The Medical Humanities and Health Studies Program offers an interdisciplinary curriculum to prepare undergraduates to understand the broader role and determinants of health and medicine in today's world. Humanities courses raise questions of how human beings deal with health, medical intervention, illness and death. Social science courses provide insight into the social, economic and cultural contexts of health, illness and health care. Students benefit from the wealth of faculty in Liberal Arts and across the IUPUI campus who have strong teaching and research interests in the area of health care.

Sample topics addressed in the course of study include:
• Human values and ethics in medical decision making
• Patient care as an art form and scientific endeavor
• The impact of geography, history and economics on the nature of and access to health care and medicine
• Cultural/social systems and the definition of health and provision of health care
• Global health and humanitarian intervention
• Technology as an improvement in and impediment to humanistic healthcare

These and other related issues are of particular importance in today's environment of rapid medical-technological development and social change.

ACADEMIC & CAREER PREPARATION
An academic foundation in MHHS can be valuable to students pursuing virtually any career path, including but not limited to social/economic research, medicine, allied health professions, dentistry, health law, medical social work, nursing, public health, and public policy studies. Our graduates have directly gone on to pursue degrees in pharmacy, medicine, occupational therapy, and other health professions, as well as law and graduate school programs.

The MHHS Program offers undergraduate students a 30 credit hour major and a 15 credit hour minor.

THE MAJOR: BA IN MHHS
This degree is unique, being among the first comprehensive MHHS degrees offered to undergraduates nationwide. The major entails successful completion of a minimum of 120 credit hours: 90 credit hours will satisfy the School of Liberal Arts general education requirements, and 30 credit hours will satisfy the major concentration.

Common core courses (6 courses/18 credits)

MHHS M301 Perspectives on Health, Disease and Healing
The course utilizes the perspectives of the humanities and social science disciplines to provide students with a broader understanding of the many facets of health and disease, suffering and dying, as well as the art and science of healing.

MHHS M495 Independent Project/Seminar in MHHS
The capstone seminar or independent project allows students to apply knowledge gained from course work taken in the program by developing a research or applied project related to the interests of the MHHS faculty.

Two Medical Humanities Core Courses:
COMM C392 Health Communication
ENG L431 Topics: Illness Narratives
HIST H364 History of Medicine & Public Health
PHIL P393 Biomedical Ethics
REL R384 Religions, Ethics & Health

Two Health Social Science Core Courses:
ANTH E445 Medical Anthropology
ECON E307 Topics: Health Economics
GEOG G410 Medical Geography
SOC R381 Social Factors in Health & Illness — or -
SOC R382 Soc. Organization of Health Care
REL R368 Religion and Healing

Students choose one of three concentration tracks to complete the MHHS major with electives (4 courses/12 credits):
• Medical Humanities Track: MHHS Core + 12 credits of medical humanities electives
• Health Social Science Track: MHHS Core + 3 credits of methods + 9 credits of health social science electives
• Health Topics (e.g. Global Health; Women’s Health) Track: MHHS Core + 12 credits of electives as planned in consultation with MHHS faculty mentor

See reverse side of this flier for examples of elective courses for each track.

THE MINOR
The minor entails successful completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours:

Required core courses:
MHHS M301
MHHS Upper-level (300-/400-level) course

Electives: 3 courses/9 credits, each from different disciplines/departments
1 Medical Humanities course
1 Health Social Science course
1 Elective from either of the above categories

Please see the MHHS Minor brochure for more information.

CONTACT US
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Email: medhum@iupui.edu
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Examples of Medical Humanities Courses:
COMM C392 Health Communication
COMM C400 Health Provider-Consumer Communication
ENG L431 Topics: Illness Narrative
HIST H365 History of Medicine & Public Health
HIST H418 History of International Humanitarian Assistance
MHHS M390 A Body of Law: Medicine, Humanities & Law
MHHS M410 Addiction Narratives
MHHS M420 Culture of Mental Illness – Literary Representations
MHHS M492 Topics: Ethics & Policy of Organ Transplantation
MHHS M492 Topics Finding Frankenstein
MHHS M492 TPCs: Madonna in Med: Mothers/Children in Hlth/Illn
MHHS M492 Topics: African Health - Historical & Cultural Contexts
PHIL P383 Topics: Reproductive ethics
PHIL P383 Topics: Ethics, Autonomy & Consent
PHIL P393 Biomedical Ethics
REL R300 Topics: Religions, Death & Dying
REL R323 Yuppie Yogis & Global Gurus
REL R368 Religion and Healing
REL R384 Religions, Ethics, and Health

Examples of Health Social Science Courses:
ANTH B370 Human Variation
ANTH B468 Bio-Archaeology
ANTH B474 Forensic Anthropology, Archaeology & Taphonomy
ANTH B480 Human Growth & Development
ANTH E421 Anthropology of Aging
ANTH E445 Medical Anthropology
ECON E307 Current Economic Issues: Health Economics Issues
GEOG G410 Medical Geography
MHHS M390 A Body of Law: Medicine, Humanities & Law
MHHS M410 Addiction Narratives
MHHS M420 Culture of Mental Illness – Literary Representations
MHHS M492 Topics: Ethics & Policy of Organ Transplantation
MHHS M492 Topics Finding Frankenstein
MHHS M492 TPCs: Madonna in Med: Mothers/Children in Hlth/Illn
MHHS M492 Topics: African Health - Historical & Cultural Contexts
SOC R300 Topics: Aging & Society
SOC R320 Sexuality and Society
SOC R321 Women and Health
SOC R327 Sociology of Death and Dying
SOC R381 Social Factors in Health and Illness
SOC R382 Social Organization of Health Care
SOC R385 AIDS & Society
SOC R410 Alcohol, Drugs, and Society
SOC R415 Sociology of Disability
SOC R485 Sociology of Mental Illness

A few words from our MHHS Program Alumni:

I feel incredibly fortunate to have studied Medical Humanities and Health Studies here at IUPUI. The benefits of this interdisciplinary education are pretty intuitive for those interested in healthcare: we are called to the healing profession with the desire to be sensitive, attuned, and empathetic to the holistic needs of our patients and colleagues. By exploring illness and healing through fields such as literature, sociology, ontology, ethics, and anthropology, this program grows the intellect and spirit so that we can do just that. I cannot emphasize enough how prepared I feel to care for my future patients and walk with them through the journey of healing.

Danielle V. Lenz
B.A., MHHS, 2015
M.S.N., Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, 2017
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Department of Behavioral Health, IU Methodist Hospital.

I believe that a healthy human life involves much more than mere biology . . . During my time in the program I’ve researched and written on critical bioethical issues, including end of life health care, organ trafficking, and medical decision making. I believe that my studies within the Medical Humanities program have broadened and enriched my understanding of health and humanity.

George Kane
B.A., MHHS Individualized Major, 2013
4th-Year Medical Student, IU School of Medicine

These classes and the medical humanities approach have helped me solidify my true interests, realize the perspectives of several different but intersecting disciplines, deepen my understanding of major issues in the health care system past through future, and allowed me to improve my critical thinking, literature analysis, communication effectiveness, reasoning skills, and my moral imagination.

Rachel Stephens
B.A., MHHS, 2018
MSPH Program, Global Disease Epidemiology Control
Dept. of International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health