

EDUCATION FOR HEALTH CARE MINISTRY



A photograph of a two-story red brick building with large arched windows. A dark sign on the roof features the Aquinas Institute of Theology logo and name. Tall green trees flank the building, and a dark car is partially visible in the foreground.

Aquinas
INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY



Why Aquinas Institute?

Part of the world-wide Order of Preachers, Aquinas Institute of Theology is a Catholic, Dominican sponsored graduate school of theology. Our theological orientation is shaped by the 800-year-old intellectual tradition of the Order of Preachers, the legacy of our patron St. Thomas Aquinas, and influenced by the River Forest School of Thomism. St. Thomas did not view morality and spirituality as two distinct disciplines, but saw them as a whole. At Aquinas we seek to retrieve this Thomistic synthesis and integrate it into a renewed moral theology with greater appreciation for the historical and spiritual nature of the human person. As a community of learners, we seek the Truth of Christ as it has been revealed in the Holy Scriptures and the tradition of the Church through study and dialogue. As St. Dominic did in his own time, Aquinas Institute's theological mission finds its home in the middle of the Church so as to reach out to others in all directions.

Nearly two decades ago, Aquinas Institute recognized that it was in a unique position to meet a growing need for the spiritual and theological formation of lay men and women working in Catholic health care systems. As one of the first theological institutions to welcome lay men and women for graduate theological studies, and as a close partner with Catholic health care icons like Fr. Benedict Ashley, OP, Fr. Kevin O'Rourke, OP, Sr. Jean DeBlois, CSJ, and Fr. Charlie Bouchard, OP, Aquinas had the tools and relationships necessary to be successful in this mission. The Ashley-O'Rourke (AOR) Center was founded to provide leaders of Catholic health systems with the theological and spiritual grounding necessary to preserve mission and identity in the absence of founding Religious orders. From the beginning, the Center has supported Catholic health care professionals in reconnecting with their initial, vocational call to the ministry of health care while equipping them with deep understanding of the values that guide their ministry in the real world.

In addition to nationally known health care mission programs, Aquinas Institute offers multiple graduate degrees and certificate programs. Core programs include a Master of Arts in Theology, a Master of Divinity, and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies, and the world's only Roman Catholic Doctor of Ministry in Preaching program.



“Catholic health care leaders know the *what* of health care, but they also need to know *why* they do what they do, *why* it *matters*, and what it *means*.”

FR. CHARLES BOUCHARD, OP
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF
THEOLOGY & SPONSORSHIP,
CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Degree Program Options

About the Center

Among the most challenging issues facing Catholic health care organizations today is the preparation of new leaders. In the past, mission leadership was seen as one facet of Catholic health care among many, with the founding order or a formal “Mission Leader” at its helm. Today, all Catholic health care leaders are called to understand, embrace, and embody their roles in this unique continuation of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. The AOR Center at Aquinas Institute of Theology exists to respond to this challenge.

The singular focus of the Ashley-O’Rourke Center is to provide a Catholic theological education for current and future leaders in the ministry of Catholic health care.

Drawing on our legacy as frontrunners in the field of Catholic health care ethics and our strengths in theological education, the AOR Center offers resources to equip anyone working to carry out the ministry of Catholic health care. Ministers, health care practitioners, chaplains, executives, board members, and sponsors receive an integrated understanding of the theological and scriptural foundations that ground and direct this vital ministry of the Church. Our graduate programs help Catholic health care leaders form responses to the question, “*What* is unique about what we do in Catholic health care and *why* do we do it?” The theological education students receive through the AOR Center is enhanced through our collaborative and interdisciplinary partnerships with health care organizations in Saint Louis and beyond, including the Catholic Health Association.

Graduate Certificate in Health Care Mission

This 5-course online certificate is designed for all health care leaders seeking competency in the theological and ethical foundations of health care mission.

Master of Arts in Practical Theology with a Specialization in Health Care Mission

This program builds on the Graduate Certificate program with eight additional courses designed for health care leaders seeking a more comprehensive theological grounding and rigorous academic experience. This program is available online with limited residency requirements.

