

**University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry**  
**Health Humanities & Bioethics Pathway Information and**  
**Components**

**Pathway Director**

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**Pathway Description:**

The Health Humanities & Bioethics Pathway program provides medical students with an enriched educational experience in the humanities and bioethics throughout their four years of medical school. The Pathway reinforces the biopsychosocial approach to patient-centered, humanistic practices and the principles of ethics applied across the healthcare spectrum. It provides students with the opportunity to develop a project that applies methods and perspectives from the humanities or one that applies theory, methods, and perspectives from the field of bioethics to their medical education. Students participate in a variety of activities, including ethics, humanities, and arts-based courses, research, and special events and competitive awards. Students who complete the Pathway will receive a Certificate in the Pathway Program at graduation and a notation about their Pathway work in their Dean's letter to residency programs.

**Pathway Components:**

**Pathway Seminars**

Students select and attend one six-week HHBE Pathway Seminar in both Phase 1 and 2.

**Pathway Mentor**

Each student works with a faculty mentor who oversees their Pathway progress and advises them on their Pathway project. Students will be given a list of potential faculty members and should select a mentor by March 1 in Phase 1. Please send a note to the Pathway Director and Coordinator with the name of the mentor. Students must meet with their mentors at least once/phase to discuss their projects. If you need help identifying a mentor, please contact the Pathway director. Students are allowed to switch mentors in Phase 4 depending on evolving career interests, but they must inform the Pathway Director and Coordinator of any changes.

**Supervised Project**

Students are required to complete a Pathway project on a health humanities or bioethics topic of their choice. A range of disciplines from the humanities and humanistic social sciences may inform these projects, including visual arts, literature, narrative, film, music, gender and women's studies, cultural studies, critical theory, religious studies, philosophy, history, and theatre. Projects may take a variety of forms, including a scholarly paper, an empirical research paper, a book of poems, a play, a collection of short stories, drawings, fabric designs, a musical production, an educational module, a blog, a wiki, etc. Projects may be conducted in Phase 1 as a summer research project. Otherwise, by April 30 of Phase 3, students must identify a project topic and compose a project proposal which they will develop and conduct in Phase 4, meeting with their mentor regularly to review progress.

**Scholarship Component**

Either in support of their Pathway Projects or other HHBE projects, students must take at least one Health Humanities elective (MHU615), bioethics research elective (MHU603), and/or a Clinical Bioethics elective (MHU 602). Alternatively, students may fulfil this requirement by participating in a HHBE summer research project.

**Health Humanities & Bioethics Events or Community Engagement Activities:** Attendance is encouraged at minimum 4 events during the 4 years in the Pathway program. HHBE-sponsored events include:

- **HHBE Department Grand Rounds**
  - Interdisciplinary Clinical Ethics Grand Rounds (1<sup>st</sup> Wed of each month at noon)
  - Health Humanities Grand Rounds (2<sup>nd</sup> Fri of each month at noon)
- **HHBE Sponsored/Related** – institutional EDIJ conferences, Schwartz Center Conferences, Clinical grand rounds that have a HHBE focus, MAG installations, performances, screenings, topic research conference, Humanities Center Grief Project (joint initiative between HHBE & UR River Campus)

### Pathway Timeline and Due Dates

#### Phase 1 and 2

##### REQUIRED

- In Phase 1, attend HHBE Pathway Meetings & one Health Humanities Pathway Seminar course in the Spring Semester.
- In Phase 2, attend HHBE Pathway Meetings & one Health Humanities Pathway Seminar course in the Fall Semester.
- Students must **select a mentor by March 1st** in Phase 1 and meet at least once with mentor in phase 1 & 2.

##### ELECTIVE

- Students are encouraged to attend at least 4 Health Humanities and Bioethics Events or Community Engagement Activities.
- Students may complete their scholarship component and Pathway Project requirement by participating in HHBE summer research project (**PLEASE NOTE: application deadline Feb 2**)

#### Phase 3 and 4

##### REQUIRED

- If not already completed (through summer research project), develop Pathway Project idea and proposal with mentor in phase 3. **Submit Pathway Project Proposal by April 30 of phase 3** on Blackboard (with signature of mentor).
- Complete Pathway Project under the supervision of a mentor (unless already completed through summer research project). **Final Pathway Project Submission due by March 1<sup>st</sup>** of Phase 4 (submit copy to mentor and on Blackboard).
- Meet with mentor at least once/phase.
- All pathway students must take at least one two-week elective but may elect to spend more time:
  - 2 or 4 weeks of elective MHU615 – Independent Creative/Research Projects in Health Humanities and Bioethics to work on Pathway Project or other health humanities projects.
  - 2 or 4 weeks MHU602 Clinical Bioethics elective
  - 2 or 4 weeks MHU603 Bioethics Research elective

##### ELECTIVE

- Students are encouraged to attend at least 4 Health Humanities and Bioethics Events or Community Engagement Activities
- Students interested in a Bioethics focus are encouraged to attend one URM Ethics Committee Meeting (Please arrange with Erin Lee).

NOTE: Failure to meet Pathway deadlines could result in the student being withdrawn from the Pathway.

For more information regarding the Health Humanities and Bioethics Pathway, visit:

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/medical-humanities/education/bioethics.aspx>