



REFLECTING ON ETHICS AND CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE

Quality Enhancement Plan for FranU

Title of the QEP: Reflecting on Ethics and Catholic Healthcare (REACH)

Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University

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QEP Executive Summary

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) titled *REACH: Reflecting on Ethics and Catholic Healthcare* meets an institutional need to improve student education, formation and development in ethics as identified by ongoing institutional assessment. Formation and education in ethics supports the mission and strategic plan of the University, is consistent with guiding documents of the Catholic Church for Catholic colleges and universities, and is critical to a student's ability to navigate complex ethical dilemmas in healthcare practice. REACH emerged from (1) University conversations about strengthening the Catholic and Franciscan identity of the institution; (2) results of institutional assessment data from the National Student Survey of Engagement (NSSE); and (3) a review of student achievement of program and course outcomes related to ethics. This proposal to improve students' knowledge of Catholic healthcare ethics meets an institutional need to strengthen its Catholic and Franciscan identity while improving student learning. Catholic healthcare ethics informed by both faith (the revelation of Jesus Christ) and reason is in communion with the Catholic Church. Catholic healthcare ethics is defined within the above context as the study of the "profound and deeply human questions raised by modern healthcare regarding the meaning of life, its beginning, its continuation, and its end" (Austriaco, 2011, p.7). *REACH* was designed by a broad based group of University constituents who determined the project would positively impact student learning and was feasible considering University human and fiscal resources. The goal of *REACH* is to advance the University's mission by educating and forming students proficient in Catholic healthcare ethics. After engaging in *REACH*, students will be able to:

1. Identify *REACH* and discuss its relationship to the mission and values of the University.
2. Describe the basic tenets of Catholic healthcare ethics and its relationship to the mission and values of the University.
3. Distinguish Catholic healthcare ethics from other ethical approaches such as principlism, deontology, and utilitarianism.
4. Discuss how Catholic healthcare ethics can be used to guide ethical decision making by Bachelor of Science in nursing graduates in professional practice.
5. Apply Catholic healthcare ethics to specific cases and in simulations.

REACH will be implemented at several levels of the undergraduate curriculum beginning with ACSM 1110 Academic Seminar, THEO 3345 Theological Bioethics, PHIL 2320 Ethical Issues in Healthcare, NURS 3740 Nursing Concepts IV, and culminating with NURS 4750 Nursing Concepts V and NURS 4790 Clinical Immersion. Knowledge of Catholic healthcare ethics gained in foundational courses will assist students in ethical decision making as they apply this knowledge through clinical practice in community environments, acute care settings and in simulations.