

HEALTH HUMANITIES, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

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 Health Humanities B.A. program prepares students for a range of careers in the healthcare industry. Health Humanities is a growing field that uses an interdisciplinary approach to explore the cultural, social, and ethical aspects of human health and illness. The B.A. combines coursework in communications, cultural studies, history, literature, philosophy, social sciences, and the arts to educate us about all aspects of healthcare. Students in this program cultivate empathy, learn to approach problems from a variety of perspectives, and practice self-care, all essential skills for effective health care professionals in the twenty-first century. The B.A. degree provides 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.