

2022-23

# NEUROETHICS

Degree Offered: Certificate



## Program Description

The Certificate in Neuroethics program training valuable to both clinicians and researchers; as the ever-advancing fields of neuroscience and neurotechnology posit new challenges, there is an increased demand for thoughtful consideration by individuals with a strong foundation in brain science as well as an expertise in ethical analysis and policy development. The Certificate in Neuroethics program is offered in an accessible online format available to individuals from across the nation.

## Admission Requirements

In addition to the general [Graduate School admission requirements](#), this program has additional specific requirements.

Criteria for admission includes academic training and professional experience in a relevant area; commitment to the field of neuroethics; and promise in the program's academic areas.

## Credits Required to Graduate

12 credits

## Program Credit Requirements

Students in the Certificate program are required to complete a total of four three-credit online courses. All four of the courses are required.

These required courses provide students with the necessary legal, philosophical, and clinical perspectives necessary and valuable to researchers and clinicians interested in neuroethics.

Two of the courses will be offered in the fall semester, and the other two will be offered in the spring semester. Enrolled students have the choice to take one class per semester and finish the certificate in four semesters or take two classes per semester and finish in two semesters.

The technical requirements are minimal, i.e., ability to use a Web-browser and email. Class discussions and additional work are conducted primarily in non-real time, so students can participate at their convenience during each week. The pedagogical capabilities of the online environment enhance the class discussions and allow for individualized instructor feedback, which empowers the learners and makes the courses truly student-centered.

## Required Courses

**10210 Philosophical Bioethics.** *3 credits.*

In this course, students will explore the foundations of philosophical ethics in the West, and how early themes shape current work in philosophical bioethics. To this end, students will read works by Aristotle, Kant, and Mill, focusing on their theoretical approaches to ethics. Detailed discussion will focus on the ethics theories known as virtue theory, casuistry, deontology, utilitarianism, communitarianism, and principlism, considering both their

historical origins and modern interpretations. Students will apply these theories to topical themes of moral development, abortion, assisted death and others, noting their strengths and weaknesses.

**10223 Law and Bioethics.** *3 credits.*

This course provides an introduction to legal principles and legal precedent relevant to issues in bioethics, aimed at providing the foundation for understanding relevant law concerning these issues.

**10245 Philosophical Neuroethics.** *3 credits.*

Neuroscience and neurotechnologies are generating knowledge about the nature of consciousness, moral emotions, free will, and concepts of mind and self. While some of these latter concepts are philosophical in nature, they have nonetheless practical, ethical, and sociopolitical significance that demands critical evaluation. New findings in neuroscience are increasingly applied in clinical, legal, and social contexts: 1) neurostimulation technologies provide alternative treatments for debilitating neurological disorders (e.g., Parkinsonism, Treatment-Resistant Depression), 2) neuroimaging technologies are used increasingly for forensic purposes (e.g., lie detection), and 3) neurodevices are developed to enhance cognitive performance (e.g., military applications) or control/alter behavior (moral bioenhancement). Emerging neurotechnologies are likely to impact nearly every aspect of human existence and society at large. This course focuses on the historical, philosophical, ethical issues arising from advances in neuroscience/ neurotechnologies in the broader social milieu.

**10248 Clinical Neuroethics.** *3 credits.*

Neuroscience and neurotechnologies are generating knowledge about the nature of consciousness, moral emotions, free will, and concepts of mind and self. While some of these latter concepts are philosophical in nature, they have nonetheless practical, ethical and socio-political significance that demands critical evaluation. New findings in neuroscience are increasingly applied in clinical, legal and social contexts: 1) neurostimulation technologies provide alternative treatments for debilitating neurological disorders, 2) neuroimaging technologies are used increasingly for forensic purposes, and 3) neurodevices are developed to enhance cognitive performance or control/alter behavior. Emerging neurotechnologies are likely to impact nearly every aspect of human existence and society at large. This course focuses on the ethical, social and practical issues arising from advances in neuroscience/neurotechnologies in the clinical context.

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