

VA/University of Chicago Ethics Consultation Fellowship

Is This Fellowship Right for Me?

- ❑ Do I have ethics consultation experience and want to get additional training to serve as an ethics consultation leader for my facility and VISN?
- ❑ Am I willing to commit to the required elements of the fellowship including five weeks of intensive training at the University of Chicago, travelling to Chicago one day per week for a year, and participating in monthly case conferences with National Center for Ethics in Health Care staff?
- ❑ Am I willing to spend 50% time on ethics activities for three years after the fellowship?
- ❑ Are my supervisor, facility director, and network director supportive of my participation?



The National Center for Ethics in Health Care is VHA's primary office for addressing the complex ethical issues that arise in patient care, health care management, and research. Its mission is to clarify and promote ethical health care practices throughout VHA and nationwide. Guided by the premise that ethical health care practice is an essential component of health care quality, the National Center for Ethics in Health Care serves as a resource for VHA leaders and staff on issues in clinical, organizational, and research ethics.



Founded in 1984, the MacLean Center at the University of Chicago was the nation's first program devoted to clinical medical ethics. Clinical medical ethics examines ethical issues that arise in encounters between patients, families, and physicians, and aims to improve the process and outcome of patient care. After nearly thirty years, the MacLean Center is the leading program in the country devoted to the study and teaching of clinical ethics. The program has gained national and international prominence for its groundbreaking research and has trained more than 300 fellows.

Questions?

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Information for Applicants



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The VA/University of Chicago Ethics Consultation Fellowship is a one-year, intensive training opportunity for current Veterans Health Administration employees designed to develop a cohort of highly trained health care ethics consultation leaders across VHA. The fellowship is intended for VA physicians and other health care professionals experienced in health care ethics consultation whose newly gained expertise will be an asset to VHA.

National Center for
ETHICS
in Health Care

THE
MACLEAN
CENTER

“In my opinion, the VA/University of Chicago fellowship is the most comprehensive and rigorous medical ethics consultation program available both in terms of providing a solid foundation and ongoing mentorship. Close interaction with top medical ethicists provided me with a solid foundation in health care ethics consultation and enabled me to take my career to the next level. An excellent training program.”

—Yakov Gertsberg, M.D.
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center

“This fellowship is an unparalleled opportunity to receive formal ethics training from experts in the field and to meet others in VA and at the University of Chicago who care passionately about ethics! As a result of participating in the VA/University of Chicago fellowship I have assumed the role of Ethics Consultation Coordinator at my facility, joined my facility’s IntegratedEthics Council, and have time to work on improving ethics quality throughout my VISN.”

—Elizabeth K. Vig, M.D., M.P.H
VA Puget Sound Health Care System



About the Fellowship

The VA/University of Chicago Ethics Consultation Fellowship is a one-year, intensive training program for VA physicians and other health care professionals who wish to enhance their ability to serve as ethics consultation leaders within VHA. For at least three years following the fellowship, fellows will continue to perform ethics consultations, strengthen the ethics programs in their facilities and networks, and participate in IntegratedEthics-related activities.

The fellowship requires a 50% time commitment for four years. During the first year, fellows participate in on-site training at the University of Chicago Medical School campus, conduct ethics consultations and other ethics leadership



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activities at their local facilities, and attend monthly knowledge and skill-building conference calls with ethics consultation staff of the National Center for Ethics in Health Care. Additionally, fellows meet with NCEHC staff in New York City at the beginning and end of the fellowship year, and create a plan for enhancing their local ethics programs. For at least three years following the training year, fellows spend 50% time as an ethics consultation leader for their facility and VISN, leading and supporting ethics consultation and IntegratedEthics-related activities.

The NCEHC and the University of Chicago pay fellowship costs for the first year’s activities, including for training, travel and salary support. Facility and VISN leaders must commit to providing 50% release time for training in the first year and provide salary and support for the fellow to spend at least 50% time on ethics-related activities for at least three more years.

How to Apply

Application materials and additional information can be found online at <http://vaww.ethics.va.gov/>.

Facility IntegratedEthics Program Officers and VISN IntegratedEthics Points of Contact are available to help applicants gain facility and network support necessary for a successful application.

Fellowship Timeline

December: Call for applications.

February: Application period closes.

April: Fellows announced.

June: 1.5-day kick-off meeting in New York City with current and former fellows, and NCEHC staff.

July - August: Five-week, full-time intensive training on-site at the University of Chicago Medical School campus in Chicago, Illinois.

October - May: Fellows travel to spend one day per week (Wednesday) on-site at the University of Chicago.

June: Fellowship concludes with a meeting in New York City.

