



B.A./B.S. in Health and Society

Program Information

St. Bonaventure University's Health and Society majors (B.A. & B.S.) are designed to provide students preparing for health care professions with experience of both the humanities and social sciences, while also incorporating most of the prerequisite courses required by graduate programs in health care. The humanities and social science coursework included in these majors is specifically tailored to the interests and needs of students preparing for careers in health care, either as practitioners or in other roles.

Through their experiences in psychology courses, Health and Society majors develop a much richer understanding of the inner workings of their future patients' minds, including factors that could bear on the development of medical conditions and factors that could impede treatment regimens.

The philosophy courses in the society content area of our Health and Society majors foster students' moral and intellectual development, and enable them to better appreciate the difficult moral questions that patients and physicians grapple with in making treatment decisions.

The sociology courses in the society content area provide students with a better perspective on the complex social forces that affect access to good health care and effective follow-through on treatment regimens.

In short, our Health and Society majors give students beginning careers in health care a richer and more mature understanding of the many dimensions of human life and society that will bear on their efforts to provide quality health care to as many people as possible.

The B.S. major caters to the interests of students who would like a more thorough foundation in the natural sciences, potentially with an eye toward

pursuing graduate studies in a health care professions program.

The B.A. major caters to the interests of students who would like to get a basic foundation in the natural sciences relevant to human health and disease while placing more emphasis in their studies on social and philosophical topics.

Why Health and Society?

Preparation for medical school and other health care professions programs has traditionally emphasized core courses in the natural sciences, and many students applying to medical schools major in biology or one of the other natural sciences. But more and more medical schools recognize the importance of having more grounding in the humanities and social sciences.

Coursework in the humanities prepares students for the multi-layered human and social circumstances of providing medical care, improves the cultural competence of physicians serving ethnically and culturally diverse populations, and fosters the personal and moral development of physicians.

A better grounding in the humanities may also protect physicians from a gradual loss of empathy that can distance physicians from patients' own experiences of illness, and that is thought to contribute to physician burnout.

Higher levels of empathy on the part of physicians has been shown to correlate with higher patient satisfaction and improved healthcare outcomes, suggesting that distancing may actually compromise physicians' effectiveness.

Degree requirements

Students pursuing either B.S. or B.A. degrees in Health and Society take foundational courses in biology, psychology, and statistics. Students



B.A./B.S. in Health and Society

pursuing B.S. degrees also take chemistry courses that are prerequisites for most health care professions programs such as medical school.

All Health and Society majors then take elective courses in three content areas, focusing on the human body, the human mind, and human society.

Health and Society majors cap their undergraduate experiences with a seminar course in which they discuss with their classmates a range of issues in the science, practice, and delivery of health care in our society.

Students interested in health professions graduate programs should work with their academic adviser to make sure that they have completed the prerequisite courses required for their graduate program of interest. This may include courses not required for the Health and Society major itself.

Health and Society majors who are interested in becoming physicians, and who are not already enrolled in a B.S./M.D. or B.S./D.O. degree program through St. Bonaventure University's Franciscan Health Care Professions program, must apply to and be accepted by a medical school in the traditional manner. If you have questions about this, be sure to speak with the director of the Health and Society program or with one of the university's pre-professional advisers.

Health and Society Electives

Body

BIO 291. Genetics
BIO 292. Cell Biology
BIO 321. Microbiology
BIO/L 350. Neurobiology
BIO/L 371. Biochemistry
BIO/L 472. Immunology
HS 309. Nutrition

HS 314. Exercise Physiology
PHED 312. Bio-Kinesiology
PSYC 343. Physiological Psychology

Mind

PSYC 215. Maladaptive Behavior
PSYC 224. Psychology of Adolescence
PSYC 225. Psychology of Adult Development & Aging
PSYC 232. Psychological Well-Being
PSYC 312. Child Development
PSYC 316. Human Sexuality
PSYC 330. Health Psychology
PSYC 422. Cognition
PSYC 469. Introduction to Clinical Methods in Human Services
EDUC 210. Human Development and Learning
EDUC 250. Adolescent Development and Learning

Society

ECO 498C. Economics of Healthcare
PHIL 335. Philosophy of Science and Medicine
PHIL 338. Medical Ethics
PHIL 345. Values at the End of Life
POLS 351. Politics of Social Policy
SOC 205. Sociology of Inequality
SOC 320. Social Psychology of Addictions
SOC 402. Family Violence
SOC 408. Health and Illness
THEO 348. Health Care Ethics: Faith and the Human Life Cycle