



HEALTH, MEDICINE, AND SOCIETY

The Health, Medicine, and Society (HMS) Program prepares students to understand and meet the increasingly complex health needs of our growing population. Through coursework that emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches to understanding health, the HMS program cultivates a broad understanding of the effects of health, illness, and medical care on individuals, families, and communities.

OUR FACULTY

Faculty in the HMS program come from across the colleges at Lehigh. Our interdisciplinary faculty offer courses in a range of fields including medical sociology, bioethics, literature and medicine, history of medicine, journalism, psychology, medical anthropology, public health, environmental health, and political science. Many of our faculty are actively engaged in both local and international research projects that investigate the determinants of health, including a growing focus on community health. A dedication to understanding the multiple determinants of a person's health is evident in our faculty's research.

OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR CAREER PATHS

Students who minor or major in HMS are passionate about bettering the health of others. The future career paths of HMS students include a wide range of activities from working in the health sector of industry, to becoming healthcare providers such as physicians or mental health clinicians, to working in public health and health administration, to conducting health-related research. Whether they plan to practice medicine, become a public health official, conduct environmental health research, or shape national health policy, our students are dedicated to understanding and improving health locally and globally.

OUR EVENTS

The HMS program hosts events designed to deepen the university and local communities' understanding of U.S. and global health issues. Annual programmatic themes have included Health Care Disparities, Race, Women, and Health, and Global Health. Each April, we celebrate National Public Health Week with student research presentations, speakers, and a panel on future careers in health.

THE MAJOR

We offer a 32-credit Bachelor of Arts in Health, Medicine, and Society. Majors complete core coursework that covers social science approaches to health, the health humanities, and health research methodology. Majors also complete a concentration in either social science approaches to health or health humanities coursework. To complete the HMS major, students must also declare a second major in another department or program. Students can pair HMS with any second major of their choosing.

THE MINOR

Students minoring in HMS take 4 courses: one core course out of a select list, and then additional 3 HMS courses. The minor provides flexibility for students who may not have time to pick up a second major but are interested in exploring interdisciplinary approaches to health.



CONTACT US

To learn more about the HMS program, please visit: <http://hms.cas2.lehigh.edu/>

To talk about the HMS program, possible career paths with HMS, or how to pair HMS with a second major, contact:

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To declare an HMS major or minor contact:

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“The HMS program helped me discover and develop my passion for public health. My HMS courses were my favorite classes at Lehigh - I took as many as I could and even apprentice taught for two of them. They gave me a great foundation for pursuing a Master’s in Public Health. I entered UCLA with a good understanding of basic principles such as the social determinants of health, the complexities of the U.S. healthcare system, and sources of health inequalities.”

—*Jacquelin Scully, '12*

“The HMS minor is an exceptional program. I have found that the courses offered are always current and diverse; and my professors were eager to connect me with both internship and research opportunities in their fields. Also, they led me toward my decision to pursue a career in public health with a concentration in maternal and child health.”

—*Cristina DeScisciolo, '15*

“I cannot advocate enough for the Health, Medicine and Society program. HMS allows students to pursue an aspect of the Lehigh University experience that is commonly boasted in admissions: the promise of an interdisciplinary experience that encourages you to pursue your interests in all directions and to challenge yourself with new methods of thought. My fellow pre-med peers and I constantly saw our HMS courses as a reprieve from the cut and dry nature of our heavy natural science course load. Our HMS courses gave us something we wanted to talk about, we would find ourselves continuing the debates started in class over dinner, wanting to read each other’s papers to learn more about whatever topic that particular peer had decided to pursue.”

—*Jenna Pastorini, '17*