Dual Master of Arts in Theology and PhD in Health Care Ethics

This 69-credit dual degree program offered in partnership with the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University is designed for those seeking to lead the health ministry in its ethical responses. Students in this program complete their coursework in three years, with an additional 1-3 years to complete their dissertation for the PhD.



Start Your Application | apply.ai.edu

The Ashley-O'Rourke Center draws its name from Fr. Benedict Ashley, OP, and Fr. Kevin O'Rourke, OP, Dominican priests who had long careers in bioethics and Catholic health care.

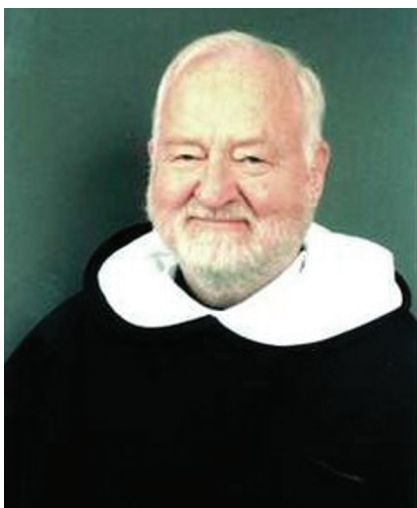
Their 1975 co-authored text, *Health Care Ethics: A Catholic Theological Analysis*, continues to be a foundational work in the field of Catholic medical ethics.



Fr. Benedict Ashley, OP

As the author of over 20 books and as an active teacher and consultant, Fr. Ashley had a significant influence on 20th century Catholic theology and ethics in America. A representative of the River Forest school of Thomism, he helped to recover and articulate an understanding of the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas that unites philosophy and the natural sciences and spent his life attempting to bridge the gap between science and religion.

In his roles as Professor of Moral Theology at Aquinas Institute of Philosophy and Theology (Dubuque, IA) from 1972-1983 and as President from 1962-1969, and as an Associate Professor at the Center for Health Care Ethics, now the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics, at Saint Louis University, Fr. Ashley sought to illuminate for his students how science and the Catholic faith are compatible rather than being at odds.



Fr. Kevin O'Rourke, OP

Author of over a dozen books and more than 200 articles, Fr. Kevin O'Rourke was a leading scholar of health care ethics who helped us all—Catholic or not—think about important issues in health care, especially those related to the end of life. He was most focused on clinical care—the relationship between patient and doctor—and worked to uphold the tradition of Church teaching in this area.

Fr. O'Rourke began his career as an academic bioethicist in 1958 with the Aquinas Institute of Philosophy and Theology (Dubuque, IA), where he served as Dean from 1969-1972 and President from 1969-1972. In addition, he served in many positions with the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States, now the Catholic Health Association, and founded and served as the Director of the Center for Health Care Ethics, now the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University.

Promoting the transformative potential of the healing ministry of Jesus by offering programs that integrate a Dominican theological education with spiritual formation for leaders at all levels in Catholic health care.



Proven Leaders in Health Care Mission

As a graduate of Aquinas Institute, you will enter into a nearly twenty-year tradition of excellence in theological formation for health care ministry and join the ranks of some of the most respected leaders in Catholic health care.

Aligned with CHA Mission Competencies

Through the curriculum, you will be deeply engaged in learning about Catholic Identity, Strategy, Operations, Formation, Spirituality, Ethics, and Advocacy.

Responsive to the Changing Needs of Catholic Health Care

You will be challenged to think theologically about the needs and challenges facing Catholic health care today by instructors with real-world experience in the field.

Emphasis in Mission Integration and Effectiveness

Your education will empower you with the skills and knowledge necessary to live out the mission of Catholic health care at any level and in any discipline of the ministry.

Dominican Intellectual Heritage

At Aquinas, you will be welcomed into the rich, 800-year-old intellectual tradition of the Order of Preachers and invited to continue its extraordinary contribution to the intellectual and pastoral life of the Church.

Practical Theological Education

You will be called to move beyond simple comprehension of theological concepts and learn to reflectively apply those concepts to their everyday practice of ministry.



