

BACHELOR OF ARTS/MASTER OF ARTS IN BIOETHICS DUAL DEGREE

Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts in Bioethics

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Trinity College offer a dual Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts Degree that pairs an MA in bioethics with an undergraduate degree in any major. This opportunity is open to qualified students in any undergraduate major but may have special appeal for students with the following majors or interests: premedical, pre-health, psychology, philosophy, law, public policy, communications, theology, business, Christian ministries, and education.

In this program, an undergraduate student may earn a graduate degree as early as the summer following the senior year by taking graduate-level courses beginning the junior year. Up to fifteen hours of coursework from the MA count toward the BA. Of these fifteen hours, 9 credits may be applied from the General Education courses and up to 6 credits of additional major courses and/or electives. These 15 overlapping hours are taken as part of the undergraduate load. (See the dual degree curriculum (p. 1)) Students begin graduate coursework in the summer after their junior year, so it is possible for them to complete both the BA and the MA as early as the following summer.

Qualified applicants must have a minimum cumulative Trinity GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, 70 hours of undergraduate coursework, and a positive recommendation from their academic advisor. Students may apply for acceptance to the dual degree program through Trinity Graduate School. Transfer students may apply to the program if they have 70 hours of undergraduate coursework, a positive recommendation from a former professor or their academic advisor, a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all transferred college work, and a minimum cumulative Trinity GPA of 3.0. Students interested in the dual degree are advised to notify their advisor(s) and the dual degree program advisor as early as possible to allow for expedient course planning and to assure that overlapping course requirements can be planned and scheduled.

Model Curricular Plan for the Dual Degree

The following is a *sample course plan* for the dual degree. Plans may vary for individual students. Students are expected to consult with their undergraduate and graduate advisors to make individual adjustments to the curricular plan as necessary. During the fall and spring semesters, as students complete their course requirements for general education and major and take graduate coursework toward the MA, they are reminded that a full academic course load must include at least 12 hours of combined graduate and undergraduate courses per semester.

Recommended undergraduate courses to be completed before starting the MA coursework:

Code	Title	Hours
BI 105 or BI 115	Understanding the Old Testament ¹ Understanding the New Testament	3
BI 211	Ethics and the Bible	3
BIO 111 or BIO 103	General Biology Introductory Biology	4

PH 180	Introduction to Philosophy	3
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Other general education courses and required major courses

¹ BE 5001 substitutes for either BI 105 or BI 115.

Undergraduate general education requirements that will be fulfilled by graduate-level courses and need not be duplicated with undergraduate work

- BI 105 **or** BI 115: BE 5001 replaces either BI 105 or BI 115 in general education
- **Diversity, Traditions, and Culture:** BE 5002 replaces one course in the *Diversity, Traditions, and Culture* subcategory under Chapter Two: Exploring.
- BE 5000 or BE 5100 replaces BE 474X in the *World of Contemporary Social and Political Life* category in "Chapter Two: Exploring."

Undergraduate major requirements that may be fulfilled by graduate-level courses and need not be duplicated with undergraduate work

- Any approved undergraduate major or elective course: (up to 6 hours) of graduate credit can replace up to 6 hours of additional undergraduate credit. Students should check with advisors to determine if there are courses in their major that can be replaced with graduate coursework.

Students should note that BE courses are offered in several formats: traditional (15 week), modular (meets two weekends in a semester), online, summer conference associated courses, and independent study courses.

At least two courses must be taken in residency at the Bannockburn, IL campus:

Code	Title	Hours
BE 5100	Intensive Bioethics Institute	3
BE 6500	Advanced Bioethics Institute	3-4

BE 5100 and BE 6500 are offered during the summer at the time of the annual National Bioethics Conference on the Bannockburn campus. BE 5100 can be replaced by BE 5000 – a 15-week course offered in the fall semester on the Bannockburn campus.

Each spring semester, students are invited to participate in a series of three evening bioethics colloquia. The Bioethics Colloquium course (BE 6100) can also be taken for elective credit toward the MA in Bioethics.

Service Learning Requirement

Students can fulfill Trinity College's service learning requirement by working with The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity (CBHD) during the summer National Bioethics Conference, with optional free attendance at the conference in the summers following the freshman and sophomore years.

Application to the Dual Degree Program

Upon completion of 70 hours with a 3.0 GPA, students must submit an application and letter of recommendation to Trinity Evangelical Divinity School Admissions to be accepted into the Dual Degree program.

Code	Title	Hours
First Summer		
BE 5100	Intensive Bioethics Institute	3
BE 5900	Bioethics National Conference (elective)	2-3
Fall Semester		
BE 5001	Foundations for Integrative Thought in Bioethics	3
BE 5002	Foundations for Cultural Engagement in Bioethics	3
BE 5200	Research Ethics	2
BE 5499	The Public Policy Context (optional) ¹	1
BE 5500	Bioethics and Public Policy	2
Spring Semester		
BE 5299	The Clinical Context (optional) ¹	1
BE 5300	Clinical Issues in Bioethics	2
BE 6200	Ethical Theory	3
Second Summer		
BE 5900	Bioethics National Conference	2-3
BE 6500	Advanced Bioethics Institute	3-4
Capstone		
(0-4 hours of the following)		
BE 7476	Bioethics Capstone Exam	0
BE 7478	Bioethics Capstone Project	0-3
BE 7480	Bioethics Capstone Integrative or Major Paper	0-3
BE 7485	MA Thesis ²	0-4
Total Hours		30

¹ Students relatively unfamiliar with clinical-medical and/or public policy settings will need to use one or two of their elective hours in order to take the background courses BE 5299 and/or BE 5499 either concurrently or during the previous semester.

² BE 7485 requires ID 6910, a research methods course, as a prerequisite.