



# THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

*Upholding the Dignity of the Human Person in Health Care and Biomedical Research since 1972*

## NCBC Certification Program

### 1. Foundations of Catholic Health Care & Moral Decision Making

- Module 1-1 – Foundations of Catholic Morality
- Module 1-2 – Freedom & Responsibility, and Moral Theories for Health Care
- Module 1-3 – The ERDs: Introduction, Foundations, and Social Responsibility
- Module 1-4 – ERDs Part Three and Essential Principles of the Patient-Professional Relationship
- Module 1-5 – Spiritual Care & Chaplaincy, Moral Acts, and the Formation of Conscience

### 2. Ethical Challenges at the Beginning of Life

- Module 2-1 – “When Does Life Begin?” and Human Personhood
- Module 2-2 – Abortion: Procedures, Philosophical Perspectives, and Catholic Teaching
- Module 2-3 – Abortion: Perspectives from Law and Faith
- Module 2-4 – Medical Interventions for Pregnancy Complications
- Module 2-5 – Prenatal Screening/Testing and Life-Limiting Prenatal Diagnosis
- Module 2-6 – Marital Love, Sexuality, and Contraception
- Module 2-7 – Effects of Contraception and Interventions for Sexual Assault
- Module 2-8 – NFP/FABM and Direct Sterilization
- Module 2-9 – Ethics of Assisted Reproductive Technologies
- Module 2-10 – Biomedical Research, Stem Cells, and Genetic Therapy/Editing

### 3. Ethical Challenges Across the Lifespan

- Module 3-1– Ethics Committees and Organizational Ethics
- Module 3-2 – Cooperation, Collaborative Arrangements, and “Doing” Catholic Bioethics in a Pluralistic Culture
- Module 3-3 – Cell Lines & Vaccines
- Module 3-4 – Artificial Intelligence and Catholic Health Care
- Module 3-5 – Introduction to Gender Ideology
- Module 3-6 – “Gender-Affirming Care” and the “Transitioning” of Children
- Module 3-7– Catholic Pastoral and Health Care Approaches to Gender Ideology & Transgenderism
- Module 3-8 – Modifying the Human Body and an Introduction to Transhumanism

### 4. Ethical Challenges at the End of Life

- Module 4-1 – Suffering & Death, and Determining Ordinary vs. Extraordinary Means of Care
- Module 4-2 – Medically Assisted Nutrition & Hydration, and an Introduction to Medical ‘Futility’
- Module 4-3 – End of Life Decision Making: Advance Directives & POLST
- Module 4-4 – Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide, and Pastoral Responses
- Module 4-5 – Palliative Care & Hospice, and the Disposition of Human Remains
- Module 4-6 – Determining Death: Neurological and Circulatory Criteria
- Module 4-7 – Ethics of Organ Donation

Research papers (graduate students only) due one week after completion of Modules 3 & 4



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## Dates for NCBC Certification Program – Academic year 2025-2026

### 1. Foundations of Catholic Health Care & Moral Decision-Making

- Module 1-1 – Aug 25-31, 2025
- Module 1-2 – Sept 1-7
- Module 1-3 – Sept 8-14
- Module 1-4 – Sept 15-21
- Module 1-5 – Sept 22-28

### 2. Ethical Challenges at the Beginning of Life

- Module 2-1 – Sept 29-Oct 5
- Module 2-2 – Oct 6-12
- Module 2-3 – Oct 13-19
- Module 2-4 – Oct 20-26
- Module 2-5 – Oct 27-Nov 2
- Module 2-6 – Nov 3-9
- Module 2-7 – Nov 10-16
- Module 2-8 – Nov 17-23
- Module 2-9 – Nov 24-Dec 7 (two weeks to complete, November 27th is Thanksgiving)
- Module 2-10 – Dec 8-14  
(Dec 15-Jan 5, Christmas and New Year's holidays)

### 3. Ethics Committees, Vaccines, Research, and Gender

- Module 3-1– Jan 5-11, 2026
- Module 3-2 – Jan 12-18
- Module 3-3 – Jan 19-25
- Module 3-4 – Jan 26-Feb 1
- Module 3-5 – Feb 2-8
- Module 3-6 – Feb 9-15
- Module 3-7 – Feb 16-22
- Module 3-8 – Feb 23-Mar 1

Module 3 research paper due (Master's degree students only): March 8, 2026

Spring Break: March 2-8, 2026

### 4. Ethical Challenges at the End of Life

- Module 4-1– Mar 9-15
- Module 4-2 – Mar 16-22
- Module 4-3 – Mar 23-29
- Module 4-4 – Mar 30-Apr 12 (two weeks to complete module, Easter is April 5th)
- Module 4-5 – Apr 13-19
- Module 4-6 – Apr 20-26
- Module 4-7 – Apr 27-May 3

Module 4 research paper due (Master's degree students only): May 10, 2026

## **2025 NCBC Two Day Seminar Dates (choose one):**

August 8 & 9, 2025 - University of Mary, Bismarck, ND

September 20 & 21, 2025 - University of Dallas, Dallas, TX

October 24 & 25, 2025– St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Philadelphia (Media), PA