Summer Undergraduate Program in Biomedical Ethics Research

The Mayo Clinic Biomedical Ethics Research Program seeks applicants for its 2018 summer student program. This program is supported in part by a generous gift from Jim Vann and Lee Stanton Vann. 4-5 students will be selected for the program.

Each student will be placed with a faculty mentor to work on a particular research project for approximately 10 weeks (starting late May or early June). In addition, students will participate in educational sessions on bioethics research methods and lunch meetings with faculty. Students also will have the opportunity to shadow physicians, clinical ethics consultations, and other professionals depending on areas of interest.


YOUR QUALIFICATIONS Candidates must attach the following documents to the online application:
1. Cover letter describing your career goals and how biomedical ethics research relates to those goals
2. Resume/CV that includes your major, relevant coursework, honors, and related experiences
3. A 5-10 page writing sample (such as a course paper), preferably on a topic in biomedical ethics
4. Current college transcript (unofficial copy is acceptable)
5. Two letters of recommendation from research mentors or undergraduate professors (addressed to Dr. Richard Sharp, Program Director). Letters either can be uploaded by the candidate into the application system or emailed directly by the professor/mentor to bioethics@mayo.edu.

Top applicants will be invited to participate in a brief phone interview to discuss specific skills and areas of interest, in order to match the applicant with a mentor and research project. Final decisions will be made based on applicants’ interests and availability of appropriate mentors. All students must pass a background check and post-offer placement assessment prior to their start date.

Examples of research topics that might be explored include:
- Ethical issues in life-sustaining treatments and end-of-life care
- Research ethics
- Ethical issues in regenerative medicine and transplantation
- Allocation of health care resources
- Professionalism in medicine and science
- Ethical issues in genomics and individualized medicine
- Research related to clinical ethics consultation
- Reproductive ethics and prenatal testing

Students who have already participated in the program are not eligible, but previous applicants are encouraged to reapply.

LEARN MORE For further information or specific questions, contact Dr. Jessica Hirsch, Biomedical Ethics Education Coordinator at 507-538-4023 or Hirsch.jessica@mayo.edu