

Health Humanities Baccalaureate Programs

IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY





Why Health Humanities?

Humanities programs focusing on health and healthcare delivery in their cultural, historical, aesthetic, and political contexts complement efforts of health professions schools to recruit students who are patient-centered, ethically intelligent, skilled in communication, and committed to equity, inclusion, and justice.

Recent studies report benefits for students completing baccalaureate Health Humanities programs including improved performance in health professions school, in healthcare delivery, and in healthcare leadership. Health Humanities programs are also increasingly preparing students for an array of roles in government, the healthcare industry (including marketing, sales, medical research, consulting, and insurance), civic engagement, and administration in the private and public sectors.¹

This report covers all of the baccalaureate programs in the U.S. and Canada. For the purposes of this report, we have not included post-baccalaureate programs, graduate programs, or Community College (associate degree) programs.

Longitudinal Benefits

OF HEALTH HUMANITIES EDUCATION

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Exposure to Health Humanities at the baccalaureate level sets the foundation for students to “understand the role of multiple disciplines...in generating more complex knowledge of health and illness,” as well as preparing pre-health professions students to value arts and humanities content in professional education.² Additionally, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has issued guidelines designed to help “interweave [medical trainees’] developing scientific knowledge with emotional intelligence, critical thinking skills, and an understanding of social context. The integration of the arts and humanities into medicine and medical education may be essential” to meet the needs of a 21st-century world.³ Data speaking specifically to students who study Health Humanities at the baccalaureate level and matriculate to medical school suggest that the longitudinal benefits of this education include:

Strength of Preparation

Studies have shown that baccalaureate preparation in Health Humanities complements and even enhances medical school preparation and performance. In comparison with premedical science students, premedical humanities students demonstrate:

- Equivalent MCAT performance⁴
- Equal or superior academic and clinical performance during medical school or residency^{4, 5}
- Higher likelihood of earning academic honors⁴
- Increased clinical research interest and performance⁵
- Greater understanding of structural inequality and its relationship to health disparities^{6, 7}

Solving Staff Shortages

Several medical specialties are currently experiencing shortages; these specialties tend toward whole-person care. Studies suggest that premedical humanities training increases student interest in these specialties. There is a strong correlation between premedical humanities training and student choice of:

- Primary care^{4, 5}
- Pediatrics⁵
- Psychiatry⁴

Interpersonal Skills

Increasingly, medical education is calling for well-rounded students³ able to work effectively in healthcare teams and with a diverse patient population. Humanistic inquiry and skill-building in baccalaureate classrooms may prepare students for the social nuances of successful care. There is a higher tendency among premedical humanities students to demonstrate:

- Empathy^{4, 5}
- Skillful communication and interpersonal skills^{5, 8}
- Patient-centered attitudes⁵
- Decision-making for individualized patient care⁹
- Enhanced ability to relate to others⁴

Leadership and Service

In addition to enhancing patient and team relationships, premedical humanities training fosters prosocial choices among future providers of care. One study⁴ has shown increased leadership and service among students with premedical humanities training:

- Leadership, including medical honor society membership and college commencement awards
- Service, including extracurricular involvement

EXPANDING BENEFITS BEYOND MEDICINE

Baccalaureate education, particularly in a liberal arts model, is an ideal time for students to develop skills valuable not only to providing humanistic healthcare across a wide range of healthcare fields but also for delivering social services, pursuing advocacy in civic life and policy, and navigating their own or their loved ones' illness experiences.^{1,10} One pilot study has found that baccalaureate Health Humanities education cultivates habits of mind that prepare students for critical and creative thinking, identification of internal biases, and ethical reasoning in decision-making processes—all of which are critical skills for participating in the complex system of U.S. healthcare on individual, professional, and collective levels.¹¹ Another study of a pilot survey course in medical humanities and social medicine reported positive feedback from students who were challenged to “think about wellness beyond biological function, to include...civic engagement, function within and with family units, and across stages of the life course.”¹⁰

