

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

hhu@css.edu

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 Requirements and 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/GSJ 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 3216 | Personality | |
| PSY 3315 | Psychosocial Aspects of Aging | |
| 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