Health, Medicine, and Society

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The Program

The Health, Medicine, and Society (HMS) program seeks to integrate coursework relevant to the field of medicine from across many disciplines. It is meant to serve students interested in a wide range of career paths, from medical provider (physician, nurse, physician assistant, midwife) to health care administrator, from public health to healthcare policy. The program is built upon the conviction that questions about health and healthcare can only be meaningfully addressed by integrating different disciplinary perspectives. Thus, it provides a framework for navigating a wide range of classes ensuring both breadth of exposure and depth of perspective. Students will devise a personal course of study within the structure laid out below. Due to the integrative and interdisciplinary nature of the program, all HMS students are strongly encouraged to consider making HMS a second major, expanding and enhancing a primary field of study.

The program is structured around five broad areas. The first, Natural Science, covers basic biology and chemistry. Such disciplines provide an important foundation for our understanding of health, and our development of possible medical interventions and public health programs. The second, Medical Humanities, brings the interpretive and conceptual resources of philosophy, literature, religious studies and history to bear on our understanding of health and healthcare. They place illness within the broader context of lived experience, and help us to understand its ethical and existential import. The third, Policy and Management, recognizes the complex legal, political, and economic context that defines how we respond to health challenges. Courses in this area provide important skills for developing and analyzing health policy, and for managing complex healthcare organizations. The fourth, Person and Society, draws on the rich traditions of medical anthropology, sociology and psychology. Such fields help us to understand the complex social and personal forces that shape health and disease, and our responses to them. Finally, Global Health acknowledges the challenges and possibilities for tackling health problems on the global stage. Courses here aim to provide practical skills for working across cultures, and conceptual resources for understanding issues of deeply routed cultural significance.

In addition to this interdisciplinary focus, the HMS program is committed to healthcare as a form of service. The completion of an HMS degree requires a practical internship or service project as the foundation of the major capstone.

The flexible, interdisciplinary nature of the program requires careful planning with an advisor. Students interested in the program are strongly encouraged to take the foundational seminar (HMS 100) at the first available opportunity, typically in the first year of studies.

The Major

Students declaring an HMS major will develop a course of study comprised of a minimum of 13 courses (a minimum of 48 credits). This will include an emphasis comprised of five courses addressing one of the five core areas defined by the program, and at least two courses in two additional areas. To ensure depth of study, a maximum of 5 100-level courses can count towards a student's concentration and electives. As with all interdisciplinary majors, no more than 24 credits (6 courses) can come from any one department or discipline.

All HMS majors are strongly encouraged to develop competency in a second language. This is of particular importance for students concentrating in the area of Global Health.

Bachelor of Arts

All HMS majors must complete the following requirements:

Major Requirements minimum 48 credits

- 1. Foundation Course . . . 4 credits HMS 100 Health, Medicine, and Society (4)
- 2. Mathematical Methods . . . 4 credits

Take one of the following courses:

MATH 111 Elementary Statistics and Probability with Applications (4) POLI 202 Statistical Analysis and Mapping of Social Science Data (4)

PSYCH 250 Statistical Methods (4)

3. Concentration 20 credits

Take five courses addressing one of the areas below.

4. Electives 16 credits

Take four courses, two addressing each of two further areas below. Both elective areas must differ from a student's concentration area.

5. Capstone 4 credits

Complete the capstone sequence:

HMS 300 Integrative Seminar I (2)

HMS 400 Integrative Seminar II (2)

HMS 300 should be completed at the end of a student's junior year, and HMS 400 at the end of a student's senior year. Students will design a practical service/internship plan in HMS 300, then reflect upon and integrate their service experience with their course of study in HMS 400 after that project is completed. The completion of a service/internship project is required to complete the capstone sequence. For more information, consult an advisor within the HMS program.

Department Honors

Students may apply for departmental honors in the fall of their senior year. Students must have a minimum 3.5 GPA in the major to apply. To complete the honors requirements, students must successfully defend an Honors Thesis in HMS. The defense committee shall be composed of at least two faculty members, one of whom shall be an advisory board member in the HMS program.

Area Courses

The following courses have been identified as addressing the five possible areas of study within the HMS program. Note that courses listed may have prerequisites. Additional courses not listed here may count as addressing each area. For more information, consult an advisor within the HMS program.

