

DHEP Course Outline

SEMESTER 1

Module 1- Introduction & History of Bioethics; Moral Reasoning & Value Clarification (3 Credits)

Core Faculty: Dr. Ayesha Y. Malik, Ms. Asfiya Aziz & Dr. Sarosh Saleem

This module aims to explore the foundational ethical inquiries in modern biomedical practice. It delves into questions concerning the origins of life, the obligations of healthcare providers to patients and society, and the underlying motivations for ethical decision-making. Participants will examine various ethical theories and principles, contextualized within historical frameworks and real-life case studies.

Module 2- Professionalism & Leadership in Healthcare (2 Credits)

Core faculty: Dr. Jamshed Akhter & Dr. Sarosh Saleem

Associated Faculty: Dr. Raja Sajjad & Dr. Saadia Shahzad

This module emphasizes leadership skills development for participants, including participation in ethics programs and committees. It highlights virtues, strategic decision-making, and moral courage essential for creating ethical environments within organizations.

Module 3- Bioethics, Medical Law & Human Rights (2 Credits)

Core Faculty: Dr. Mustafa Aslam; **Associated Faculty:** Dr. Zahid Basheer & Prof. Vugar Mummadov

This module delves into legal, policy, and ethical challenges within the dynamic healthcare landscape. Topics include human rights, government regulation, patient consent, reproductive issues, and organ donation, contextualized within local healthcare policies. Through interactive discussions, students learn to analyze legal and ethical healthcare resources. It explores the intersection of health law, bioethics, and human rights, examining theoretical implications and advocating for social justice and equity through case studies at national and international levels.

Assessment of Semester 1:

Reflective Assignment/ Review Paper on Ethical Theories and Principles	3000 words	End of Semester
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SEMESTER 2

Module 4- Research Methodology (4 Credits)

Core Faculty: Dr. Jamshed Akhter, Dr. Sarosh; **Associated Faculty:** Dr. Saadia Shahzad

This module introduces students to essential research skills for healthcare, covering both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Students learn to formulate research questions, conduct literature reviews, and select suitable methodologies for various studies, enabling them to complete assignments and review research proposals effectively.

Module 5- Ethics & Integrity in Research (3 Credits)

Core Faculty: Dr. Jamshed, Dr. Mustafa **Associated Faculty:** Dr. Saadia Shahzad, Faisal Shafiq

This module focuses on understanding and resolving research integrity issues for both researchers and reviewers. It covers the historical background of ethical guidelines, national and international standards for research involving human subjects, and addresses critical questions through recent case studies from an ethical perspective.

Module 6: Ethics of Research in Children & Vulnerable Populations (3 Credits)

Core Faculty: Dr. Lantos, Dr. Mustafa, Dr. Sarosh

This module examines ethical dilemmas in research, with a focus on children and vulnerable populations. It covers topics such as consent, harm thresholds, and researcher responsibilities. Additionally, it discusses ethical considerations in research involving other vulnerable groups and in developing countries. Overall, students gain an understanding of the ethical responsibilities inherent in these scenarios.

Module 7: Role & Process of Ethics Review Committees (4 Credits)

Core Faculty: Dr. Mustafa, Dr. Sarosh, Ms. Asfiya

This module blends online and face-to-face sessions. Online, students learn Ethics Review Committees' standards and structures. In-person sessions involve reviewing research proposals, presenting analyses, and making formal recommendations, drawing on skills from prior modules like leadership and professionalism. This activity draws on students' acquired knowledge and skills from previous modules, including leadership and professionalism.

Assessment of Semester 2:

Reflective Paper on Clinical Ethical Issues	1500 words	End of Semester
Mock Clinical Ethics Consultation (Students will analyze a clinical ethical dilemma after meeting with simulated	4 Hours	End of Semester

patients and clinicians. They will give recommendations as a group/committee)		
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SEMESTER 3

Module 8- Introduction to Clinical Ethics & Decision-making (3 Credits)

Core Faculty: Dr. Lantos, Dr. Sarosh **Associated Faculty:** Dr. Nuzhat, Dr. Annum Ishtiaq

This module builds on previous knowledge to help participants identify core ethical questions in biomedical practice. It enhances skills in analyzing key concepts like health and disease, while examining healthcare implications from diverse ethical perspectives. Topics like informed consent, patient capacity, end-of-life decisions, organ transplantation, and cultural competence will be discussed.

Module 9- Culture, Religion, Society & Clinical Ethical Issues (4 Credits)

Core faculty: Dr. Sarosh, Dr. Ayesha, Dr. Mustafa

Associated Faculty: Dr. Annum, Dr. Nida

This module addresses socio-cultural challenges for healthcare professionals in Pakistan. It explores how moral values intersect with cultural norms, particularly focusing on the role of religion and spirituality in healthcare. Discussions will include religious perspectives on issues like palliative care, abortion, assisted reproductive techniques, and organ donation in the Pakistani context.

Module 10- Ethical Issues & Clinical decision-making in Children (3 Credits)

Core Faculty: Dr. Lantos, Dr. Sarosh, Dr. Sumaira, Dr. Mustafa **Associated:** Dr. Annum, Dr. Unaisa

This module delves into the ethical complexities of clinical decision-making in children, addressing questions such as determining the child's best interests and considering family involvement. It explores the rights of children, the importance of respecting their autonomy, and ensuring fair choices. Case studies from Pakistan and globally will be examined to illustrate ethical issues in pediatric care.

Module 11- Professional Boundaries & Moral Distress in Healthcare (3 Credits)

Core Faculty: Dr. Sarosh, Dr. Robyna Khan

Associated Faculty: Dr. Nida, Dr. Unaisa

This module focuses on exploring the evolving boundaries for healthcare providers in the age of social media and data sharing. Additionally, it addresses the concepts of moral courage, moral distress, and compassion fatigue, each with unique implications for healthcare professionals. Understanding and effectively managing moral distress and compassion fatigue are crucial for providing empathetic care to patients and families.

Module 11- Professional Boundaries & Moral Distress in Healthcare (3 Credits)

Core Faculty: Dr. Sarosh, Dr. Robyna Khan

Associated Faculty: Dr. Nida, Dr. Unaisa

This module explores the evolving boundaries for healthcare providers in the digital era, discussing the impact of social media and data sharing. It also addresses moral courage, moral distress, and compassion fatigue, vital considerations for healthcare professionals. Effective management of these challenges is essential for providing empathetic care, emphasizing the need for healthcare providers to identify and address them.

RESEARCH/ PROJECT (Compulsory):

The research project must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Submit the research/project synopsis to the Department of Bioethics, SMDC within the first six months of the course.
2. Complete and submit the research/project within one year after synopsis approval by the supervisor.
3. The research/project should focus on independent inquiry into ethical issues within Pakistan's healthcare system. Alternatively, it may involve developing ethical committees, guidelines, or curriculum for the parent institute.