

Health Humanities Minor

Fulton School of Liberal Arts

Help Put the “Human” in Health Care

What Is Health Humanities?

Health humanities is an interdisciplinary field of study that integrates insights from the humanities and social sciences in the understanding and practice of health care and medicine. Over the last few decades, educators and practitioners alike have increasingly recognized the importance in medical education (and other professional health programs) of a **whole-person approach** to the delivery of health. An education in health humanities cultivates a reflective and empathetic understanding of health care practices, patient-provider relationship and outcomes; an awareness of the larger social forces shaping individuals’ experiences of illness; and the ability to examine one’s own role and responsibilities in the health care system. Crucially, it provides a much-needed **ethical foundation** for students pursuing careers in health-related fields.

Why Minor in Health Humanities?

Students who plan to make an unforgettable impact on health care should possess both the knowledge and skills specific to their profession as well as the curiosity to question the foundation of modern medicine and the current state of health care, tear down what doesn’t improve quality of care and rebuild something better in its place. The minor in health humanities complements the student’s main area of study through developing the analytical skills necessary for **critical thinking** and

How should we grapple with life-and-death decisions? How can we understand someone’s suffering? How should we respond to such experiences? What are the socio-cultural and interpersonal contexts of health problems? How can we make responsible decisions as health professionals or citizens?

effective communication about the challenges involved in health care.

A Diverse Array of Courses

The minor curriculum exposes students to a diverse array of courses from **multiple disciplines**, including communication, environmental studies, interdisciplinary studies, philosophy, psychology, public health, nursing, social work and sociology. The courses cover a wide range of topics related to medicine and health care, such as public health, death and dying, disabilities, mental health, biomedical ethics, health communication, and health education. To fulfill the minor requirements, students will take a minimum of five courses from at least four different disciplines. The diverse course offerings ensure that students have considerable freedom in choosing the courses that best fit their interests and schedule.

Experiential and Cross-Disciplinary Learning

The minor curriculum offers ample opportunities for learning beyond the traditional classroom. Students can gain a global perspective on health problems and health care practices through study abroad programs, contribute to health education and advocacy for the local community through civic engagement projects, or discuss pressing health care issues with students from other disciplines through interprofessional education experiences.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

An education in health humanities prepares students for careers in:

- Health care policy or law
- Health education
- Communication and social marketing
- Psychology and counseling
- Public or global health
- Social work
- Patient advocacy
- Health journalism
- Intervention or hospice support
- Hospital administration
- And more ...

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