

## What Our Students Say About the HMS Program

"Since the introduction of the HMS minor to Lehigh, many interesting new courses have become available to students. Participating in the minor has allowed me to broaden my perspective in the health field and to move away from a strictly scientific view of health as a pre-medical student majoring in biology. The professors for this minor offer valuable insight into their specialized view of the health field, whether it be health care policy or illness-based literature, and challenge students to think about illness, patients, medical professionals, and policy in new and different ways. These courses have helped me to improve certain skills that I am not frequently asked to use as a student of biology such as writing analytical papers, discussing health care issues, and more comprehensively following current events and debates." *Hayley Amuyal, Biology Major*

"The HMS minor provided a structure in which I could concentrate on historical and contemporary concepts of health and medicine. Although I'm an English major, I'm especially interested in health, medicine, and society. Taking HMS courses in tandem with English courses provided me with an expanded knowledge base, another means of analysis, and another perspective to consider. I am attending graduate school to further my study of literature, but I hope to eventually conduct research on health and medicine and societies' understanding of both within the period of literature that I will be studying. I've taken more HMS classes than my minor requires because the classes are fascinating and fun, and I definitely would have double-majored in HMS if a major were available!" *Rachel Dorrell, English Major*

"The HMS minor has been a great addition to my Psychology major. Since I am interested in the clinical/counseling side of psychology, the HMS minor has given me some necessary background about health care in the United States along with other countries. HMS has helped me decide to pursue this public health interest before eventually starting a health care career. From taking a number of HMS classes, I have gained a knowledge of what types of public-health related careers are available and how public health effects us every day." *John Lalomio, Psychology Major*

"When I began college as a biopharmaceutical engineer, I was initially only concerned with learning the scientific and engineering principles that would be necessary to contribute to the advancement medical science and biotechnology. Upon enrolling in HMS courses, however, I have gained a deeper understanding of the sociocultural, economical, and ethical implications of the work being done in the pharmaceutical industry. With the knowledge I have gained through HMS, I am confident that I will be able to positively impact pharmaceutical development after I graduate by contributing to the advancement of biotechnologies that are consistent with the health and medical needs of our society." *Kristen Klingler, Bioengineering Major*

"The HMS minor is an excellent program that gives students a flavor for a variety of disciplines within the health and medical field. As a behavioral neuroscience major, the coursework provides students with a refreshing escape from the granularity that often dominates typical science courses and empowers students to see the bigger picture. The courses I have taken have given me insight into how people are affected by different public health issues. I think this is an advantage that will benefit me in my career. This minor has opened doors for me from a career awareness perspective allowing me to be more conscious of the variety of fields I can pursue within the health care industry." *Emily Yama*

"I never realized what I was getting myself into when I enrolled in my first HMS course, but I left the first day of class mortified. Creative writing?! What possible purpose could writing a series of creative non-fiction pieces serve in this class? It gave me a voice to vent about the pain and frustration of illness, forced me to examine how the stigmas of illness impact my own views, exposed me to my fears, and then helped me find solace through writing and storytelling. Each of the HMS classes that I have taken offered me opportunities unlike any other class. They allowed me to bond with classmates, meet authors, talk to physicians, and even work with Alzheimer's residents for a semester. The classes changed my life, improving my ability to understand and care for my grandmother who has Alzheimer's. My only regret is that I didn't have enough time to take all of these classes." *Faith Roncoroni*