



Scholarly Concentration in Medical Humanities and Ethics

Revised February 16, 2018

Overview

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, through the McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics, offers a Concentration in Medical Humanities and Ethics (“The Medical Humanities and Ethics Concentration”) for students enrolled in McGovern Medical School who have demonstrated substantive scholarship in Medical Humanities through course work, participation in the Medical Humanities community, a final research project, and relevant volunteer experience. The award of the certificate for the Medical Humanities and Ethics Concentration is noted on the student’s final transcript and, near graduation, a banquet for students is held celebrating this accomplishment.

Number of Students

No more than 30 students per class year may be enrolled in the Medical Humanities and Ethics Concentration.

Admission to the Concentration

Applications for admission can be submitted during the Spring of the student’s MSI year. Second-year applicants are encouraged to apply as well, and these applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Students wishing to gain admittance to the Concentration are encouraged to attend the Introduction to Medical Humanities during their first semester of medical school.

Students must submit an application for admission to the Concentration through the Scholarly Concentrations website:

<https://med.uth.edu/oep/medical-education/student-programs/scholarly-concentrations-program/>

The application includes a personal statement section requiring students to explain why they wish to pursue the Medical Humanities and Ethics Concentration as well as a description of their future goals.

Core Requirements

The requirements of the program may be found here: <http://go.uth.edu/humanities-requirements>

Core Courses

Introduction to Medical Humanities I (Encouraged, but not required in MSI year)
Summer Humanities Seminar (MSI Summer)
Introduction to Medical Humanities II (Fall of MSII year)
One McGovern Center-sponsored blue book elective (During MSI and MSII years)
Humanistic Elements of Medicine (October, December, or February of MSIV year)

Required Concentration Activities and Events

Attend 5 Certificate Program Activities and Events in each MS year (*2 of these must be dinner programs, and the remaining 3 events can be selected from Grand Rounds in Clinical Ethics, Poetry or Film Nights, Book Clubs, and other social activities or events advertised to students*)

Good Academic Standing Requirement

The student must maintain good academic standing with McGovern Medical School.

Volunteer Requirement

The volunteer experience may be either through the Day of Service or other volunteer opportunities available through McGovern Medical School or an activity or experience approved by the Director. In order to receive credit, student must submit a brief description of their volunteer experience.

Writing Requirements

Students pursuing the Concentration will be expected to demonstrate reflection and an interest in sustaining self-knowledge sufficient to promote their own growth as humanistic physicians. During the third year of medical school, students are required to keep a journal of personal reflections on their own experiences and feelings during each clinical rotation. Students also must attend a writing workshop aimed at developing and refining their writing skills.

Students enrolled in the Concentration in Medical Humanities and Ethics must (1) complete a scholarly research project on a subject related to the Medical Humanities or Ethics; or (2) produce a substantial work of interpretive content under the direction of a member of the McGovern Center's faculty. A paper will be written about either the research findings or the interpretive content. The paper must be a minimum of 12 pages in length, double-spaced, and in 12-point font with one-inch margins.

Make-Up Credit

In the event a student is unable to meet the stated program requirements, make-up credit may be obtained for each event or requirement missed by successfully completing a make-up assignment. To replace a missing event, students must complete a two-page, single-spaced paper (1,000 words) on an assigned reading; the assigned reading will relate to the missed event. "Missed event" refers to Concentration-sponsored activities and events, such as Grand Rounds in Clinical Ethics, Dinner Lectures, Special Lectures, etc. If a student is admitted to the Concentration during their MSII year resulting in nonparticipation in the Summer Humanities Seminar, the student may complete two additional blue book electives sponsored by the McGovern Center in its place. The deadline for make-up work is one month after notification of the deficiency. If, however, a student must complete

multiple make-up assignments to account for missing program requirements, all make-up work must be submitted no later than September 30 of the student's MSIV year (prior to taking Humanistic Elements of Medicine and completing their research project).

Completion of the Concentration

No student may complete the Concentration without the approval of the Director, and the Director retains the discretion to drop a student from the Concentration for failure to comply with any of the requirements or for other good cause. The Director shall also have authority to modify, waive, or reconfigure the Concentration Requirements, where necessary, to promote equity and fairness in the event of unforeseen complications or exigent circumstances.

For more information: Please contact Program Director at Nathan.Carlin@uth.tmc.edu.

MEDICAL HUMANITIES SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

MSI

Humanities Seminar
Summer before MSII year

Optional

Blue Book Electives

- Introduction to Medical Humanities (*Fall*)
- At least 1 McGovern Center-sponsored blue book (*by end of MSII year*)

Events

- 2 dinners (*fall, spring, Graduation Banquet*)
- 3 events of your choice

Volunteer Activity

- 4 hours total (*Day of Service not eligible*)
- Complete by end of MSIII year

MSII

Blue Book Electives

- Introduction to Medical Humanities (*Fall*)
- At least 1 McGovern Center-sponsored elective (*by end of MSII year*)

Events

- 2 dinners
- 3 other events

Optional

Volunteer Activity

- 4 hours total (*by end of MSIII year*)

MSIII

Journal Orientation
Meeting in August

Journal Entries

- 3 journals per 5 rotations of your choice (*15 entries minimum*)

Writing Workshop

- Attend at least 1 workshop (*Orientation Meeting not eligible*)

Events

- 2 dinners
- 3 other events

Volunteer Activity

- 4 hours total (*by end of MSIII year*)

MSIV

Fourth-Year Elective

- Humanistic Elements of Medicine (*choose from October, December, or February*)

Research Project

- 10 – 12-page research paper (*or complete an approved project*)

Research Project Presentation

- 2-minute elevator speech (*presented at Graduation Banquet*)

Events

- 2 dinners
- 3 other events