Health Studies Interdisciplinary Minor

The Health Studies Interdisciplinary Minor at Haverford College brings together courses and faculty members in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities to guide students through the biomedical, cultural, ethical, and political questions that relate to health issues on local, regional and global scales. At Haverford, we value the intersection of public health with social justice, and this new course of study will allow students to approach these vital issues with greater knowledge and understanding.

Given its interdisciplinary structure, the health studies minor will give scientific context to students in the social sciences and humanities who are interested in health policy, public health, law, medical ethics, social services, or health education. The minor also complements the curriculum for traditional science majors by providing important social and behavioral dimensions for those students planning to go into medicine, nursing, physical therapy, psychology and other clinical fields.

This is a Bi-College minor, and courses will be taught by Haverford College and Bryn Mawr College across many disciplines. When approved by the faculty steering committee, selected courses for the minor may also be taken at Swarthmore College, University of Pennsylvania and while studying abroad.

Health Studies Minor Requirements

- A multidisciplinary introductory course taught by two faculty members from different academic divisions. (In Spring 2014, the course will be taught by a biologist, Kaye Edwards, and an anthropologist, Christopher Roebuck.)

- Three core courses from a list approved by the faculty steering committee. Two of these courses must be elected from a Department outside of the student’s major and at least two of the courses should be at the non-introductory level. Students must take one course in each of three areas:
  - Cultural and literary representations of health and illness (e.g., ANTH H260 Cultures of Health and Healing).
  - Responses of familial, social, civic and governmental structures to issues of health and disease (e.g., HIST B303 History of Medicine in America).
  - Mechanisms of disease and the maintenance of the healthy body (e.g., BIOL H121 Poisons, Plagues, Pollution and Progress).

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

- A capstone course taught by two faculty, leading to a research proposal that synthesizes and analyzes the current literature in the field from their own analytical perspective. Examples of the types of topics around which the interdisciplinary capstone course could be organized include: vaccines, AIDS, diabetes and obesity, drug abuse, mental illness, issues of aging. This first offering of this course is scheduled for Fall 2016.

Advisor
Kaye Edwards kedwards@haverford.edu
Sharpless 207C, 610-896-1191
Office hours: Wednesday 1-2:30 pm; other times by appointment