Self-reported benefits from students include an awareness of the meaning of illness/wellness/care for individual patients from socially diverse positions; the intricate relationships among technology, meaningful care, and policy; the great need for health advocacy; and the importance and challenges of effective communication with multiple and diverse stakeholders.¹² In addition, employer demand for humanities skills such as complex problem-solving and critical thinking will continue to increase over the next decade.¹³ Because the experience and management of health involves all citizens, health humanities education is relevant and vital to all students at the baccalaureate level.¹

OVERVIEW

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References

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- ⁹ Whitcomb M.E. The general professional education of the physician. *Acad Med*. 2006; 81 (12):1015-1016.
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- ¹² See the various “Perspective” and “Spotlight” pieces published in *Journal of Medical Humanities* Special Issue: “Pre-health Humanities” 38.4(Dec. 2017); for awareness of socially diverse patients, see especially the Perspective pieces by [Marcela Costa](#) and [Jaime Faulkner](#); for influence on policy work, see the Perspective by [Gilbert Ruiz](#); for technological intermediation, see the Perspective by [Adithya Balasubramanian](#); for communication skills, see the Perspective by [Elisabeth Hesse](#) or the [Spotlight](#) by Michael Price.
- ¹³ Bakhshi, H., Downing, J., Osborne, M. and Schneider, P. *The Future of Skills: Employment in 2030*. London: Pearson and Nesta; 2017.

Growth

IN BACCALAUREATE HEALTH HUMANITIES PROGRAMS

Defining Baccalaureate Health Humanities

What counts as a baccalaureate Health Humanities Program? In collecting these data, we identified programs through searching online sources and public repositories, listserv survey responses, and direct communication with programs from 2012–2022. Programs were selected if they met the following criteria:

- Undergraduate (baccalaureate) level
- Located within the 50 U.S. states, District of Columbia, or Canada
 - Minimum requirement of one humanities course with additional humanities or social science electives
- If bioethics is the required humanities course, there are additional humanities electives
- Focus on health or medicine

New Reporting Code for Medical/Health Humanities

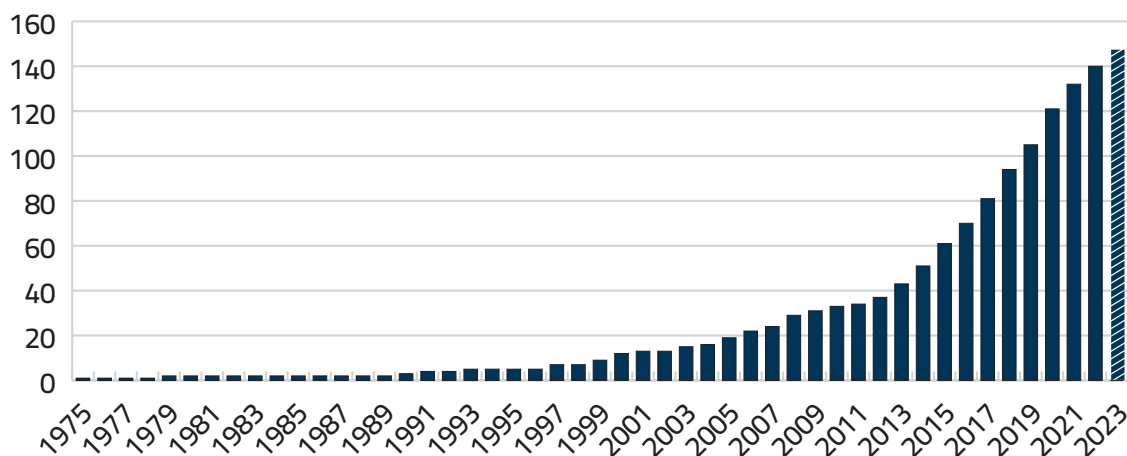
If your program offers an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Certificate and/or a Bachelor degree, you are eligible to submit your program data in federal data collection through the National Center for Education Statistics using CIP code 51.3204

(nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/). Begin by asking your Institutional Research Officer how changes to CIP code reporting are made at your institution. The second batch of IPEDS data for Medical/Health Humanities was released in spring 2022 and includes completions during 2020–2021. A total of 14 institutions have awarded degrees or certificates using this CIP code. If your institution has already made the switch, at least one degree or certificate completion is necessary to begin showing up in the public info page for your institution for the year. You can check the data for your institution and your degree or certificate programs in [College Navigator](#). For more information and FAQs, please visit <https://healthhumanitiesconsortium.com/hhc-toolkit/cip-project/>

Growing Number of Programs

At a time when Liberal Arts education, and humanities programs in particular, are under fire in many public quarters, programs in the Health Humanities are experiencing dramatic growth. Since the turn of the century alone (from 2000 to July 2022) the number of Health Humanities programs has increased nearly twelvefold from 12 to 140, with another 7 known programs currently in development.

Total U.S. and Canada Baccalaureate Health Humanities Programs



140 total programs confirmed in operation by July 2022.

Projected figures for 2023 are based on confirmed programs plus known programs currently in development.



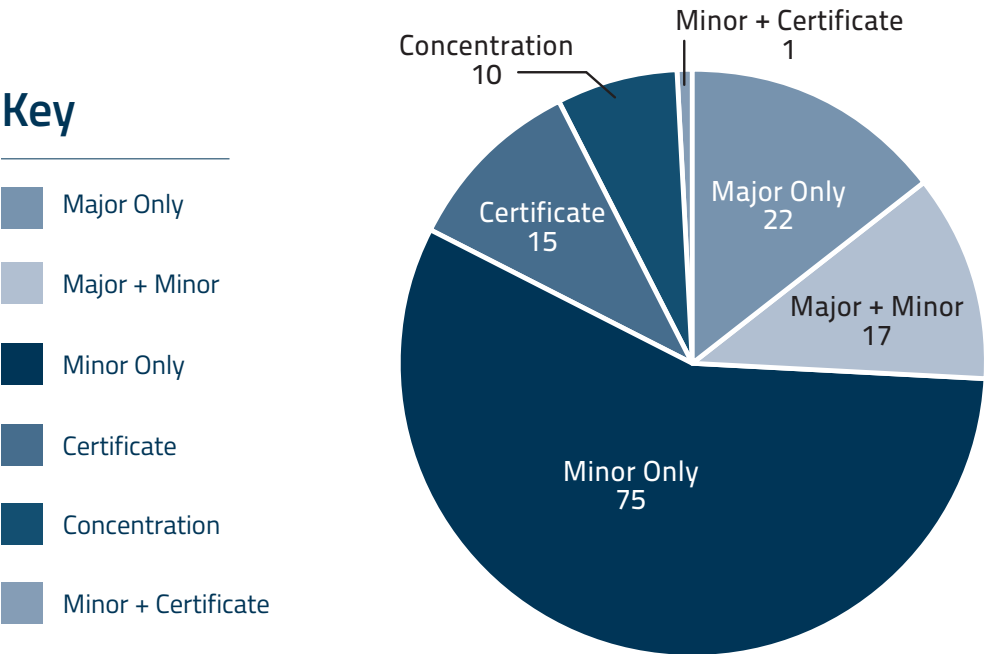
Program Types

A little more than a quarter of baccalaureate Health Humanities programs are majors, and these majors typically take one of two approaches:

- 1) About half of these majors require at least some pre-requisite science courses alongside humanities and social science courses.
- 2) The other half do not require any hard sciences or only offer such courses as optional electives.

The minor is by far the most popular format, likely because it easily complements health profession graduate school pre-requisites in science and math. Certificate programs are growing in popularity as well, with 11 new certificate programs approved since 2017.

