

How can I gain the experience required for the Certification program?

- If you are already working in healthcare, join your hospital's or healthcare system's ethics committee and seek opportunities to engage in consultation work.
- If you already have a master's or doctoral degree in bioethics, apply for a position as a full-time or part-time clinical ethicist in a hospital or healthcare system. You would then get direct experience doing consultation as a clinical ethicist. If you are a current student or alumnus, you can also seek guidance from your institution's academic advisors.
- Pursue a clinical ethics fellowship. For those seeking to enter the field who lack experience, this is the most straightforward way of getting ethics consultation training and securing a job. To see what programs are available, a good place to start is the directory set up by the Association of Bioethics Program Directors:
<https://www.bioethicsdirectors.net/graduate-bioethics-education-programs-results/>

What if I cannot pursue any of the options mentioned above?

- Contact individuals at local hospitals or health systems who are doing clinical ethics consultation to conduct informational interviews. This may open opportunities to be able to pursue one of the options listed above.
- Consider participating in an intensive or immersion program in clinical ethics. These will typically involve shadowing rather than engaging in consultation oneself, and therefore are NOT a way to gain direct consultation experience. Just like informational interviews, though, they can open doors to other opportunities given that they offer an introduction to clinical ethics methods.
- Explore the opportunities for learning and networking offered by the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH). Again, this will not provide you with the experience required for certification but can make you aware of opportunities to do so and valuable networking. To learn more, visit ASBH's website at <https://asbh.org>.

This is not an exhaustive list. These recommendations are provided to help those interested in pursuing a career as a healthcare ethicist with information on how to gain exposure and experience in the field. It is important to understand that earning the required hours and experience will likely require additional time, so it is necessary to plan accordingly. These recommendations do not guarantee an individual will be eligible for the HEC-C examination. Please review the current eligibility requirements on the HEC-C website: <https://heccertification.org/exam/eligibility>.