

# Dual-Degree Program

Master of Science in Bioethics

Master of Science in Social Work

Prepare for a leadership role in bioethics and social work.

## M.S. in Bioethics

Offered by Columbia University  
School of Professional Studies (SPS)

Lead as a bioethicist who has a thorough understanding of issues that affect health at public and individual levels.

This program prepares students to address critical issues concerning the ethical, legal, and social implications of advances in health care and biotechnology.

## M.S. in Social Work

Offered by Columbia University  
School of Social Work (CSSW)

Lead as a social worker who can develop, deliver, and evaluate services, drawing on strong foundational knowledge, frameworks, and skills in bioethics.

This program joins rigorous academic theory with real-world practice to enhance the welfare of citizens and communities in New York City, across the nation, and around the world.

## Dual-Degree Graduates Are Prepared to:

### Take on roles in:

- Health Care
- Nonprofit/International NGOs
- Academic Settings
- Governmental Agencies
- Educational Settings

### Address questions including:

- How do we balance patients' best interests with their autonomy if patients and/or their families are refusing medical care or want more care than their physicians recommend?
- How should hospitals and other health institutions decide whether to mandate vaccines, masks, or other measures for employees?
- Should patients undergo medical treatment or research if it also poses risks to them, and how should we proceed in such cases?
- How do we triage and allocate scarce resources?

**Each degree counts credits from the other, allowing students to earn both degrees for substantially less time and tuition than pursuing them separately would require.**

## Dual-Degree Program Benefits

Complete the program in as few as six semesters while gaining access to unique benefits.

### Full-Spectrum Career Services

Gain lifelong access to both the SPS Career Design Lab and the CSSW's Office of Career and Leadership Management.

### Specialized Career Opportunities

Expand your knowledge and skills and broaden your career prospects with cross-disciplinary training in social work and bioethics.

### In-Person and Online Classes

Complete the program fully online, fully in person, or through a combination of online and in-person study with physicians, lawyers, philosophers, and others.

### Global Alumni Networks

Become part of two global alumni networks.

### Columbia University Resources

Develop a network across Columbia institutes and centers affiliated with both schools.

### An Advanced Cohort

Join an elite network of highly motivated professionals.

Apply Online [sps.columbia.edu/bioethics/dual-degree-sw](https://sps.columbia.edu/bioethics/dual-degree-sw)



## How It Works

- 1 Obtain separate admission to both programs.
- 2 Complete generalist year Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) coursework full-time (online or in person) at the Columbia School of Social Work (CSSW) during your first year, as well as a Bioethics course at SPS.
- 3 Spend your second year taking M.S. coursework in bioethics at SPS—full-time or part-time, online or in person.
- 4 Complete specialized year MSSW coursework full-time (online or in person) at CSSW, as well as another bioethics course at SPS.

## Sample Full-Time Schedule

*The University reserves the right to withdraw or modify the courses of instruction or to change the instructors as may become necessary.*

Semester 1: Fall		Semester 2: Spring		Semester 3: Fall	
Course	Credits	Course	Credits	Course	Credits
Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	3	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3	Research Ethics	3
Social Welfare Policy	3	Direct Practice with Individuals, Families & Groups	3	Law and Bioethics	3
Foundations of Social Work Practice	3	Advocacy in Social Work Practice	3	Clinical Ethics	3
Intro to Philosophical Bioethics	3	Social Work Research	3	Global Ethics	3
Generalist Year Practicum Learning	4.5	Generalist Year Practicum Learning	4.5		
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>12</b>
Semester 4: Spring		Semester 5: Fall		Semester 6: Spring	
Course	Credits	Course	Credits	Course	Credits
Reproductive Ethics	3	Specialized Year Practicum Learning	4.5	Specialized Year Practicum Learning	4.5
Clinical Ethics: End of Life Care	3	Advanced Clinical Practice	3	Organ Transplant Ethics	3
Pediatric Ethics	3	Field of Practice	3	Advanced Clinical Practice Topics	3
Master Thesis Workshop	1	Clinical Practice Evaluation	3		
Master Thesis	2				
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>10.5</b>

## Application Deadlines

**February 15**  
Priority Deadline

**April 1**  
Final Deadline

### For degree-specific details, visit:

M.S. in Bioethics  
[sps.columbia.edu/bioethics](https://sps.columbia.edu/bioethics)

M.S. in Social Work  
[apply.ssw.columbia.edu/apply](https://apply.ssw.columbia.edu/apply)



*"Bioethics and Social Work are complementary degrees. My dual training empowers me to elevate patient and caregiver voices while ensuring that medical treatments adhere to professional, ethical, and societal standards. This combination enhances my ability to advocate effectively and integrate diverse perspectives into patient care."*

**Liz Blackler, MBE, LCSW-R, HEC-C**

Associate Director, Ethics Committee & Consultation Service for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center