U.S. and Canada Baccalaureate Health Humanities Programs by Type



36 of 50 states and the District of Columbia currently house an institution with at least one baccalaureate Health Humanities program, with a greater saturation of institutions in the Eastern half of the United States. The greatest concentration of institutions is in Pennsylvania and Texas; the former state was home to the first Department of Humanities incorporated into a College of Medicine (1967, Penn State College of Medicine). In Canada, both programs are located in the province of Ontario.



Current Programs

Currently Identified Baccalaureate Health Humanities Programs in the U.S. and Canada

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Name of Institution	Program Name	Date Founded	Major	Minor	Certificate	Concentration
Albany Coll. of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (NY)	Medical Humanities	2016		X		
Appalachian State Univ. (NC)	Medical Humanities	2009		X		
Arizona State Univ. (AZ) ¹	Interdisciplinary Health Humanities	2018			X	
Augusta Univ. (GA)	Health Humanities	2017			X	
	Health, Society, and Policy	2019	X			
Augustana Univ. (SD)	Medical Humanities and Society	2020		X		
Baker Univ. (KS)	Health Humanities	2017	X	X		
Ball State Univ. (IN)	Health Humanities	2021		X		
Baylor Univ. (TX)	Medical Humanities	1999	X			
Bellarmine Univ. (KY)	Health Humanities	2021 ²	X	X		
Beloit Coll. (WI)	Health and Society	2005	X	X		
Boston Coll. (MA)	Medical Humanities, Health and Culture	2013		X		
California State Univ. East Bay (CA)	Health Sciences (BS)	2018 ³	X			
	Public Health (BS)	2022	X			
California State Univ. Long Beach (CA)	Health Humanities	2021		X		
Carnegie Mellon Univ. (PA)	Health Humanities	2022	X ⁴			
Case Western Reserve Univ. (OH)	Bioethics and Medical Humanities	2017		X		
Clark Univ. (MA)	Health, Science, and Society	2018				X
Clemson Univ. (SC)	Language and International Health	2003	X			
Coastal Carolina Univ. (SC)	Medical Humanities	2011		X		
Coll. of Charleston (SC)	Medical Humanities	2020		X		
Coll. of St. Scholastica (MN)	Health Humanities	2018	X	X		
Columbia Univ. (NY)	Medical Humanities ⁵	2012	X			
Creighton Univ. (NE)	Science and Medicine in Society	2016		X		
	Health Humanities Pathway	2020				X
Daemen Coll. (NY)	Medical Humanities	2017		X		
DePaul Univ. (IL)	Public Health Studies in Health Sciences Major	2012				X
	Bioethics and Society	2015		X		

