

HEALTH HUMANITIES, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Abington

Program Description

The Health Humanities program emphasizes the application of concepts and methods from history, literature, philosophy, communications, religious studies, cultural and language studies, and the arts, to educate us about the human condition. In combination with perspectives drawn from the social and behavioral sciences, it uses an interdisciplinary approach to explore the cultural and ethical aspects of human health and illness. Students in the Health Humanities cultivate empathy, embrace ambiguity, approach problems from a variety of perspectives, and practice self-care, all essential to effective health care practice and to a humanistic approach to studying and representing health and illness. The multiple methods and disciplines in Health Humanities are inherently suited to complement existing biomedical approaches to the study of health and illness.

What is Health Humanities?

The B.A. in Health Humanities draws together perspectives from the humanities, social sciences, and the arts to educate us about the role of health, disease, and medicine in the human experience. It uses an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to explore the social, cultural, political, and ethical aspects of wellbeing, illness, and healthcare. Students in this program cultivate empathy, embrace ambiguity, approach solving problems from a variety of perspectives, and practice self-care, all essential skills for future health care practitioners as well as anyone interested in a humanistic approach to the study and representation of health and illness in the twenty-first century. The B.A. degree provides excellent preparation for graduate school as well as careers in areas such as public health, patient advocacy, law, health education, the arts, rehabilitation, social work, health care administration, and community activism.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are interested in exploring questions related to health, illness, and healthcare from a range of perspectives beyond biological function.
- You want to gain an understanding of the influence of cultural, social, political, and economic contexts on health, medicine and healthcare.
- You would like to integrate the arts and humanities into the study of wellbeing, health care, and medicine.