

HEALTH HUMANITIES, B.A.

Health Humanities is a rapidly growing, interdisciplinary field that applies humanistic perspectives to health and health care. The humanities (cultural and language studies, history, literature, philosophy, theology and religious studies, and the arts) are indispensable to humane health care because they teach us about the human condition, about human suffering and healing, and about human well-being and flourishing. The Health Humanities Program emphasizes the study of human dignity, human values, and health care ethics (bioethics). The program employs holistic and integrated understandings of what it means to be human, in contrast to what has been called "biomedical reductionism." Human beings cannot be reduced to biochemical processes but are complex wholes of body, mind, and soul. Humane health care depends on that recognition: on seeing patients as whole persons. Students who successfully complete a Health Humanities major or minor, along with required science courses outside the program, will be well-prepared for admission to medical school, to Physician Assistant programs, and to other health science graduate programs. The program is also ideal for students who have an interest in law school, in earning a graduate degree in public health, or in pursuing an administrative career in health care.

Contact Information

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Learning Outcomes

The student completing the Health Humanities major will be able to:

1. Understand humanistic perspectives, human values, and their health applications.
2. Deploy a comprehensive and multifaceted understanding of human health as human well-being and flourishing, encompassing the physical, mental, emotional, social, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions of human life and experience.
3. Use skills that are essential for humane health care, health promotion, and health stewardship: observation, analysis, communication, critical thinking, discernment, empathy, and self-reflection.
4. Demonstrate interdisciplinary preparation for humane health care through a deeper understanding of (and empathy for) impairment, illness, suffering, healing, aging, and dying as human experiences on an individual level and in community.
5. Understand the influence of social, cultural, and economic contexts on the manifestation of disease and the experience of illness.
6. Reflect upon and act appropriately as neighbor to the person who is suffering (Luke 10:25-37).
7. Counter the main sources of dehumanization in modern medicine, health care, and public health, including biomedical reductionism, misuse of technology, commercialization, and stigma.
8. Employ knowledge of the main concepts, principles, applications, and controversies in biomedical and public health ethics.
9. Show familiarity with humanities concepts that are part of the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).

Requirements

Program Requirements

Students must achieve the following program requirements for all courses listed under "Program Required Courses" for the Health Humanities major.

Major Credits: 36

Major Residency Credits: 20

Minimum GPA: 2.0

Program Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
HHU/PHL 2301	Health, Happiness, and Human Well-being	4
HHU 2900	Health Humanities Foundations	4
HHU/ENG 3010	Trauma and Recovery: Medicine and Literature	4
HHU/GCL 3401	Health Care Across Cultures	4
HHU 4400	Health Humanities Capstone Seminar	4
Elective Courses		
Select sixteen additional credits from the following: ¹		16
ECN 3335	Contemporary Healthcare Economic Systems	
GER 3316	Health and Functioning in Late Life	
HSC 2203	U.S. Healthcare System	
PHL 4420	Philosophy of Science	
PSY 2208	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	
PSY 3315	Psychosocial Aspects of Aging	
	or SWK 3315 Psychosocial Aspects of Aging	
PSY 3216	Personality	
PSY 3328	Behavior Management	
PSY 3363	Health Psychology	
PSY 3423	Abnormal Psychology	
PSY 3424	Mental Health and Aging	
SWK 3350	Understanding Systems of Privilege and Oppression	
SWK 3360	American Social Welfare Policy	
SWK 3362	Human Behavior in the Social Environment	
SWK 3395	Social Work and Healthcare	
TRS 3310	Religious Perspectives on Living, Dying and Grieving	
TRS 3311	Religious Perspectives on Healthcare Ethics	
Total Credits		36

¹ Additional elective courses for the major are possible, selected in consultation with the program director.

Degree Requirements

To graduate from the College of St. Scholastica, baccalaureate students must meet the following minimum degree requirements.

Total Credits: 128

Upper Division Credits: 42

Residency Requirement: 32

Minimum GPA: 2.0