after comparable peer programs at Emory and Northwestern in particular, this curriculum is similarly designed with a select a few core courses and the opportunity for students to customize the remainder of their course of study through health-focused electives across variety of departments.

For elective courses, the College of Arts & Sciences will open its extensive catalog of relevant courses from the Departments of History, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Anthropology, Art & Art History, Classics, and others. Because the College already provides coursework for the undergraduate minors in Medical Anthropology, Medical Humanities, Social Science & Medicine, and Religion & Healthcare and the undergraduate majors in Global Health Studies and Religion & Healthcare, we have the faculty expertise and existing coursework to offer a robust rotation of courses for this program.

This is a list of existing courses already within the College, compiled with the assistance of the *Center for the Humanities*. A full list is available in **Appendix A**.

Biomedical Ethics: *Fundamental issues including: the allocation of medical resources, behavior control, definition of death, experimentation with human subjects, euthanasia, and abortion.*

Death and Dying: *For as long as we have documented history on the subject, human beings have debated issues about what it means to be mortal, what it means to live well, how to die well and whether death is truly the end of life. This course surveys discourses about death and death rituals from the ancient Mediterranean (ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome) to the present day. Some of the issues we will discuss include (but are not limited to): the history of certain perspectives on illness, death and burial; the relationship between organized religious systems and death and dying; personhood; theodicy; euthanasia; suicide; and the afterlife.*

Medicine and Society: *Medicine and society presents a historical survey of the development of western medicine and public health from the earliest times to the present.*

Ancient Medicine: *Provides a historical survey of evidence, practices, and ideas from the world of ancient medicine.*

Health Policy and Ethics: *National, regional and global health policies with special consideration to ethical and human rights issues; policies and the moral considerations that shape public health policy.*

Medical Terminology: *Medical Terminology is an introduction to the international vocabulary of medical science derived from Ancient Greek and Latin. We will approach this topic linguistically, beginning with the roots of ancient words and examining the rules and techniques by which Greek and Latin elements (prefixes, suffixes, and stems) are constructed into medical and scientific vocabularies. We will also look at some of the intellectual contributions of Graeco-Roman civilization to modern science and medicine.*

Religion and Medicine: *An exploration of the history of medical care and the history of medicine as calling, as well as the changing professionalism of health care; the role of virtue ethics in the practice of medicine; the tensions between religion and medicine; the place of personal religious beliefs in health care; and the changing landscape of health, holism, healing, faith, and the science of medicine.*

Spiritual Healing: *Miraculous and nonmedical healing is often accused of being superstitious and bogus, particularly when it comes in conflict with scientific knowledge, biomedical practices, and government regulation. In spite of this religious healing today has garnered increasing visibility and legitimacy. This course explores an interdisciplinary discussion of religious healing in the Americas with an emphasis on healing practices in numerous religious traditions and. controversies surrounding faith healing.*

Interpreting Bodies: *Perceptions, representations, and regulation of the physical body as a gendered and sexual site, as a source of pleasure, as a means of social validation, and as an object of coercion. Writing Credit. Lecturing will be kept to a minimum, as the bulk of the class will be devoted to discussion and debate.*

Literature and Medicine: *Patients, doctors, and disease itself offer writers avenues to explore ultimate questions. In this course we will examine medicine—and these ultimate questions—as represented in fiction, drama, poetry, and non-fiction. We will consider the works in terms of both the implications for medicine and the literary uses to which medicine can be put.*

Issues in Reproductive Medicine: *Social, economic, political, legal, religious, philosophical, and psychological aspects of the global reproductive medicine industry and related genetic technologies.*

Biological Anthropology: *The historical and theoretical foundations of modern biological anthropology. Topics include ethics and standards for human subjects; applied bioarchaeology, biological anthropology in medical/legal settings, primatology, Human biology and adaptive diversity, modern perspectives on race and skeletal biology of modern peoples. The development of professional research and writing skills for the*

modern perspectives on race, and skeletal biology of modern peoples; the development of professional research and writing discipline is integral to course goals.

Medical Sociology: A brief early history, methods, theory and concepts of social science research on health and health care mainly from the last half of the previous century to the present. We will explore gender, race, class, age, social and cultural differences in the experiences of individuals as they deal with health and illness across the life course. The course will provide students with a sociological analysis of a broad array of health/illness issues and the health services industry.

Globalization and Health: Globalization and its benefits and threats to public health; the relationship between global economic, political, social, cultural, environmental and technological changes and their impact on human health.

People, Plagues, and Pandemics: The history of pandemics shows that we have not learned from history. Is there a lesson in this recurring failure? Would we even realize it if there was? The purpose of this course is to provide an introductory overview to emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) in the context of previous global outbreaks, focusing on geography, origin, and management response. Through a combination of discussions and/or group activities, case studies, and lecture style introductions to weekly themes, students will gain a deeper understanding of disease, or group of diseases as illustrations of the impact of global outbreaks, responses, social, demographic, economic, and environmental context of historical and modern epidemics; and on basic models of infectious disease processes.