Natural Science

BIOL 200 Principles of Biology: Unity & Diversity (4)

BIOL 201 Principles of Biology II: Molecular/Cellular Biology and Genetics (4)

BIOL 239 Molecular Genetics and Heredity (4)

BIOL 317 Human Anatomy (4)

BIOL 325 Medical Genetics (4)

BIOL 326 Neuroscience (4)

BIOL 332 Nutrition (4)

BIOL 338 Cell Biology (4)

BIOL 343 Microbiology (4)

BIOL 344 Human Physiology (4)

BIOL 345 Immunology (4)

CDIS 100 Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders (4)

CHEM 102 Introduction to Chemistry of the Environment (4)

CHEM 131 General Chemistry I (4)

CHEM 132 General Chemistry II (4)

CHEM 231 Organic Chemistry I (4)

CHEM 232 Organic Chemistry II (4)

CHEM 312 Advanced Environmental Chemistry (4)

CHEM 320 Biochemistry (4)

Medical Humanities

HIST 215 History of Disability (4)

HIST 318 Gender and Sexuality in Modern European History (4)

PHIL 215 Bioethics: Doctors and Patients (4)

PHIL 216 Bioethics: Technology and Justice (4)

PHIL 231 Philosophy, Science, and Medicine (4)

PHIL 232 Biology, Health, and Disease (4)

REL 250 Compassion (4)

MVC 260 Topics in Politics of Representation (4)

WGS 232 History of Sexuality in the United States (4)

WGS 333 Pregnancy and Power (4)

Policy and Management

BUS 305 Organizational Communication (4)

BUS 310 Principles of Management and Organizational Behavior (4)

BUS 312 Leadership (4)

ECON 101 Principles of Economics (4)

ECON 240 Economics of Race, Class and Gender (4)

ECON 254 Economics of the Public Sector (4)

EVST 100 Introduction to Environmental Studies (4)

EVST 235 Environmental Impact Assessment (4)

EVST 242 Food and Nature (4)

LAST 431 Drug Wars (4)

PLCY 100 Intro to Public Policy Analysis (4)

POLI 457 Health Care Policy (4)

REST 335 Race, Gender and Public Policy (4)

SPA 110 Introduction to Spatial Analysis and GIS (4)

Person and Society

PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology (4)

PSYC 220 Abnormal Child Psychology (4)

PSYC 320 Psychology of Gender (4)

PSYC 335 Developmental Psychology (4)

PSYC 344 Abnormal Psychology (4)

PSYC 350 Evolutionary Psychology (4)

PSYC 450 Health Psychology (4)

REST 220 Ending Oppression (4)

REST 245 Race and Science (4)

SOAN 230 Bodies and Society (4)

SOAN 329 Anthropology of Mothering (4)

SOAN 326 Charity and Helping Others (4)

SOAN 342 Gender and Sexuality (4)

SOAN 418 Death and Dying (4)

Global Health

BUS 136 Principals of Global Marketing (4)

GLB 336 International Business (4)

GLB 453 International Negotiations (4)

CDIS 260 Travel/Service Learning in Latin America Focus on Language, Culture and Education (3)

ECON 221 Economics of Development (4)

ECON 222 International Political Economy (4)

PHIL 122 Global Medical Ethics (3)

POLI 345 International Law and Organization (4)

PSYC 252 Culture and Human Behavior (4)

PSYC 435 Cross Cultural Psychology (4)

REL 125 Introduction to World Religions (4)

SOAN 102 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (4)

SOAN 301 Fieldwork and Ethnographic Methods (4) SOAN 303 World Ethnographies (4)

Course Descriptions (HMS)

100 Health, Medicine, and Society.

Fall (4), Spring (4).

An introduction to the wide range of disciplinary perspectives that are relevant to understanding health, medicine, and their relationship with broader society. Students will learn to identify broad questions related to these themes, and work to identify the disciplines, and courses, that will help provide the tools necessary to answer them.

300 Integrative Seminar I.

Spring (2).

This is the first course in the HMS major capstone sequence. Students will report on their progress through the program, reflecting on lessons learned about health, medicine, and society. They will then develop and propose their service internship required to complete the program.

Prerequisite: HMS 100.

400 Integrative Seminar II.

Spring (2).

This is the final course in the HMS capstone sequence. Students will report on all aspects of their education, including their service internship, and reflect on lessons learned. The final, written report completes the capstone for the program.

Prerequisite: HMS 300.