Bi-Co MINOR in HEALTH STUDIES

OVERVIEW

Haverford’s Bi-College Health Studies minor brings together faculty and students to explore the intertwined areas of health, disease, and social justice. We offer unparalleled training for students interested in confronting complex real-world health problems and creating solutions.

Multidisciplinary in approach and collaborative in spirit, our curriculum embraces the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities. Students learn how to think about health from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and with an appreciation of its many dimensions. They also gain experience—so vital in addressing contemporary health issues—working in productive partnerships with individuals from different backgrounds, training, and points of view.

Our program welcomes students from every major. Their diverse perspectives come together to create an exceptionally rich learning experience. At the same time, we are committed to advancing each student’s particular academic goals, which may include medicine, public health, journalism, medical anthropology, and health policy, among others.

Haverford and Bryn Mawr offer an interdisciplinary Bi-College Minor in Health Studies, involving departments and faculty on both campuses from the social and natural sciences and the humanities. The minor brings together students and faculty to explore: the cultural, literary, visual, and ethical representations of health and illness; the familial, social, civic and governmental systems that structure risks to disease and access to health care; the biological, chemical and psychological mechanisms of disease and the maintenance of health.

Students may complete a Health Studies minor in conjunction with any major at Haverford, Bryn Mawr, or Swarthmore, pending approval of the student’s coursework plan by the home department and the home-campus Health Studies director.

The Bi-Co Health Studies minor aims to:

- create a coherent curricular structure in which students address issues of health and disease informed by multidisciplinary investigations, combining insights from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.
- develop a student’s ability to think and write with depth, precision, and sophistication about complex topics on health, disease, and social justice.
- teach students how to collaborate with others, having varying skill sets and vocabularies, on issues pertaining to health and disease, so they can work in partnership with diverse stakeholders to contribute to the well-being of local communities and global populations.

The minor is a perfect complement to a more traditional science major, especially for students planning to go into medicine, nursing, physical therapy, psychotherapy, and other clinical fields. However, it is also designed to give scientific context to students of the social sciences and humanities who are interested in policy, economics, health care management, health education, medical narratives, and more.

For more information, Haverford students should contact the Director of Health Studies, Prof. Anna West (amwest@haverford.edu). Bryn Mawr students should contact the Co-Directors Prof. Susan White (Fall 2017; swhite@brynmawr.edu) or Prof. Kalala Ngalamulume (Spring 2018; kngalamu@brynmawr.edu).
CURRICULUM

Health Studies offers an introductory seminar and a senior capstone, both of which bring a range of perspectives to bear on a series of health-related issues. The capstone course culminates with students examining a single health issue from their own disciplinary perspective and delineating new directions for scholarship, and several electives. Elective courses offered by Health Studies and drawn from departments across Haverford and Bryn Mawr follow three tracks:

M **MECHANISMS** of disease and maintenance of health
   (often biology, chemistry, and psychology courses)

R Cultural, ethical, literary, and visual **REPRESENTATIONS** of health and illness
   (often anthropology, religion, philosophy and literature courses)

S Familial, social, civic and governmental **SYSTEMS** that structure responses to issues of health and disease (often anthropology, economics, history, political science, sociology, and social work courses)

REQUIREMENTS

The B-Co HS minor consists of six courses, which include:

A **required introductory course** (HLTH 115) to be taken prior to the senior year, which

**Three elective core courses** from a list approved by the faculty steering committee. One course must come from each of the three tracks (M, R, and S). At least two of these courses must be elected from a department outside of the student’s major, and at least two should be at the non-introductory level (200 or above).

**One additional course, outside the student’s major.** Students may choose a core course or select one from a list of approved affiliate courses that deal with health issues, but not necessarily as their primary focus.

A **senior capstone seminar** organized around a single theme, which varies each year. Themes may be a particular health intervention, disease, or population. Students analyze current literature addressing the theme from their own disciplinary perspectives and develop research proposals and collaborative projects. *Introduction to Health Studies (HLTH 115) is a prerequisite.*

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**Getting started in Health Studies**

Students interested in the Health Studies minor should take one of following introductory courses:

**FALL 2017**  
**Introduction to Health Studies (HLTH B115)**  
with Profs. Susan White and Anne Montgomery (at Bryn Mawr)

**SPRING 2018**  
**Introduction to Health Studies (HLTH H115)**  
with Profs. Anna West and Anne Montgomery (at Haverford)

Most courses in the minor are at the 200 or 300-level, so interested students should consider taking introductory courses in anthropology, economics, history, natural sciences, political science, psychology, sociology, or statistics to gain the background necessary for the more advanced courses.