The MA in Medical Humanities & Bioethics program will rotate special topics courses through the program, taught by faculty from the Departments of English, History, Classics, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Theatre Arts, Art & Art History, International Studies, Anthropology, Modern Languages and Literatures, and the College's interdisciplinary programs. The MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics will also invite contributing courses from Architecture and Music.

Students will be advised by their advisor to take at least one elective course from three of the following areas:

Visual Humanities (ex. Art, Art History, Architecture)

Literature (ex. English, Classics)

Religious Studies

Philosophy

History/Cultural Studies (ex. History, Anthropology, Latin American Studies)

Social Ethics (ex. Sociology, Global Health, Environmental Ethics, Data Ethics)

These courses may be offered through A&S departments or by combining with MALS courses using the existing MLS special topics numbers:

- MLS 611 Studies in the Humanities
- MLS 612 Studies in the Social Sciences
- MLS 613 Studies in the Social Sciences
- MLS 621 Studies in the Humanities
- MLS 625 Special Topics
- MLS 626 Special Topics
- MLS 627 Special Topics
- MLS 631 Studies in the Humanities
- MLS 798 Seminar in Liberal Studies
- MLS 799 Seminar in Liberal Studies

The flexibility of the these 600- and 700- level special topics classes allows the program to offer unique courses for Medical Humanities and Bioethics students as needed, combined with the electives listed above in their home department. For example, *REL 351 Death and Dying* would be combined with *MLS 611 Studies in the Humanities: Death and Dying* for students in the MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics degree, with appropriate graduate assignments and readings. This allows the program to customize a curriculum for each cohort.

Upload Syllabi for Any New Courses

Proposed Schedule of Course Offerings for the First Three Years

Three new courses are being developed for this degree program:

MLS 604 Introduction to Narrative Medicine will be developed by the College of Arts & Sciences.

Medical Education has agreed to develop two new courses: a course on Bioethics, as well as a Medical Humanities and Bioethics Practicum, to be administered through the Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy.

All other courses are already offered through the College of Arts & Sciences/MALS program on a regular basis - Fall, Spring, and Summer, and may also be offered through the various humanities and social sciences departments of the College.

MLS 601 Aspects of Creative and Reflective Thought and MLS 602 Perspectives on Human Nature are offered regularly every Fall and Spring term.

MLS 604 Survey of Medical Humanities and Health Sciences will be offered every Spring.

The new course in Bioethics will be offered every Fall term. The new Medical Humanities & Bioethics practicum will be offered every Spring term.

Electives will vary, but are regularly offered Fall, Spring, and Summer across the College of Arts & Sciences' humanities departments and programs.

Faculty

Program Directors

This degree will be managed by a faculty advisory board comprised of faculty and directors across the College of Arts & Sciences:

The Medical Humanities & Bioethics Advisory Board:

Dr. Daniel Pals, Professor, Religious Studies and History (MALS Director)

Dr. Kenneth Goodman, Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy

Dr. Gauri Agarwal, Associate Dean, Miller School of Medicine

Dr. John Paul Russo, Professor and Chair, Classics

Dr. Catherine Newell, Associate Professor, Religious Studies

Dr. Meghan Homer, Center for the Humanities

Dr. Maryann Tobin, Assistant Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

Upload CV(s) [Vita_Daniel_Pals_February2020.pdf](#)

Program Faculty

The Medical Humanities & Bioethics Advisory Board is charged with vetting and approving all courses for the MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics. It is assumed that several special topics courses will be offered for this unique population of students. Syllabi for those courses will require the review and approval of the board.

The proposed curriculum will also require two courses to be offered through the newly-formed Department of Medical Education at the Miller School. These two courses, the Ethics course and the Ethics practicum, will be vetted by the Medical School's Executive Curriculum Committee (ECC) and will be offered through the Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy.

Upload CV(s) Grad

Students

Applicant Pool

This degree program is designed for medical and health care professionals, to encourage them to think critically and collaboratively about issues in healthcare within the framework of the humanities. Coursework specific to this degree program will strengthen and deepen their knowledge, skills and behaviors that can be applied to their own clinical practice and developed through their careers. Graduates of the MA in Medical Humanities & Bioethics will be able to obtain critical professional knowledge of the context and experience of illness and healthcare through their studies of the humanities and hopefully practice as empathetic and reflective physicians.

In addition, the College of Arts & Sciences and the Miller School of Medicine intend to jointly propose a dual degree option so that current MD students can also take this degree as part of their course of study.

Enrollment Projections

We are anticipating a regular cohort of 10-15 students, which is typical and sustainable for graduate programs in the humanities.

Teaching or Research Assistants

No teaching or research assistants will be needed for this degree program.

Administration

Program Administration

The College of Arts & Sciences will administer this degree through the Office of Interdisciplinary and Professional Studies (IPS). The IPS Office oversees all interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate programs of the College, including the aforementioned MALS program, under the direction of the Assistant Dean for Professional Education.

Budget

Program Budget

As this program utilizes mostly existing courses and faculty, minimal start-up is needed. The A&S Dean's Office will support start-up through graduate tuition returns from the MALS program.

