PROPOSAL FOR REVISING THE MAJOR IN MEDICINE, HEALTH AND SOCIETY

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SUMMARY

The revision of the program would do four things:

(1) Make MHS a fully sanctioned “defined interdisciplinary major.”

(2) Reduce the total number of required hours from 48 to 36, as allowed for a defined interdisciplinary major.

(3) Reduce the number of hours allowed in the Basic Biomedical Sciences option from 18 to 6.

(4) Create an honors track.

RATIONALE

When the faculty of the College of Arts and Science approved the undergraduate program in Medicine, Health and Society in fall 2003, it established an official minor and a contract major that would be provisionally treated as if it were an “individually designed [interdisciplinary] program of concentration” rather than a regular major. A probationary period of this kind has been used in the past for several other new interdisciplinary programs, in order to establish the level of faculty and student interest before making a permanent commitment to the new major. (Note: although Medicine, Health, and Society is included in the list of “Defined Interdisciplinary Majors” that appears on p. 123 of the Undergraduate Catalog for 2005-2006, its status is different from that of the other seventeen programs on the list.)

The CMHS leadership believes that after two years the time has come to give full recognition to Medicine, Health, and Society as an official interdisciplinary program of concentration. We are entering the new academic year with seventeen majors, and that number can be expected to grow substantially as the program becomes better known.

The change will allow us to reduce the number of required hours from 48, the minimum for an individually designed program of concentration, to 36. We believe that this total would amply meet the needs of our program and would make our requirements comparable to those of other interdisciplinary programs in the College. Only one defined program now demands 48 hours. A substantial plurality of programs (41%) require 36 or fewer. The median is 39.
The number of courses allowed for the Basic Biomedical Sciences Option would be reduced from 18 to 6, so that students would still be asked to take 30 hours in courses directly concerned with MHS-related themes, in the social sciences, humanities, psychology, and biological sciences.

Several of our current majors have expressed strong interest in pursuing an honors program in MHS. We would like to make that possible. Honors candidates would do a year of independent study with a thesis adviser in the senior year (6 hours), in addition to the 36 hours required of all students in the MHS program. They would be allowed to take a total of 12 hours in MHS 296 (independent study), rather than just 6. We would also relax the current provision that a student may not take an independent study twice with the same instructor. Honors students would ordinarily have a single thesis adviser for the senior year, and we would permit students to work with a faculty member who had supervised a successful independent study in the past. If the honors program generates sufficient interest, we will consider introducing a year-long senior honors seminar to replace the sequence of independent studies, though students would still be assigned a thesis adviser in their area of interest.

The proposed new descriptions for the program and for MHS 296 appear below, followed by the descriptions as they appear in the Undergraduate Catalog for 2005-2006. If the program revision is approved, we will submit the new text for MHS 296 to the Curriculum Committee.

**NEW TEXT FOR CATALOG**

THE Center for Medicine, Health, and Society offers an interdisciplinary major (36 hours) and minor (18 hours) for students interested in studying health-related beliefs and practices in their social and cultural contexts. An honors program is available. MHS draws on a variety of fields in the social sciences and humanities — anthropology, economics, history, psychology, sociology, philosophy/ethics, and religious studies. It will be of particular interest to premedical students but will have much to offer any student open to examining an important part of human experience from multiple perspectives and developing a critical understanding of contemporary society.
Students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Center for Medicine, Health and Society. Visit www.vanderbilt.edu/mhs for more details.

The program is directed by Matthew Ramsey, associate professor of history.

Program of Concentration in Medicine, Health, and Society

The major requires a minimum of 36 hours of course work, distributed as follows:

1. Medicine, Health, and Society 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society (3 hours).
   
   Note: of the 33 remaining hours, no more than 12 may be in the same department, and no more than 18 may be in courses designated MHS.

2. Three of the following core courses (6 hours): Anthropology 240, Medical Anthropology; Economics 268, Economics of Health; History 204, History of Medicine; Philosophy 270, Ethics and Medicine; Psychology 268 or Peabody Psychology 2560, Health Psychology; Religious Studies 150, Medicine, Healing, and Spirituality; Sociology 237, Society and Medicine.

3. Eight additional courses, chosen from the following list of other approved courses:

   ANTHROPOLOGY: 106, Evolution and Creationism; 240, Medical Anthropology; 250, Shamanism and Spiritual Curing; 260, Medicine, Culture, and the Body; 267, Life, Death, and the Human Body.  
   Note that only ONE of the following courses may be counted: 270, Human Osteology; OR 271, Human Evolution; OR 272, Human Variation.

   BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES:  
   Note that only ONE course in each of the three groups will count.  
   (1) 105, Human Biology: Heredity and Society; OR 210, Principles of Genetics. (2) 226, Introduction to Immunology; OR 273, Molecular Mechanisms of Environmental Toxins. (3) 239, Behavioral Ecology; OR 254, Neurobiology of Behavior.

   BASIC BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES OPTION: up to SIX HOURS from the following list may be counted for the major: Biological Sciences 110ab, Introduction to Biological Sciences; Biological Sciences 220, Biochemistry I; Chemistry 220ab, Organic Chemistry.

   CLASSICS: 171, Ancient Greek Medicine and Its Legacy.

   ECONOMICS: 268, Economics of Health.

   ENGLISH: 243, Literature, Science, and Technology (as appropriate).  
   Note: topics vary; the director of the MHS program will approve versions with sufficient MHS content for credit toward the minor.

