

Bioethics

- Determines right course of action in a particular moment
- You may have heard of issues, such as physician-assisted suicide and abortion.
 - Typically, potential physicians are told to imagine what they would do in such positions.
- Can learn process of deliberation and determination of correct course of action
- What characteristics should physicians and all members of a care team have?
 - When we do this, we go beyond technical competencies.
 - We must go beyond this, though, and understand the types of relationships doctors enter into with their patients.
- Getting clear on our own concepts and virtues
 - Medicine is a human enterprise.
 - Done by humans for humans
 - Work in the humanities can help better understand the human experience.
- “Big questions” in medicine
 - For example: Experiencing loss can bring about questioning of meaning, better understanding of mortality, etc.
 - Questions about existence and finitude can arise.
 - It’s important to understand how you talk to patients and other healthcare professionals on a care team about these questions.
 - Realizing this can help you better grasp the “answers” to these big questions
- Being able to navigate these questions gets at the core of what it means to be one who practices medicine, supporting the importance of bioethics.