

The Health and Society BA program is giving students the opportunity to gain new perspectives on human health and well-being. The curriculum brings together courses from the social sciences and humanities to explore important questions about the social, economic, cultural, and political factors that impact the health and health behaviors of diverse populations. Students gain a solid foundation for careers in social work, public health, health policy, health administration, and any number of health care fields. Many students choose to complete the pre-health requirements alongside their major requirements in order to prepare for graduate training in medicine, nursing, and other health care fields. Students may also choose to double major in complementary fields such as Psychology, Public Administration, Crime & Justice Studies, or Sociology and Anthropology or add a minor in fields such as Sustainability, Urban Studies, Women and Gender Studies, Spanish, Data Analytics, or Aging and Health.

Skills developed

Students learn how to create innovative solutions for health-related problems and gain understanding of key issues such as:

- how inequalities along the lines of race and ethnicity, class, gender, and place of residence affect health outcomes;
- what people in different cultures think about health, illness, and health care;
- how environmental factors, pollution, and global warming impact population health around the globe;
- how theoretical frameworks and research from different disciplines can help us find innovative solutions to health-related problems; and
- how to assess the efficacy of different health care systems and policies.

Students develop useful skills in:

- carrying out qualitative and quantitative social scientific research; and
- effectively using oral and written modes of communicating health-related issues to diverse audiences.

Internships

HLT students intern with government organizations like local city Boards of Health and Health and Human Services Departments; non-profits focused on diverse areas like women's health, food insecurity, adolescent mental health and transportation equity; and agencies providing client-based social and health services.

Curriculum Outline

The BA in Health and Society consists of 36 credits. Requirements include five foundational courses that provide an introductory foundation, skills in research methods, communication skills, an in-depth capstone experience, and a community-based internship. Students create their own sequence of electives that includes 7 courses. Electives are chosen from a wide range of disciplines in the social sciences (Sociology & Anthropology, Psychology, Political Science, Economics, Women and Gender Studies, and Crime and Justice Studies) and the humanities (English, History, Philosophy, and Spanish).

Examples include:

- AGH 302 Aging and Disability
- CJS 361 War on Drugs
- ECO 338 Health Economics
- GLH 301 Introduction to Global Epidemiology
- HST 320 History of Medicine
- PHY 317 Ethics and Health Care Professions
- PSC 337 Reproductive Rights and Health
- PSY 215 Adolescent Psychology
- SOA 315 Health and Healing
- SPA 306 Medical Spanish
- WGS Women, Families and Global Health

Career Opportunities

Gaining a new outlook on the human experience of health, illness, and the social arrangements for health care gives students the edge in many emerging fields and prepares them for future education in many health-related fields. Skills garnered here are transferable across the nation and around the globe and are of critical importance in future career trajectories. Careers and graduate study opportunities for Health and Society graduates are diverse and include: social services and social work; allied health and human services such as medicine, nursing, physical therapy, etc.; public health; community health education and communication; and public policy.

Top Jobs

- Healthcare Administrators (average salary \$70,175)
- Community Health Coordinators (average salary \$44,777)
- Non-Profit Program Director (average salary \$52,771)
- Community Health Specialists (average salary \$48,501)
- Community Outreach Coordinators (average salary \$48,486)
- Policy Analysts (average salary \$59,836)
- Social Workers (average salary \$48,606)
- Public Health Analysts (average salary \$63,179)