REGULATIONS AND CURRICULUM GOVERNING

Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Ethics (PGDCE) PROGRAM

(Started since 2013)

(Updated 2026)

Name of the Constituent Unit/Centre: Centre for Ethics, Yenepoya Medical College



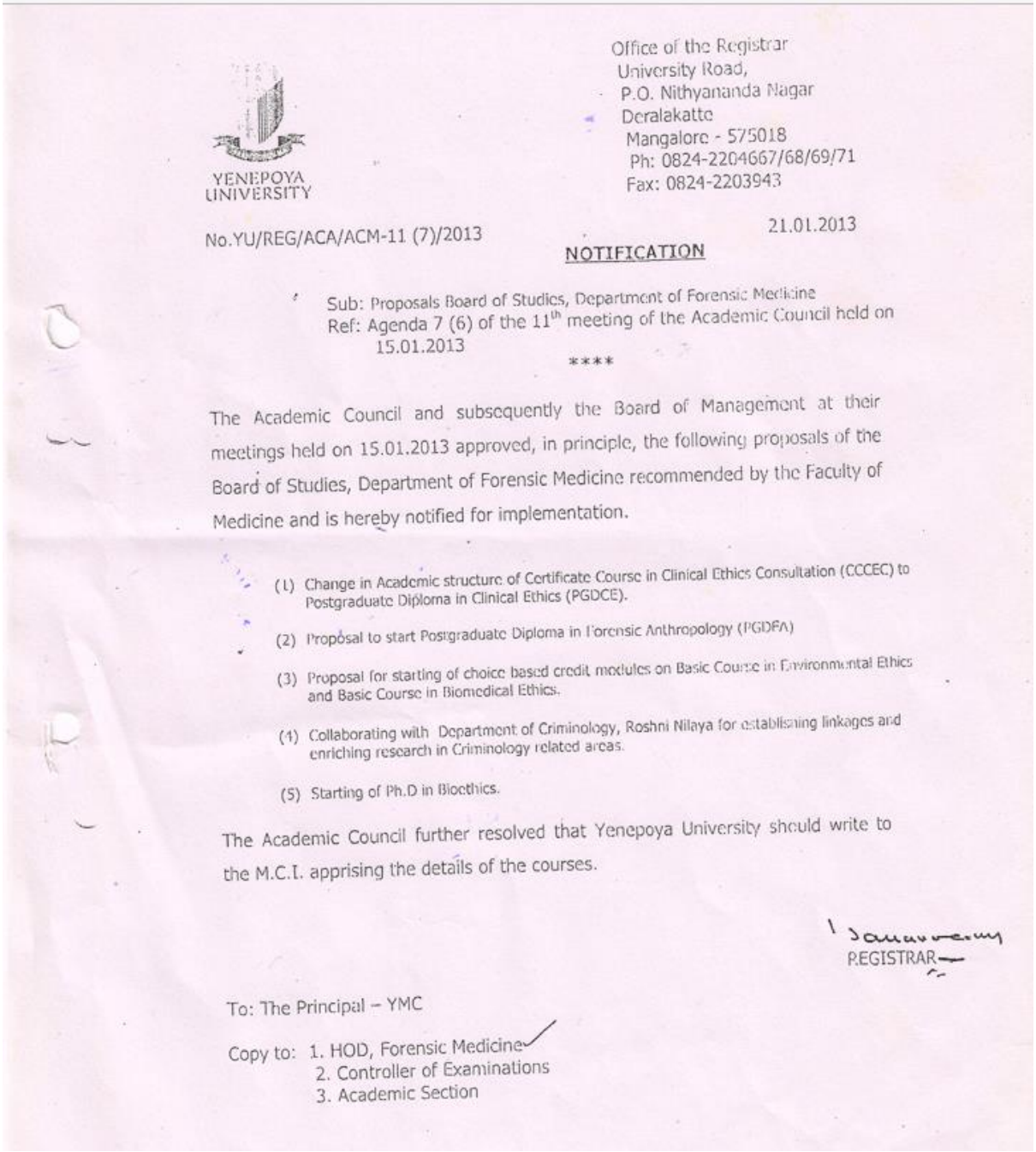
YENEPOYA

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Deralakatte, Mangalore, Karnataka.

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NOTIFICATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY



YENEPOYA UNIVERSITY

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No.YU/REG/ACA/ACM-11 (7)/2013

21.01.2013

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Proposals Board of Studies, Department of Forensic Medicine
Ref: Agenda 7 (6) of the 11th meeting of the Academic Council held on 15.01.2013

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The Academic Council and subsequently the Board of Management at their meetings held on 15.01.2013 approved, in principle, the following proposals of the Board of Studies, Department of Forensic Medicine recommended by the Faculty of Medicine and is hereby notified for implementation.