“We seek to transform individuals so they can transform the organizations in which they work.”

DR. STEWART CLEM
DIRECTOR, ASHLEY-O'ROURKE
CENTER FOR HEALTH
MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

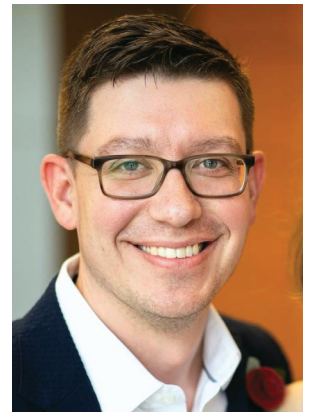


Theological Depth and Spiritual Maturity for Healing Ministry

This online, five-course Certificate in Health Care Mission prepares current and future professionals to foster strategic and collaborative thinking in their organizations to ensure faithfulness to the unique purpose, identity and values of the Catholic health care ministry. As a student in the program, you will integrate your knowledge of Catholic theology with concrete organizational management skills that promote effective communication and successful business operations. Drawing deeply from the Dominican tradition of study and contemplation and the Church's rich social justice tradition, you will cultivate personal spiritual maturity along with a strong foundation of organizational and clinical ethics.

The Certificate can be earned and awarded as a standalone audit or for-credit option. When taken for credit, it can be used as a launchpad for students who want to complete the MA in Practical Theology with a specialization in Health Care Mission. In five, 8-week courses, students are exposed to the major areas of theological study. Through the close reading of texts, theological reflection, collaboration, and dialogue, students in the certificate program develop the ability to grapple with the unique theological, ethical, and organizational issues and challenges arising in Catholic health care today.

“The HCM Certificate empowers Catholic health care leaders in any role with the theological concepts and practices to help them operate their organization as a ministry of the Church.”



MICHAEL MILLER, JR.
SYSTEM VICE PRESIDENT, MISSION & ETHICS,
SSM HEALTH
INSTRUCTOR, PRACTICAL THEOLOGY
FOR HEALTH CARE MISSION

Program Length

Students taking two, subsequent, eight-week courses each semester can finish the Certificate in 12 months. Students who wish to take courses on their own timeline have up to three years to complete the program.

Program Format

Asynchronous online, concentrated 8-week courses can be audited or taken for graduate credit.

Curriculum

Practical Theology for Health Care Mission (3 credits)

This course introduces a set of practices essential for theological study and ministerial formation and assists students in developing a basic theoretical framework essential for grappling with theological issues in the context of Catholic health care.

Scriptural Foundations of Health Care (3 credits)

An exploration of the dynamic interaction between God, human persons, and the universe as described in Christian scriptures. This course focuses on the use of scripture for personal reflection, as a foundation for Catholic teaching, and in relationship with health care ministry.

Church, Ministry, and Health Care (3 credits)

Drawing from scripture, magisterial teachings, theological writings, and Christian praxis, this course prepares students to develop and articulate a theology of health care as a ministry of the Church

Organizational Competency for Health Care Mission (3 credits)

This course offers a theological exploration of the meaning and purpose of work and considers how this exploration should inform one's role as a leader within the health care field. Students will be equipped to exercise leadership through influence – not merely through positional authority.

Ethical Issues in Contemporary Health Care (3 credits)

This course examines a number of important ethical issues encountered in health care today, specifically through the lens of theological ethics. The course offers a thorough and critical examination, informed by Catholic Social Teaching, of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.





Rigorous Theological Grounding for Health Care Leaders

The 36-credit Master of Arts in Practical Theology (MAPT) with a specialization in Health Care Mission builds on the five course Graduate Certificate in Health Care Mission with an additional six courses, providing a firm foundation for health care leaders seeking a more comprehensive theological grounding and rigorous academic experience. As a student in the MAPT program, you will draw deeply from personal faith and professional experience as you are formed in the practices of theological research, analysis, and synthesis.

Through your coursework, you will deepen your understanding in the major areas of theological study, and through a two-part, on-site intensive formation course, you will gain the tools necessary for ongoing growth in your vocation as a minister of Catholic health care.

