



For Immediate Release
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**CLINICAL ETHICS DISCIPLINE APPROVED BY THE
COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Seminole, Florida—At the Annual Business Meeting of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) on April 27, 2024, the Commission voted to accept Clinical Ethics as a new health science discipline. Recognition as a discipline is the first step towards awarding CAAHEP accreditation to clinical ethics educational programs.

“Clinical ethics is a practical healthcare discipline that focuses on identifying, analyzing, and resolving ethical issues that arise in clinical practice. Clinical ethicists work in healthcare institutions, typically hospitals or healthcare systems. Clinical ethics practice includes clinical ethics consultation, which involves interacting directly with patients and healthcare providers to help address the ethical issues involved in a specific patient case,” said Dr. Ellen Fox of the Clinical Ethics Steering Committee.

“Clinical ethics fellowship programs are recognized as the gold standard for clinical ethics education. The post-graduate certificate programs are typically one or two academic years, and there are currently 30 established programs in the U.S.”

CAAHEP President Donald Balasa, JD, MBA, emphasized, “The clinical ethics profession is a welcome addition to CAAHEP and brings the total number of health science disciplines in CAAHEP to 32.” Once a Clinical Ethics Committee on Accreditation is established and quality assurance *Standards* are approved, programs can submit for CAAHEP accreditation.

In addition to the new discipline, the Commission approved the membership of two organizations supporting clinical ethics: the Association of Bioethics Program Directors and the Catholic Health Association of the United States. “CAAHEP looks forward to working with ABPD and CHA in establishing CAAHEP-accredited Clinical Ethics programs in the future,” said Balasa.

CAAHEP accredits more than 2,600 educational programs preparing health professionals in 32 disciplines. Accreditation is critical to ensuring quality education, protecting the public, and providing competent healthcare professionals. For more information about CAAHEP and accreditation, visit www.caahep.org.