Name of Institution	Program Name	Date Founded	Major	Minor	Certificate	Concentration
Drexel Univ. (PA)	Medical Humanities	2009			X	
D'Youville Coll. (NY)	Health Humanities (BA and BS)	2020	X			
	Medical Humanities	2020		X		
Eastern Illinois Univ. (IL)	Health and Medical Humanities	2018		X		
Elizabethtown Coll. (PA)	Medical Humanities	2022		X		
Elmhurst Univ. (IL)	Medical Humanities	2006		X		
Emory Univ. (GA)	Human Health	2014	X			
Florida Atlantic Univ., Harriet L. Wilkes Honors Coll. (FL)	Honors Medical Humanities Concentration	2013	X			
Franklin and Marshall Coll. (PA)	Health Humanities	2022			X	
Georgetown Univ. (DC)	Medical Humanities	2021		X		
Harvard Univ. (MA)	Science and Society Track, Honors Focus in Medicine and Society, in History and Science Major	2008				X
Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges (PA) ⁶	Health Studies	2014		X		
Hiram Coll. (OH)	Biomedical Humanities	1993 ⁷	X	X		
Hofstra Univ. (NY)	Medicine, Culture, and Society	2016		X		
Indiana Univ. Bloomington (IN)	Critical Medical Humanities ⁸	2019		X		
Indiana Univ. Purdue Univ. Indianapolis (IN)	Medical Humanities and Health Studies (BA and BS)	1999 ⁹	X	X		
James Madison Univ. (VA)	Medical Humanities	2017		X		
Johns Hopkins Univ. (MD)	Medicine, Science & the Humanities	2015	X			
Juniata Coll. (PA)	Medical Humanities	2021		X		
	Bioethics	2020		X		
Lawrence Univ. (WI)	Biomedical Ethics	1979		X		
Lebanon Valley Coll. (PA)	Medical Humanities	2022	X			
Lehigh Univ. (PA)	Health, Medicine and Society ¹⁰	2008	X	X		
MCPHS Univ. (MA)	Health Humanities ¹¹	2006	X	X		
Miami Univ. (OH)	Medical Humanities	2018		X		
Misericordia Univ. (PA)	Medical and Health Humanities	2016	X	X		
Mississippi State Univ. (MS)	Medical Humanities	2019			X	
Montclair State Univ. (NJ)	Medical Humanities	2018	X			
New Coll. of Florida (FL)	Health, Culture, and Societies	2020		X ¹²		
New York Inst. of Technology (NY)	Medical Humanities	2015		X		
Northeastern Univ. (MA)	Health, Humanities, and Society	2018		X		
Northwestern Univ. (IL)	Science in Human Culture Program	1991 ¹³	X	X		
NOVA Southeastern Univ. (FL)	Medical Humanities	2005		X		
Ohio Northern Univ. (OH)	Medical Humanities	2015		X		
Ohio State Univ. (OH)	Integrative Approaches to Health and Wellness	2007		X		
	Medical Humanities	2015		X		
Oregon State Univ. (OR)	Medical Humanities	2010			X	
Penn State Univ. Abington (PA)	Health Humanities (BA and BS)	2022	X			
	Bioethics and Medical Humanities	2020		X		
Penn State Univ. Park (PA)	Bioethics and Medical Humanities	2006		X		
Radford Univ. (VA)	Health Humanities	2020		X		
Regis Coll. (MA)	Medical Humanities (in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities Major)	2019				X
Rice Univ. (TX)	Medical Humanities	2016		X		
Rockhurst Univ. (MO)	Medical Humanities	2018		X		
Saint Leo Univ. (FL)	Medical Humanities	2019	X			
Saint Louis Univ. (MO)	Medical Humanities	2008		X		
	Bioethics and Health Studies ¹⁴	2014 ¹⁵	X	X		
Saint Mary's Univ. of Minnesota (MN)	Health Humanities	2021	X	X		
Salem Coll. (NC)	Health Humanities	2021	X	X		
Salisbury Univ. (MD)	Health Humanities	2020		X		
Schreiner Univ. (TX)	Medical Humanities	2015		X		
Shenandoah Univ. (VA)	Health Humanities	2018			X	
Southern Illinois Univ. Edwardsville (IL)	Health, Society, and the Human Condition	2019		X		
Southern Methodist Univ. (TX)	Health and Society Major	2014	X			
Stanford Univ. (CA)	Ethics and Medical Humanities in Human Biology Major	2008 ¹⁶				X
Stephen F. Austin State Univ. (TX)	Medical Humanities (BA and BS)	2019	X			
Syracuse Univ. (NY)	Health Humanities Integrated Learning Major (BA and BS)	2020	X			