An MOU between A&S and Miller has been agreed to whereby tuition returns will be shared to cover the costs of the two courses being offered by the Miller School. In order to assist the Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy in recovering the cost of offering the Ethics course and Practicum, the College of Arts & Sciences' agrees to return 20% of the tuition collected after expenses and any waivers.

This program will also accept students eligible for tuition remission.

Comparison

Peer Comparisons

[MA in Medical Humanities](#), Duke University

Only offered as part of the dual MD degree

Courses may be chosen from the Medical School, Divinity School, or Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Individual readings courses with the mentor or other faculty may be included in the courses chosen.

[MA in Bioethics](#), Emory University, 30 credits

18 core credits and 12 elective credits

The program can be completed in one year as a full-time or on a flexible schedule as a part-time student.

[MA in Medical Humanities](#), Drew University, 30 credits

15 core credits and 9 elective credits taken through the Caspersen School or the School of Theology

Thesis or Non-Thesis track.

[MA in Bioethics and Medical Humanities](#), Case Western Reserve, 30 credits

Students complete 16.5 credits of Core Courses and 13.5 of Elective credits.

Curriculum designed to “encourage students to explore the issues most relevant to their specific interests.”

[MS in Narrative Medicine](#), Columbia University, 30 credits

Narrative medicine **topics courses** draw on the resources of more than one discipline.

Courses rotate to reflect the current concerns, methodologies, and analytic approaches of narrative scholars and practitioners.

[MS in Bioethics and Medical Humanities](#), Tulane University, 33 credits

Track in Bioethics and Track in Medical Humanities

9 credits of foundations courses followed by track electives.

[MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics](#), Northwestern, 30 credits

This program offers a fair amount on flexibility with regards to special topics courses offered each term.

[MA in Medicine, Health, and Society](#), Vanderbilt, 30 credits

Offers a “broad curriculum that allows students the unique opportunity to take classes in the Vanderbilt Graduate School as well as the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Law, and the Master of Public Health Program.”

Requirements include the 3-hour core colloquium, MHS 6100 Theories and Methods in Critical Health Studies, an introduction to graduate-level interdisciplinary work in medicine, health, and society, drawing on the perspectives of anthropology, economics, history, political science and policy studies, philosophy, religious studies, and sociology.

Documents

Attach Supporting Documentation

[Appendix A.docx](#)

[CIM Letters of Support for MedHum.pdf](#)

Reviewer

Charles Mallery (cmallery) (04/09/21 11:16 am): In accordance with the College of Arts & Sciences By-Laws (amended April 5, 2021) the Curriculum Committee of the College acting for the College Council approved this program change.

Comments

Kenneth Voss (voss) (04/09/21 11:18 am): I approve this change

Maryann Tobin (m.tatum) (04/09/21 12:06 pm): This proposal was unanimously approved at a regular meeting of the College of Arts & Sciences faculty on April 27, 2020.

Leonidas Bachas (l.bachas) (04/12/21 2:52 pm): The Arts and Sciences faculty voted to approve this proposal on April 27, 2020. I support the proposed program

Patty Murphy (pxm491) (04/12/21 5:11 pm): Although the proposed new program involves three new courses, they do not represent a significant departure in content from what the University is currently approved to offer at the graduate level and will large use existing courses. Therefore, notification to or approval from SASCOC is not required.

Tiffany Plantan (tplantan) (04/23/21 3:58 pm): Proposal was discussed at the April 20, 2021 meeting of the Graduate Council and approved by Council members present (11 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).

Robyn Hardeman (rhardeman) (06/24/21 1:48 pm): This proposal will be added to the GWC agenda for the Wednesday, August 18, 2021 meeting. It will require a presentation. More details will be forthcoming communicated directly to the proponents listed.

Medical Humanities and Bioethics

Appendix A

The following list of existing courses and topics was compiled with the assistance of the *Center for the Humanities*. These are existing or previously offered courses within the College of Arts & Sciences' demonstrating the breadth and depth of our cross-departmental offerings in the medical humanities.

Humanities

Visual Arts and Healing
Music Therapy
Music in Rehabilitation
Dance-Movement Therapy
Medicine and Society
Historical Diseases and Society
Ancient Medicine
Magic and the Occult
Medical Terminology
Spirituality and Medicine
Knowledge in Medicine
Narratives & Autobiographies of Survivors
Insights from Narratives of Illness
Digital Humanities
Studies in Latino/a Literature and Culture
Literature, Compassion, and Care
Medicine and the Muse
Cultural Beliefs
Interpreting Bodies
Understanding the Built Environment
Cultural and Bioethical Debates in Second Languages
History of Medicine
Literature and Medicine

Social Sciences/STEM

Issues in Reproductive Medicine
Biological Anthropology
Social Psychology of Health and Illness
Medical Sociology
Health Diversity
Human Trafficking
Migration Studies
Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Globalization and Health
Disasters and Humanitarian Assistance
Environmental Geography and Planetary Health
Wealth and Poverty in America
Race and Culture in Contemporary America
Behavioral Medicine
Developmental Disabilities
Mindfulness
Stress Management
The Anthropology of Kinship and Family
Sociology of the Family
Modern Plagues and Society
Data Ethics
Biomedical Data Science