**Health and Society**

Department Website: [https://voices.uchicago.edu/healthandsocietyminor](https://voices.uchicago.edu/healthandsocietyminor)

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**

The Health and Society minor explores the social, political, and economic processes that shape individual and population health. Disability, experiences of illness, categories of disorder, ideals of well-being, and models of medical intervention can all vary between cultural settings and across history. Rapid changes in medicine and biotechnology create new understandings and expectations about illness, health, and well-being. At the same time, inequalities in access to care and in health outcomes across populations, in the United States and globally, have become important to conversations in policy and practice alike. At the individual level, how and where one lives may influence a range of conditions and outcomes including mental health, the onset of diabetes, and the length of life. Health is also influenced—in both positive and negative ways—by our relationships and social networks. Finally, people’s life chances and health trajectories form within frameworks of health care policy and systems of provision and exposure to environments that reflect historical legacies, economic activity, and political choices. To understand health in its broader contexts, this minor encompasses a range of disciplines and methods in the social sciences, and differential emphases on theory, practice, and policy implications.

A minor in Health and Society will provide a background for medical school, the allied health professions, public health, health policy, health advocacy, the study of law with an emphasis on health, and doctoral work in a range of social science disciplines.

**APPLICATION TO THE HEALTH AND SOCIETY MINOR**

College students in any field of study may complete a minor in Health and Society. The flexibility of this minor complements majors in any of the disciplines. Students who elect the minor program in Health and Society must contact the program manager before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. The program manager must submit approval on the Consent to Complete a Minor Program ([https://humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/Consent_Minor_Program.pdf](https://humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/Consent_Minor_Program.pdf)) form provided by the College to the student’s College adviser by the Spring Quarter of the student’s third year.

**Thesis Prize**

The Health and Society program offers an annual prize for the best undergraduate thesis written about a topic that explores health and/or medicine from a social sciences perspective, broadly conceived. The prize will be awarded to a BA thesis that exemplifies the highest qualities of originality, disciplinary rigor, and relevance to health and society. Students enrolled in any program of study in the College are encouraged to apply. Submission details are available on the Health and Society website ([https://voices.uchicago.edu/healthandsocietyminor/](https://voices.uchicago.edu/healthandsocietyminor/)).

**Summary of Minor Requirements**

The Health and Society minor requires a total of five courses, including HLTH 17000 Introduction to Health and Society, and four approved courses designated as counting toward the Health and Society minor. Please see the Approved Courses list below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 17000</td>
<td>Introduction to Health and Society</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HLTH 17001</td>
<td>Introduction to Health and Society II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four electives chosen from the list of Approved Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>500</td>
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*Students may only include one of the following methods courses toward the minor: ANTH 21420 Ethnographic Methods, CHDV 20100 Human Development Research Design, CHDV 20101 Applied Statistics in Human Development Research, ECON 21010 Statistical Methods in Economics, PLSC 22913 Political Science Research Methods, SOCI 20001 Sociological Methods, SOCI 20004 Statistical Methods of Research, SOSC 20112 Introductory Statistical Methods and Applications for the Social Sciences, SOSC 20223 Ethnographic Research Methods, or SOSC 20224 Virtual Ethnographic Field Research Methods.

**Approved Courses**

These courses may be used to satisfy the minor course requirements. Additional approved courses will be updated as they are added each quarter. Not all courses will be offered each year. Please check the Health and Society Minor website ([https://voices.uchicago.edu/healthandsocietyminor/](https://voices.uchicago.edu/healthandsocietyminor/)) for complete listings and for information about current course offerings.

Up to one of the following:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 21420</td>
<td>Ethnographic Methods</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHDV 20100</td>
<td>Human Development Research Design</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHDV 20101  Applied Statistics in Human Development Research  100
ECON 21010  Statistical Methods in Economics  100
PLSC 22913  Political Science Research Methods  100
SOCI 20001  Sociological Methods  100
SOCI 20004  Statistical Methods of Research  100
SOSC 20112  Introductory Statistical Methods and Applications for the Social Sciences  100
SOSC 20223  Ethnographic Research Methods  100
SOSC 20224  Virtual Ethnographic Field Research Methods  100
Any of the following:
ANTH 21345  Living with Toxins: Anthropology of Environmental Health  100
ANTH 23807  Toxic: Body Burdens and Environmental Exposures  100
ANTH 24341  Topics in Medical Anthropology  100
BPRO 22800  Drinking Alcohol: Social Problem or Normal Cultural Practice?  100
BPRO 23100  Food: From Need to Want, or, Ethics and Aesthetics  100
BPRO 28300  Disability and Design  100
BPRO 28900  Inequality: Origins, Dimensions, and Policy  100
CCTS 20400  Health Disparities in Breast Cancer  100
CCTS 21011  Clinical Research Design and Interpretation of Health Data  100
CCTS 21017  Good Vibes Only: Spiritual Energy Healing and Alternative Medicine in America  100
CHDV 20000  Introduction to Human Development  100
CHDV 21500  Darwinian Health  100
CHDV 23204  Medical Anthropology  100
CHDV 23301  Culture, Mental Health, and Psychiatry  100
CHDV 23305  Critical Studies of Mental Health in Higher Education  100
CHDV 24599  Historical and Contemporary Issues in U.S. Racial Health Inequality  100
CHDV 25250  Disability in Local and Global Contexts  100
CHDV 27250  Psychological Anthropology  100
CHDV 27860  History of Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences  100
CHSS 32000  Introduction to Science Studies  100
CMLT 25662  Archiving AIDS: Art, Literature, Theory  100
ECON 24450  Inequality and the Social Safety Net: Theory, Empirics, and Policies  100
ECON 27720  Economics and Regulation of Health Care Markets: Theory and Empirics  100
ENGL 10620  Literature, Medicine, and Embodiment  100
ENGL 15520  Illness and Life Writing  100
ENST 20151  Pacific Worlds: Race, Gender, Health, and the Environment  100
ENST 20170  Pandemics, Urban Space, and Public Life  100
ENST 21700  Applied Research in Environment, Development and Health (Approval contingent on the focus of the research project)  100
ENST 25460  Environmental Effects on Human Health  100
GNSE 12103  Treating Trans-: Practices of Medicine, Practices of Theory  100
GNSE 23136  On being Ill: Feminist and Queer Cancer Narratives  100
HIPS 29635  Tutorial: Power and Medicine  100
HIPS 29641  Tutorial: Medical Ethics in the Hospital and Clinic  100
HIPS 29643  Tutorial: Toxic America: Pollutants, Poisons, Politics  100
HIST 20111  History of Death  100
HIST 25308  Lab, Field, and Clinic: History and Anthropology of Medicine and the Life Sciences  100
HIST 29607  History Colloquium: Epidemics, Public Health, and Cities  100
HIST 29678  History Colloquium: Medicine and Society  100
HLTH 24001  Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender  100
HLTH 24002  Mind, Brain, and Mental Health  100
HLTH 24003  Death & Dying  100
HMRT 21400  Health and Human Rights  100
ADVISING AND GRADING

Students who elect the minor program in Health and Society must meet with the program director before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. The director’s approval for the minor program should be submitted to a student’s College adviser by the Spring Quarter of a student’s third year.

Courses in the minor may not be double counted with the student’s major(s), other minors, or general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Students may petition to count one course not featured in the Approved Courses list toward the minor. Petitions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A petitioned course must connect to issues of health broadly
conceived in order to be considered: it should explore the processes that shape individual and population health in their social, material, and physical contexts.