

LEARN ENGAGE EXPLORE

Science asks, "Can we?"

Bioethics asks, "Should we?"

Policy asks, "How?"

Join the conversation.

What makes the Duke MA in Bioethics & Science Policy special?

Distinct Curriculum. Our curriculum focuses on both bioethics and science policy. In today's world, we see an increasing demand for expertise in the ethical and policy implications of a broad range of scientific areas. Our expanded focus provides a broader education, opens more opportunities, and prepares students to meet ever growing needs in society.

Individualized Attention. We give every student an individualized academic experience. The MA program connects each student to a mentor who works with the student to consider concentrations, tailor the practicum experience, and explore career options.

Faculty. The MA has a world-class core and affiliated interdisciplinary faculty from across the Duke community, including from philosophy, neuroscience, medicine, law, and genomics.

Location. Duke is located in NC's Research Triangle, which is home to a wide range of academic institutions, biotechnology firms, and pharmaceutical companies. This area provides a variety of options for learning, practicum experiences, and job placements.

Career Assistance. We have an extensive database of internship, fellowship, and job opportunities to help students find the best fit for their interests and expertise. We work with each student to enter or return to the workplace after graduation.



Apply Today

We seek students from a variety of backgrounds to join our dynamic student community. Professionals with work experience, students pursuing other degrees, or students with a BA or BS are welcome to apply. Application requirements are:

- A degree from an accredited four-year university
- Duke Graduate School's online application with the MA supplemental questions
- Three academic letters of recommendation
- Transcript(s) from each post-secondary institution attended
- Official GRE scores
- Official TOEFL or IELTS scores (international applicants only)



Master of Arts in Bioethics & Science Policy

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Advances in science and technology shape our world and our place in it, raising a myriad of questions:

- Is it ever ethical to clone all or part of a human being?
- How should genetic information be used in law enforcement?
- Should we use technologies that enhance or alter our brains?

The Duke MA in Bioethics & Science Policy invites students to address these questions and many more.



The MA is led by Nita Farahany, JD, Ph.D., whose scholarship focuses on the ethical, legal, and social implications of the biosciences, and who has served on the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues since 2010.

If you love science and are fascinated by how it changes – and is changed by – society, we invite you to explore the Duke MA in Bioethics & Science Policy.



Master of Arts Bioethics & Science Policy



Program Curriculum

The MA program teaches students how to thoughtfully identify, analyze, and propose solutions to complex problems at the intersection of science, technology, ethics, and policy.

Degree Requirements

A total of 36 credits: 5 core courses (15 credits), 4 elective courses (12 credits), and a capstone project (9 credits).

Core Courses

Bioethic 601S. Foundations of Bioethics & Science Policy
Bioethic 602S. Law, Research, & Bioethics
Bioethic 603S. Science, Law, & Policy
Bioethic 604S. Clinical Bioethics & Policy
Bioethic 605S. Contemporary Issues in Bioethics & Science Policy

Electives

The MA offers a robust selection of intellectually stimulating electives that allow students to explore a variety of cutting edge issues. While core MA faculty teach a number of electives, students may also choose electives from many other departments across campus.

Capstone Project

As part of the MA program, students select and complete a final capstone project, which is either (1) a scholarly research paper focusing on a specific subject in bioethics or science policy, or (2) a practicum (field placement) that culminates in a written analysis of the experience.

Optional Concentration

Students have the opportunity to focus on an existing or emerging area that poses fundamental questions about the relationship between science, ethics, and society. Concentrations include genomics, neuroscience, and public impact and engagement. Alternately, students may choose to design an independent concentration.

Degree Timing

We welcome both full-time and part-time students. Full-time students may complete the degree in one full year, including fall, spring, and summer. Part-time students may spread the course work over two or three years.