

HEALTH CARE ETHICS INTERNSHIP



DEVELOPED HERE AT SCU'S MARKKULA CENTER FOR APPLIED ETHICS, the Health Care Ethics Internship is a year-long program that ensures that participants will enter the health care field with a deep foundation in ethical thinking. The program, designed for students interested in health care, health policy, biotechnology, bioengineering, health law, and health care administration, places SCU undergraduates in community-based experiences with various units in local hospitals and other health care facilities, or with ethics departments in pharmaceutical, biotech, and technology companies.

Students meet weekly with their instructor and often welcome guest speakers to reflect on and discuss classic and emerging issues in health care and biotechnology. By interacting with health care professionals – including bioethicists, physicians, nurses, social workers, and administrators – the interns learn about day-to-day ethical challenges. These interactions foster a two-way exchange about ethical issues, benefiting both parties.







For more than 20 years, this dynamic program has provided interns with an in-depth ethical perspective on health and health care, and ensured that they are better prepared to address ethical challenges in their professional lives.

For more information, contact Dorothee Caminiti, director of bioethics, at 408-551-3150 or dcaminiti@scu.edu

ABOUT THE MARKKULA CENTER FOR APPLIED ETHICS

Located in Silicon Valley on the Santa Clara University campus, the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics is well positioned to host this unique program. The Ethics Center's Bioethics program has a strong network of hospital and health care partners, highly qualified faculty and staff, and the enthusiastic support of the Center's leadership and the University. This provides a solid foundation for the continued success of the Health Care Ethics Internship.

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PRIYANKA CHOUDHURY '16

DURING HER TIME AS A PUBLIC HEALTH MAJOR at Santa Clara University, Priyanka Choudhury realized that she was not born to be a doctor and instead felt drawn to the community-oriented view of health care. The Health Care Ethics Internship helped solidify this thinking during her senior year.

Choudhury especially appreciated the multiple rotations that allowed her to see all of the different players in the health care system. When she was interviewing for post-graduate opportunities, she impressed the interview panel when she was able to refer to her internship experience to speak of the ethical dilemmas associated with advance care planning.

Priyanka works in administration at a local public hospital but has been accepted to and is excited to start her Master's in Health Administration at the University of Washington.

“I wanted to go into administration because, during my internship rotations, it wasn't the patient interaction that piqued my interest,” Choudhury said. “It was the systemic things in all these settings that drew me in and got me asking questions about how we can improve the care we provide.”

—PRIYANKA CHOUDHURY '16

CHRIS CIRONE '04

AS AN UNDERGRAD, CHRIS CIRONE was pretty sure he would follow in his father's footsteps and become a doctor. However, Cirone wasn't quite sure what his day-to-day would look like. As a Health Care Ethics intern with the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, he was able to experience the ins and outs of the daily hospital routine, and that shaped his decision.

Now as a pediatrician with a private practice, Cirone believes being an ethical physician is synonymous with being a good physician, and having a solid ethical foundation is key to preparing for the unexpected issues that crop up every day on the job.

“Not only did the internship help me get to where I wanted to be, but it also helped me cement that this is what I wanted to do the rest of my life.”

—CHRIS CIRONE '04



JOYCE VILORIA '03

JOYCE VILORIA WAS ONE OF THE CENTER'S FIRST HEALTH CARE ETHICS INTERNS, joining in 2001. Her greatest takeaway from the program was the high level of rotational exposure she received as an undergrad—not a normal experience for someone prior to medical school. Not only did she observe how health care professionals confront ethical dilemmas in practice every day, she was able to participate in real discussions of complex ethical issues.

Now, Viloría gives back by supervising current Health Care Ethics interns in a primary care rotation at a local hospital. Students observe her work with patients of different ages, cultural backgrounds, and ailments. She loves mentoring a new generation of Health Care Ethics interns, supporting their clinical experience, and helping to shape their careers.

“My Santa Clara University education and experience with the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics were unique,” said Viloría. “When I entered med school and began discussing ethical principles, it wasn't the first time I'd heard them—I'd been talking about ethics for years!”

—JOYCE VILORIA '03