(1) Change in Academic structure of Certificate Course in Clinical Ethics Consultation (CCCEC) to Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Ethics (PGDCE).

(2) Proposal to start Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Anthropology (PGDFA)

(3) Proposal for starting of choice based credit modules on Basic Course in Environmental Ethics and Basic Course in Biomedical Ethics.

(4) Collaborating with Department of Criminology, Roshni Nilaya for establishing linkages and enriching research in Criminology related areas.

(5) Starting of Ph.D in Biocthics.

The Academic Council further resolved that Yenepoya University should write to the M.C.I. apprising the details of the courses.

REGISTRAR

To: The Principal – YMC

Copy to: 1. HOD, Forensic Medicine
2. Controller of Examinations
3. Academic Section

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No.YU/REG/AC(7-18)/Noti./2011

28.07.2011

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Curriculum for the proposed Certificate Course in Clinical Ethics Consultation

Ref: Agenda No.18 of the minutes of 7th Academic Council meeting held on 21st July 2011 and Board of Management on 22nd July 2011.

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The curriculum for the Certificate Course in Clinical Ethics Consultation proposed by the Board of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology and recommended by the Faculty of Medicine is approved by the Academic Council and Board of Management in their meetings held on 21st and 22nd July 2011 respectively and are hereby notified for implementation. Relevant provisions of the consumer protection act shall be complied with.

REGISTRAR

Cc to:

- Principal, YMC
- HOD, Dept. of Forensic Medicine
- Controller of Examinations

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1. Preamble

The Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Ethics is designed to equip healthcare professionals with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to address ethical challenges in clinical practice. Offered by the Centre for Ethics at Yenepoya Medical College, the program was initially started in collaboration with Johannes Gutenberg University and is now run independently. The program integrates interdisciplinary perspectives from bioethics, medicine, philosophy, law, and social sciences. It emphasizes ethical reasoning, patient-centered care, and institutional decision-making within healthcare settings.

2. Goal

To introduce clinical ethics consultation and decision making so as to improve Doctor-Patient relationship for better clinical decision making.

3. Subject Specific Learning Objectives/Learning Objectives

- Identify and analyze ethical issues in clinical practice and healthcare delivery.
- Understand core ethical theories and principles relevant to medicine.
- Recognize and evaluate ethical dilemmas in diverse clinical contexts.
- Understand the structure and functioning of Hospital Ethics Committees.
- Apply ethical principles and frameworks to resolve conflicts in healthcare settings.
- Demonstrate effective communication and empathy in ethically sensitive situations.
- Integrate legal and cultural perspectives into clinical ethical decision-making.

4. Subject specific competencies

- Apply ethical theories (utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, care ethics) in clinical scenarios.
- Practice principlism (autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice) in patient care.
- Conduct clinical ethics consultations in real-world situations.
- Demonstrate communication skills including listening, narration, and reflection.
- Analyze medico-legal issues such as negligence and duty of care.
- Participate effectively in Hospital Ethics Committees.
- Exhibit empathy, cultural sensitivity, and professionalism in healthcare interactions.
- Critically assess quality of life and ethical implications in end-of-life and critical care decisions.

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5. Syllabus/Course Content

The curriculum transaction is done over 3 modules.

Module 1: Ethical Theories & Basics of Anthropology

Session(s)	Topic	Key Content Areas	Learning Focus / Outcomes
1–2	Introduction to Ethics	Definition, concepts, moral philosophy, branches of ethics	Identify ethical principles; understand ethical conflicts in clinical care
3–4	Ethical Theories	Utilitarianism, Deontology, Virtue Ethics, Care Ethics	Apply ethical theories; differentiate means vs ends
5–6	Applied Ethics	Clinical ethics terminology and consultation basics	Understand clinical ethics consultation
7–8	Basics of Anthropology	Culture, socio-cultural relationships, illness perspectives	Understand illness through cultural lens

Module 2: Principles of Medical Ethics & Medical Humanities

Session(s)	Topic	Key Content Areas	Learning Focus / Outcomes
9	Doctor–Patient Relationship	Duties, paternalism vs benevolence	Understand ethical obligations
10	Duty to Care	Standards and continuity of care	Analyze scope of duty to care
11–13	Principles of	Autonomy,	Apply principlism;

	Medical Ethics	beneficence, non-maleficence, justice; negligence; consent	analyze negligence
14	Concept of Illness	Evolution of illness, germ theory, cultural aspects	Understand changing health concepts
15	Medical Humanities	Empathy, human values, quality of life	Develop empathy
16	Communication Skills	Listening, narration, reflection, non-verbal communication	Demonstrate communication skills

