LIBERAL ARTS AND THE HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES

The School of Liberal Arts offers a variety of courses, degree programs, concentrations and emphases in areas with health and life science connections.

ANTHROPOLOGY
Biological anthropology is the study of human variation across time and space. Like other subfields of anthropology, it strives to illuminate the fundamental nature of humanity by examining our population-based differences and similarities at multiple levels and throughout the course of human history. It builds this understanding through the use of an evolutionary perspective, which traces the origin of the human form and capabilities through millions of years of adaptation and change. The unique bio-cultural perspective of this subfield has applications in the health sciences, environmental studies and forensic sciences. Students in the Department of Anthropology are able to emphasize biological anthropology through their choice of coursework, as well as in individual research activities and collaborative projects with faculty.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES
Undergraduate students should enroll in COMM C392 Health Communication for an introduction to the field. Graduate students in the Master’s in Applied Communication can choose a concentration in health communication. Students gain direct applied experiences in various health and health-related organizations while completing advanced study in the area of health communication. Additionally, the program offers strong theoretical foundations in general health communication, patient-provider communication, media in health, health campaigns and public communication. The applied experience, grounded in communication theory, positions graduates for leadership positions in the health industry as well as acceptance into leading Ph.D. programs. The department also offers a Ph.D. in health communication. In this program, students: (1) obtain competency for teaching, research, and ethical exploration in areas that include: interpersonal health relationships, intercultural health, and mediated communication in healthcare including health campaign development. (2) initiate, participate, and develop competency in research on health and medical communication issues; (3) gain skills in understanding clinical problems affected by communication; (4) develop the capabilities necessary to translate research of clinical problems affected by communication into practice; and (5) receive training for academic jobs and healthcare professional positions.

ECONOMICS
E307 Economic Issues: Health Economics is an undergraduate course that emphasizes the challenges facing the health care market in the United States, and how economic analysis can be used to help understand health care-related issues. Topics covered include the demand for health care, the role of hospitals, health insurance, managed care, and government provision of health care.

Several members of the Department of Economics faculty specialize in research in health economics including health insurance, patient valuation of health care procedures, competition in health care markets, and the impact of early life conditions on later health status. The department has a Ph.D. program that specializes in health economics. In this program, students obtain a strong grounding in economic theory, econometrics and empirical research methods in addition to learning health economics. They also obtain a Ph.D. minor in a field such as epidemiology, health policy or biostatistics. Graduates are well prepared to work as health economists in research teams in private industries, for consulting firms, think tanks, government agencies, or in academic research centers.

GEOGRAPHY
Geographic Information Science involves the application of advanced information theory and technologies to the analysis of spatial patterns and processes. Spatial analysis is increasingly used in health and medical research to examine patterns of disease and associations between health behaviors, health outcomes, and the environment. The Department of Geography offers an undergraduate certificate, graduate certificate, and Master of Science in geographic information science. Courses in medical geography and spatial analysis are included in these programs, in addition to foundational courses in geographic information systems (GIS), cartography, and remote sensing. Our faculty have expertise in applications of GIS to health and medical research that has been supported by major federal and non-profit agencies and published in leading medical and public health journals.

MEDICAL HUMANITIES AND HEALTH STUDIES
The Medical Humanities and Health Studies (MHHS) Program seeks to promote an increased understanding of the humanistic, social, and cultural dimensions of health care. It offers undergraduate majors and minors in medical humanities and health studies, and graduate certificates and doctoral minors in medical humanities. These require two specialized, interdisciplinary courses plus electives from various departments within the School of Liberal Arts and other schools across the IUPUI campus: law, medicine, nursing, and public health, whose faculty participate in the program. These courses cover a wide range of topics such as biomedical/health care ethics, literature and medicine, history of medicine and public health, health economics and policy, medical sociology, medical anthropology, global health and health communication.

PHILOSOPHY
The Department of Philosophy offers a Master of Arts degree with a concentration in bioethics. We also offer a graduate certificate in bioethics. The study of bioethics seeks to integrate theory with practice to meet the need for ethically informed health care providers, patients, and public policy makers. Students will learn philosophical theories concerning ethics, metaphysics, and science, and how these theories are applicable to issues in medical research, clinical care, and health policy. Bioethics is an interdisciplinary field with courses offered from other departments such as sociology, anthropology, and medical humanities. Students may participate in a clinical ethics practicum and may also pursue combined-degrees with law (JD/MA), medicine (MD/MA), or public health (MAMPH).

SOCIOLGY
Medical sociologists study a wide range of topics, including (but not limited to): doctor-patient relationships; the social organization of health care, epidemiology (the study of how illness, disability, and death are distributed within a population), professional education, and acute and chronic illnesses. Reflecting and recognizing the

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variety of interests pursued by medical sociologists, the Department of Sociology offers a concentration in medical sociology for sociology majors, who study social factors in health and illness, the social organization of health care, AIDS, disability, gender and health, death and dying, and sexuality. The department also offers a minor in medical sociology. For the minor, students must complete 15 credits in sociology, including the introduction to sociology course, a medical sociology course and three electives from the medical sociology course list.

Graduate students in the Master’s Degree in Sociology Program can choose a concentration in medical sociology. This concentration is designed for students seeking applied research and policy careers in public and private health, mental health, and social service organizations and agencies, as well as those who plan to apply to Ph.D. programs with a medical sociology concentration. Courses examine the phenomena of health, illness, disability, mental health issues; the social organization of health care delivery; and differential access to medical resources. Sociology also offers a Ph.D. minor in the area of medical sociology.

WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
Effective communication in multilingual and multicultural societies is essential for health practitioners. The Department of World Languages and Cultures offers a selection of courses of interest to those seeking careers in health and life science fields. Opportunities include courses in medical terminology, courses that include medical translation and medical interpreting, and introductory Spanish language for health care personnel. Courses on terminology from Greek and Latin are designed for those intending to specialize in medicine, dentistry, or microbiology. In addition, a medical translation component is included in general courses in translation in French, German, and Spanish. Strong theoretical study of the fields of translation and interpreting is complemented by intensive practice in health settings through internships and service learning.

CONTACT US
For information on these opportunities in the Liberal Arts, please visit the department and program websites.

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