This program is available to synchronous online learners in addition to residential students in Saint Louis. Online students participate in classes as they happen on campus via a video conferencing service and are an active part of the conversation and the learning environment.

“Grounded in the Catholic and Dominican traditions, the MAPT program is designed to infuse the work of health care ministry with the riches of theological insight.”

DR. STEWART CLEM
DIRECTOR, ASHLEY-O'ROURKE
CENTER FOR HEALTH
MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Program Length

After completing all 5 courses of the certificate, full-time students (9 hours/semester + formation) can finish the additional 6 courses and two formation intensives in two semesters. Part-time students can take up to 7 years to complete both the Certificate and MAPT degree programs.

Program Format

Combined synchronous online or residential coursework with two on-campus formation intensives.

Curriculum

Graduate Certificate in Health Care Mission

All 5 courses (15 credits) of the Certificate must be complete before a student is accepted into the MAPT program

Biblical Studies

Scripture Elective (3 credits)

Systematic Theology

Christology (3 credits)

Moral Theology

Foundations of Catholic Morality
(3 credits)

Historical Theology

Church History I (3 credits)
Church History II (3 credits)

Human & Spiritual Formation

Formation for Health Care
Mission Leaders I (1.5 Credits)
Formation for Health Care
Mission Leaders II (1.5 Credits)

Limited Elective

Christian Anthropology **or** Justice &
Catholic Social Teaching (3 credits)

Non-Credit Requirements

Comprehensive Exam,
Integrative Paper in the area of health care mission

Cumulative Learning Experience

At the end of your course of study, you will complete a written comprehensive exam. Here, you will demonstrate your scholarly competency to engage reflectively and critically across the discipline of theology.

You will complete your study by engaging in independent scholarly research for an integrative paper. Accompanied by a faculty mentor, you will select and research a topic of personal interest within the field of Catholic health care mission.





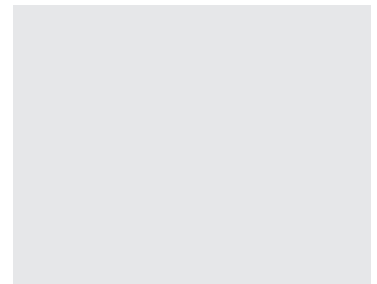
Program Overview

The dual Master of Arts in Theology and PhD in Health Care Ethics (MA/PhD) program, offered to residential students by Aquinas Institute of Theology and the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University, allows students to complete both degrees in 69 credit hours instead of the 96 credits necessary to complete both degrees independently.

Catholic health care carries on the healing mission of Jesus and thus is a ministry of the Church with its core commitments grounded deeply in Catholic theological tradition and social teaching. The Catholic Health Association has recommended that ethicists working in Catholic health care should hold an MA in Theology so that they have a solid understanding of Catholic theology which can be brought to bear on their work in a facility or at the system level.

The dual track of rigorous coursework will provide you with the opportunity to gain a solid foundation in academic theological studies alongside an interdisciplinary curriculum in health care ethics. As a student in the MA/PhD program, you will be exposed to major areas within theology, including Biblical studies, ecclesiology, ethics, and systematic, historical and moral theology. Within health care ethics, your course work includes work in bioethics methods, bioethics and the law, clinical ethics, and medicine for ethicists. Additionally, you will have the opportunity for clinical practicum experiences that provide an integrated application of academic topics in real clinical situations.

Designed for students seeking to deepen their academic education in theology and further develop their own intellectual and spiritual lives. The program is recommended for students who wish to apply theological and ethical principles to health care's complex ecosystem and provide direct impact to patient, family, and provider lives.



“ Student quote.....

Program Length

Full-time students can complete the coursework for the dual MA/PhD program in three years. Once coursework is finished, students complete a dissertation for the PhD that requires additional time. Ordinarily, students pursuing the dual degree program begin their studies at Aquinas. In year one, full-time students complete 30 of the 36 credits required for the MA. During the second year, students enter the PhD program at Saint Louis University during which, 6 credits from the PhD coursework count toward completion of the MA.

