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, health policy, among others.

Haverford and Bryn Mawr offer an interdisciplinary minor in Bi-College (Bi-Co) Health Studies (HS), involving departments and faculty on both campuses from the social and natural sciences and the humanities. The Bi-Co HS minor brings together students and faculty to explore:

- the cultural, literary, visual, and ethical **Representations** of health and illness (R-track)
- the familial, social, civic and governmental **Systems** that structure risks to disease and access to health care (S-track)
- the biological, chemical and psychological **Mechanisms** of disease and the maintenance of health (M-track)

Students may complete an HS 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 HS director.

The Bi-Co HS 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 began in the spring of 2014, and we now have over 34 students from the Classes of 2016 and 2017 who have elected to minor in Health Studies. 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, students should contact the Haverford Health Studies co-coordinators:
- Kaye Edwards (kedwards@haverford.edu)
- Christopher Roebuck (croebuck@haverford.edu)

**Curriculum**

Our growing menu of courses follows three tracks: mechanisms of disease and maintenance of health (often biology, chemistry and psychology courses); cultural, ethical, literary, and visual representations of health and illness (often anthropology, religion, philosophy and literature courses); and 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).

We also require minors to take an introductory level course and a senior-level capstone course, both of which bring a range of perspectives to bear on a series of specific health-related issues. Our capstone course culminates with students examining a single health issue from their own disciplinary perspective and delineating new directions for scholarship.

Students interested in the Health Studies minor should take one of following introductory courses in Fall 2016 at Haverford or Spring 2017 at Bryn Mawr:

- **SPRING ‘17: Introduction to Health Studies (HLTH 115)**  Profs. E Magenheim & S White  (BMC)

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.

**Health Studies Minor Requirement**

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

1. A required introductory course (HLTH 115), offered in the spring semester, to be taken prior to the senior year.
2. Three elective core course credits from a list approved by the faculty steering committee. Students must elect two of these courses from a department outside of the student’s major, and at least two of these courses should be at the non-introductory level. Students must take one course in each of three tracks:
   - M track: mechanisms of disease and the maintenance of the healthy body
   - R track: cultural, literary, visual and ethical representations of health and illness
   - S track: familial, social, civic and governmental systems that structure and respond to issues of health and disease.

3. 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 that deal with health issues, but not necessarily as their primary focus.

4. A senior capstone seminar organized around a single theme, which varies each year. Potential themes could be a particular health intervention (e.g., vaccinations), a specific disease (e.g., diabetes), or a specific population (e.g., Native Americans). 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*