Module 3: Institutional Ethics, Medical Law & Clinical Ethics Consultation

Session(s)	**Topic**	**Key Content Areas**	**Learning Focus / Outcomes**
17–18	Institutional Ethics	Equity, fairness, justice, resource allocation	Analyze system-level ethics
19	Medical Law	Negligence, legal provisions in India	Understand medico-legal responsibilities
20–21	Hospital Ethics Committees	Structure and functioning	Participate in HEC
22–24	Clinical Ethics Consultation	End-of-life, genetic counseling, critical care	Conduct ethical consultations

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Optional Module

Session(s)	Topic	Key Content Areas	Learning Focus / Outcomes
Intensive Summer Workshop in Ethics and Research (I-SWEAR)	Biomedical Research Ethics	Ethical issues in biomedical research	Understand research ethics and its related national and global guidelines

6. Teaching & Learning Methods

- Lectures and interactive sessions
- Case-based learning
- Small group discussions
- Field visits
- Narratives, films, and reflective exercises
- Self-directed learning
- Project work and assignments
- Role play, debates, and creative expressions (e.g., skits, painting)

7. Assessment

Appropriate credits will be awarded for successful completion of each semester. There will be an essay type examination at the end of the second semester.

A. **Project work and presentation**

B. Theory Paper (Short essays and brief answers total 50 marks)

C. Viva voce and project defense

The evaluation will be on the following weightage:

a. Project Work and Presentation - 30%

b. Essay-type Written Examination - 30%

c. Continuous skill-based assessment (attendance, assignments) - 20%

d. Skill-based Assessment (Viva, case analysis, role play, etc.) - 20%

Eligibility for the award: To be eligible for award of the diploma, the student should score minimum of 50% of the total score adjusted for the above weightages. The certificate will be marked with grades.

8. Recommended Books

1. Jonsen AR, Siegler M, Winslade WJ. *Clinical Ethics: A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions in Clinical Medicine*. 9th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2021. Available from: Clinical Ethics (9th edition) overview

2. Jonsen AR, Siegler M, Winslade WJ. *Clinical Ethics: A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions in Clinical Medicine*. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2022. Available from: AccessMedicine online version

3. Beauchamp TL, Childress JF. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. 8th ed. New York: Oxford University Press; 2019. Available from: https://global.oup.com/academic/product/principles-of-biomedical-ethics-9780190640873

4. Kuhse H, Singer P, editors. *A Companion to Bioethics*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell; 2009. Available from: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/book/10.1002/9781444307818

5. Steinbock B, editor. *The Oxford Handbook of Bioethics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2007. Available from: https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-oxford-handbook-of-bioethics-9780199273355

6. Gillon R. *Medical Ethics: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2001. Available from: https://global.oup.com/academic/product/medical-ethics-a-very-short-introduction-9780192858771

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Annexure

Blue Print

Domain	Competency	Teaching Methods	Assessment
Knowledge	CE consultation models	Case discussions	short answers
Reasoning	Analysing ethical dilemmas	role play	Direct observation
Decision making	Justify decisions	Viewing documentaries	Reflective writing
Bedside communication	Breaking bad news	simulations	Peer evaluation
Critical thinking	Resolving moral distress	skits	application of CE methods

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Model Question papers

Centre for Ethics
Yenepoya Deemed to be University
Model Question Paper - PGDCE Course

Method of Examination : Pen and paper based.

Venue : Ethics Centre or Examination hall of Yenepoya University

Duration :3 hours

Total marks : 50

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1. Four long questions - 10 marks each **4x10 = 40**

Sample of Long Question:

What is meant by end-of-life care. Explain the guidelines for end-of-life care in India?

2. Two short answers - 2 marks each **2x5 =10**

Sample of Short answer: Describe Doctor-Patient Relationship?

Note: The external examiner will be requested to prepare two sets of question papers from which any one will be randomly chosen.

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Competency Checklist

Students of Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Ethics must demonstrate

Knowledge

☐ Defines ethical principles
☐ Explains clinical ethics consultation models

Reasoning

☐ Identifies ethical dilemmas
☐ Applies frameworks

Decision-making

☐ Justifies ethical decisions end of life, beginning of life.
☐ Handles uncertainty, conveys decision with clarity

Bedside Communication

☐ Conducts informed consent in complex situations
☐ Manages conflict and distress

Research Ethics

☐ Reviews research proposals
☐ Ensures participant protection

Critical thinking, Clinical Ethics Consultation

☐ Draws up a detailed report

Reflection

☐ Able to write reflective essay