



# Health Studies

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## Introduction to Health Studies

The Department of Health Studies investigates the social, cultural, environmental, biological, psychological, ethical, economic, legal, and policy contexts that shape individual and population health. As the world prepares for future pandemics, the healthcare needs of an aging population, and the adverse effects of climate change, there is a growing demand for professionals who understand the complexities of medical and public health systems.

The department offers courses in areas such as health policy, global health, and epidemiology. Health studies is by definition a multidisciplinary field, and additional health-related courses for the major and minor are offered by departments across the School of Arts & Sciences as well as the School of Business and the School of Leadership Studies.

## The Health Studies Major and Minor

**Major:** Students who major in Health Studies are equipped to pursue work and graduate studies in public health, health policy, healthcare management and administration, and other areas related to health and social services. All students in the major complete courses in the three core areas of undergraduate public health education: health policy, global health, and epidemiology. Additional health-related courses in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities are selected, in consultation with faculty advisors, to align with personal interests and goals.

**Minor:** The Health Studies minor enhances preparation for clinical and professional practice by examining the foundations of social medicine. Courses on health policy, the social determinants of health, and healthcare ethics complement the

science courses required for admission to graduate programs in medicine, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other clinical professions. The minor also prepares rising leaders in business and politics to navigate the intricacies of public health and the healthcare sector.

## Sample Courses

### Major Required Courses:

- HS 100 Health Policy
- HS 101 Global Health
- HS 250 Epidemiology and Health Research Methods
- HS 400 Health Studies Capstone

### Minor Required Courses:

- HS 100 Health Policy
- HS 101 Global Health
- HS 202 Patients and Providers

### Sample Electives for Majors & Minors:

- ANTH 302 Health Inequities in Global Perspective
- BIOL 220 Human Anatomy and Physiology
- CLSC 210 A History of Early Medicine
- ENVR/GEOG 345 Local Sustainability
- HIST 291 Histories of Public Health and Biomedicine in the Global South
- HS 203 Health Ethics
- HS 240 Health and Law
- HS 305 Human Nutrition
- LAIS 307 Medical Spanish
- MATH 304 Mathematical Models in Biology and Medicine
- MGMT 355 Health Sector Analysis
- PHIL 265 Bioethics
- PLSC 365 U.S. Health Care Policy and Politics
- PSYC 323 Health Psychology
- SOC 340 Sociology of Health and Illness

## Experiential Learning

Health Studies students use a variety of outside-the-classroom experiences to explore their interests and learn about professional pathways, including

volunteering with community-based health and social service organizations, shadowing clinicians and working at local hospitals and clinics, completing study abroad programs, and collaborating on population-based health research studies.

## Recent Alumni Outcomes

- Richmond Ambulance Authority
- CVS Health
- Government Business Analyst at DaVita Kidney Care
- MedServe Fellow at Harvest Family Health Center
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- DMD student at the University of Pennsylvania
- Technology Analyst at Accenture
- Duke University School of Medicine
- Peace Corps (Zambia)
- Health consultant - Berkeley Research Group
- Health consultant - Impact Advisors
- Research coordinator - Healthy Brain Program (Johns Hopkins Medicine)
- Doctoral student in physical therapy (DPT), University of Iowa
- Nursing student, Villanova University



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