Curriculum

69 total credit hours: MA, 36 Credits; PhD, 33 Credits

MA:

Ethics & Moral Theology

Foundations of Catholic Morality (3 credits)

Justice & Catholic Social Teaching (3 credits)

Ethics of Human Sexuality (3 credits)

Biblical Studies

Biblical Interpretation (3 credits)

Scripture Elective (3 credits)

Systematic Theology

Introduction to Theology and Theological Method (3 credits)

Christology (3 credits)

Ecclesiology (3 credits)

Christian Anthropology (3 credits)

Historical Theology

Church History I **OR**

Church History II (3 credits)

Electives (6 credits from SLU PhD Program)

Methods in Religious Ethics **OR**

Health Care Ethics in the Catholic

Social Tradition (3 credits)

AND

Clinical Ethics **OR**

Research Ethics (3 credits)

Non-Credit Requirements

MA Orientation, Comprehensive Exam, Major Paper

PhD:

Foundations of Health Care Ethics

Methods in Philosophical Ethics (3 credits)

Methods in Religious Ethics (3 credits)

Interdisciplinary Research in Health Care Ethics (3 credits)

Foundations Elective Chosen With Counseling of PhD Program Director (select one)

Ethical Issues in Public Health **OR**

Philosophical Foundations **OR**

Foundations of Catholic Morality (3 credits)

Context of Health Care

Intro-Medicine for Ethicists (1 credit)

Bioethics and the Law (2 credits)

Clinical Ethics (3 credits)

Research Ethics (3 credits)

Health Care Ethics Practicum I (1 credit)

Health Care Ethics Practicum II (2 credits)

Catholic Tradition Concentration

Health Care Ethics: Catholic Tradition (3 credits)

Dissertation Research

(12 credits)

Cumulative Learning Experience

At the end of your MA course of study, you will complete a written comprehensive exam and major paper. Here, you will demonstrate their scholarly competency to engage reflectively and critically across the discipline of theology.

In the PhD program, you will complete comprehensive exams after finishing all coursework and practica. You will then work closely with your dissertation director to select a topic and submit a dissertation proposal. There are two options for the dissertation, a traditional dissertation or a non-traditional format, requiring three article-length manuscripts, two of which must be accepted for publication.

How Do I Apply?

Certificate in Health Care Mission and Master of Arts in Practical Theology with Specialization in Health Care Mission (MAPT):

All students interested in either of these programs should complete our streamlined, online application for the Certificate. Students who wish to continue on to complete the MAPT will apply to that program in the last semester of their Certificate coursework.

Admission Criteria:

Certificate: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

MAPT: Completion of Graduate Certificate in Health Care Mission with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

Application Requirements:

- Unofficial Transcripts
- Resume/CV
- Personal Statement
- One Letter of Recommendation
- \$50 Application Fee

Fall Application Deadlines:

Session One: Priority: March 1* / Final: August 1

Session Two: Priority: March 1* / Final: October 1

Spring Application Deadlines:

Session One: Priority: October 15* / Final: January 1

Session Two: Priority: October 15* / Final: March 1

* Application fee is waived for applications submitted by the priority deadline.

Dual Master of Arts in Theology and PhD in Health Care Ethics:

Admission Criteria:

Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0

Application Requirements:

- Official Transcripts
- Resume/CV
- Personal Assessment
- Reflection Paper
- Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- \$50 Application Fee
- Interview

* Application requirements are for the MA in Theology at Aquinas. Students should consult the PhD in Health Care Ethics program at Saint Louis University for application requirements and deadlines.

Application Deadlines:

Dual Degree Admission Deadline: December 1*

Final Deadline for MA Admission Only: August 1

* Dual MA and PhD students must apply and be admitted to both programs separately to complete the dual degree program. It is preferred that students apply to the programs simultaneously for a fall start; however, students may apply to the MA program for a spring semester start and seek admission to begin the PhD program the following fall.

Questions? Clarifications? Please don't hesitate to contact us!

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ASHLEY-O'ROURKE CENTER
for Health Ministry Leadership