Name of Institution	Program Name	Date Founded	Major	Minor	Certificate	Concentration
Texas A&M Univ. (College Station, TX)	Health Humanities (in University Studies Program)	2017				X
Texas Tech Univ. Honors Coll. (TX)	Medicine, Global Health, and Humanities (in Honors Sciences & the Humanities Major)	2022				X
Trent University (ONT, CAN)	Health and Medical Humanities	2020		X		
Univ. of Alabama (AL)	Philosophy and Medicine ¹⁷	2013	X	X		
Univ. of Arkansas (AR)	Medical Humanities	2019		X		
Univ. of California Irvine (CA)	Medical Humanities	2016		X		
Univ. of California Riverside (CA)	Medical and Health Humanities	2020		X		
Univ. of Cincinnati (OH)	Medical Humanities ¹⁸	2010			X	
	Medicine, Health and Society	2013	X			
Univ. of Colorado Denver (CO)	Health Humanities	2014		X		
Univ. of Delaware (DE)	Medical Humanities	1990		X		
Univ. of Houston Honors Coll. (TX)	Medicine and Society	2005		X		
Univ. of Iowa (IA)	Health and the Human Condition	2014		X		
Univ. of Lynchburg (VA)	Medical Humanities	2020		X		
Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst (MA)	Medical Humanities	2016			X	
Univ. of Massachusetts Boston (MA)	Science, Medicine, and Society	2013		X		
Univ. of Michigan (MI)	History of Medicine and Health	2013		X		
Univ. of Missouri, Kansas City (MO)	Healing and Humanities	2000		X		
Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln (NE)	Humanities in Medicine	2008 ¹⁹		X		
Univ. of Nebraska, Omaha (NE)	Medical Humanities	2015 ²⁰	X	X		
Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (NC)	Health and Medical Humanities ²¹	2014		X		
	Science, Medicine, and Literature (in English & Comparative Literature Major)	2018				X
Univ. of North Carolina at Charlotte (NC)	Health and Medical Humanities	2020		X		
Univ. of Notre Dame, John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values (IN)	Health, Humanities, and Society	2021		X		
Univ. of Oklahoma Honors Coll. (OK)	Medical Humanities ²²	2000		X		
Univ. of Pennsylvania (PA)	Health and Societies	2000	X			
Univ. of Pennsylvania School of Nursing (PA)	History, Health, and Humanities	2016		X		
Univ. of Pittsburgh (PA)	Conceptual Foundations of Medicine	1975			X	
	Health Humanities	2021			X	
Univ. of Puget Sound (WA)	Interdisciplinary Emphasis in Bioethics ²³	2014		X		
Univ. of Richmond (VA)	Health Studies ²⁴	2007	X	X		
Univ. of San Diego (CA)	Biomedical Ethics	2015		X		
Univ. of South Carolina (SC)	Medical Humanities	1997		X		
Univ. of Southern Mississippi (MS)	Health and Medical Humanities	2021		X		
Univ. of St. Thomas (MN)	Science, Medicine, and Society	2017		X		
Univ. of Texas at Arlington (TX)	Medical Humanities and Bioethics	2017 ²⁵		X	X	
Univ. of Texas at Austin (TX)	Patients, Practitioners, and Cultures of Care	2020			X	
Univ. of Texas at Dallas (TX)	Medical and Scientific Humanities	2001		X		
Univ. of Texas at San Antonio (TX)	Medical Humanities	2015	X			
Univ. of Toronto Scarborough (ONT, CAN)	Health Humanities	2017		X		
Univ. of Utah (UT)	Medical Humanities	2018		X		
Univ. of Washington (WA)	Bioethics and Humanities ²⁶	1997		X		
Univ. of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (WI)	Health Humanities	2022			X	
Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison (WI)	Health and the Humanities	2017			X	
Univ. of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (WI)	Health, Humanities, & Society	2019		X		
Vanderbilt Univ. (TN)	Medicine, Humanities, and Arts (in Medicine, Health, and Society Major/Minor)	2003				X
Virginia Tech (VA)	Medicine and Society	2004		X		
Wake Forest Univ. (NC)	Bioethics, Humanities, and Medicine	2016		X		
Walsh Univ. (OH)	Health Humanities	2018		X		
Washington Univ. in St. Louis (MO)	Medical Humanities	2015		X		
West Virginia Univ. (WV)	Medical Humanities and Health Studies	2017		X		
Western Michigan Univ. (MI)	Medical Humanities	2012		X		
Wilson Coll. (PA)	Healthcare and Medical Humanities	2021	X	X		
Wofford Coll. (SC)	Medicine and the Liberal Arts	2019			X	
York Coll. of Pennsylvania (PA)	Medical Humanities	2019	X			

KNOWN PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPMENT STAGE

Name of Institution	Program Name	Date Founded	Major	Minor	Certificate	Concentration
Belmont Abbey Coll. (NC)	Health Humanities	Dev.		X		
Bucknell Univ. (PA)	Health Humanities	Dev.		X		
Duke Univ. (NC)	Health Humanities and Disability Studies	Dev.		X		
LaSalle Univ. (PA)	Health Humanities	Dev.		X		
Pacific Lutheran Univ. (WA)	Health Humanities and Health Equity	Dev. 2023		X		
SUNY Oswego (NY)	Health Humanities	Dev. 2023		X		
Univ. of Kansas (KS)	Global Health and Medical Humanities	Dev. 2023		X		

References

- ¹ This certificate is available on both the ASU Tempe and ASU West campuses.
- ² Minor started as "Health, Culture, and Compassion" in 2021; major added in 2022.
- ³ The Health Sciences major began in 1976, but Health Humanities was added as a required course in 2018.
- ⁴ Students must declare a primary major in another discipline to be eligible to complete the Health Humanities major.
- ⁵ Formerly "Medicine, Literature, and Society."
- ⁶ This bi-college program is jointly administered by both institutions.
- ⁷ Minor started in 1993; major in 1998.
- ⁸ Formerly "Cultures of Science and Medicine." Track 1: Life Sciences.
- ⁹ Minor started in 1999; major in 2012.
- ¹⁰ A humanities course is not required, but the program offers a core course in Medical Humanities and multiple, diverse humanities electives. Major started in 2017.
- ¹¹ Minor began in 2006 as "Medical Humanities," became "Health Care Humanities" in 2012, and changed to "Health Humanities" in 2017; major began in Fall 2020.
- ¹² Program is a joint area of concentration, roughly equivalent to but more intensive than a minor.
- ¹³ A certificate started in 1991, changing into a minor in 1995 and adjunct major in 2003.
- ¹⁴ Minor is called "Health Care Ethics." These degree programs are offered out of the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics, while the Medical Humanities minor is offered out of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- ¹⁵ Minor started in 2014; major in 2019.
- ¹⁶ While the official track designation of "Ethics and Medical Humanities" was first formalized in 2008, students have been incorporating ethics and humanities classes into their highly individualized areas of concentration within the major since the 1970s.
- ¹⁷ Major is a "specialization" within the Philosophy major.
- ¹⁸ Certificate named "Medical Humanities and Bioethics" until 2013. Completion of the certificate is a requirement of the Medicine, Health and Society major.
- ¹⁹ Humanities in Medicine Program began in 1996, with the minor formalized in 2008.
- ²⁰ Minor started in 2015; major in 2019.
- ²¹ Minor offered in association with Honors Carolina. Beginning Fall 2020, program also offers a BA/MA Dual Degree in English & Comparative Literature with a concentration in Literature, Medicine, and Culture.
- ²² Program also offers an 8-year BA-MD Medical Humanities Scholars Program.
- ²³ The "Interdisciplinary Emphasis" is somewhat larger than a minor and includes a capstone.
- ²⁴ Minor in "Medical Humanities" began in 2007, became major and minor in "Healthcare and Society" in 2012, and then "Health Studies" in 2015.
- ²⁵ Certificate in Medical Humanities started in 2017; minor in Medical Humanities and Bioethics started in 2021.
- ²⁶ Original title was "Undergraduate Minor in Medical History and Ethics."

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To download the most current version of this document, or to provide new information or update existing information on a Health Humanities baccalaureate program, please visit: case.edu/medicine/bioethics/education/health-humanities.



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