   HISTORY: 204, History of Medicine; 205, Historical Perspectives on Women, Health, and
Sexuality; 206, Medicine, Culture, and the Body (same as Anthropology 260); 221, Sexuality and Gender in the Western Tradition to 1700; 222, Sexuality and Gender in the Western Tradition since 1700; 248, History of Chinese Medicine.

HUMAN AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PEABODY): 2500, Health and Human Services Professions; 2510, Health Service Delivery to Diverse Populations; 2530, Introduction to Health Promotion.

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY: 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society; 290, Special Topics; 293a–293b–293c, Internship (Note: 293a, Internship Training, must be taken Pass/Fail and concurrently with 293b, Internship Research, and/or 293c, Internship Readings; these hours may not be included in the minimum hours required for the MHS minor); 294a–b–c, Service Learning (Note: 294a, Service Learning, must be taken Pass/Fail and concurrently with 294b, Service Learning Research, and/or 294c, Service Learning Readings; these hours may not be included in the minimum hours required for the MHS minor); 296, Independent Study.


PHILOSOPHY: 105, Introduction to Ethics; 206, Technology and Human Values; 239, Moral Problems; 245, Humanity, Evolution, and God; 256, Philosophy of Mind; 270, Ethics and Medicine.

PSYCHOLOGY: Note: (P) before a course number indicates that the course is offered at Peabody. 215, Abnormal Psychology; 231, Social Psychology; 232, Mind and Brain; 235, Biological Basis of Mental Disorders; 240, Cognition, Consciousness, and Self; 243, Feminist Approaches to Clinical Practice; 244, Introduction to Clinical Psychology OR (P)2690, Introduction to Clinical Psychology; 245, Emotion; 246, Schizophrenia; 247, Depression; 250, Control of Human Behavior; 252, Human Sexuality; 266, Interpersonal and Intergroup Relations; 268, Health Psychology OR (P)2560, Health Psychology; 277, Brain Damage and Cognition; (P)1200, Minds, Brains, Cultures, and Contexts; (P)1500, Cognitive Aspects of Human Development; (P)1630, Developmental Psychology; (P)1700, Social and Emotional Context of Cognition; (P)1750, Social and Personality Development; (P)2250, Infancy; (P)2320, Adolescent Development.


SOCIOLOGY: 220, Population and Society; 237, Society and Medicine; 257, Gender, Sexuality, and the Body; 264, Social Dynamics of Mental Health; 268, Race, Gender, and Health.

SPANISH: 211, Spanish for the Medical Profession; 294, Special Topics: Literature and Medicine.

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES: 212, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT)
Studies; 240, Women’s Health; 244, Psychology of Women; 264, Sex, Power, and Politics; 265, Cultural Politics of Reproduction; 268, Gender, Race, Justice and the Environment; 267, Seminar on Gender and Violence; 269, Feminist Studies of Science and Technology.

Other courses may be approved at the discretion of the program director.

Honors Program

The Honors Program in Medicine, Health & Society offers superior students a more intensive concentration within their major field. The program requires:

1. A total of 42 hours of course work, of which no more than 24 may be in courses designated Medicine, Health & Society.
2. A 3.0 cumulative grade point average at the end of the junior year.
3. A 3.25 grade point average in Medicine, Health & Society at the end of the junior year.
4. 6 hours in the fall and spring semesters of the senior year in MHS 296 devoted to a major research project leading to an honors thesis.
5. Honors thesis to be completed by mid-spring of the senior year.
6. An honors oral examination focusing on the topic of the thesis.

Minor in Medicine, Health, and Society

The interdisciplinary minor consists of a minimum of 18 hours of course work, distributed as follows:

1. Medicine, Health, and Society 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society (3 hours).
   Note: of the 15 remaining hours, no more than 9 may be in the same department; no more than 9 may be in courses designated MHS.
2. Two of the following core courses (6 hours): Anthropology 240, Medical Anthropology; Economics 268, Economics of Health; History 204, History of Medicine; Philosophy 270, Ethics and Medicine; Psychology 268 or Peabody Psychology 2560, Health Psychology; Religious Studies 150, Medicine, Healing, and Spirituality; Sociology 237, Society and Medicine.
3. Three additional courses, chosen from the above list of other approved courses except for those listed under the “Basic Biomedical Sciences Option.”

296. Independent Study. A program of reading and/or research in one area of MHS studies to be selected in consultation with an adviser. Normally limited to qualified MHS minors or majors. May be taken no more than two times, and not twice from the same professor. (However, students in the MHS honors program may count a total of 12 hours in MHS 296, including the 6 hours in the senior year devoted to preparation of the honors thesis. The same instructor will ordinarily supervise work on the honors thesis in both fall and spring semesters; a student may work with a thesis adviser who
A&S
Medicine, Health, and Society

DIRECTOR Matthew Ramsey

Affiliated Faculty
PROFESSORS Vera Chatman (Human and Organizational Development), Larry Churchill (Medicine), Ellen Clayton (Pediatrics and Law), Jay Clayton (English), Dennis Dickerson (History), James Foster (Economics), Volney Gay (Religious Studies), Thomas Gregor (Anthropology), Sydney Halpern (Sociology), Leah Marcus (English), John McCarthy (German), Isaac Prilleltensky (Human and Organizational Development), Randolph Rasch (Nursing), Sharon Shields (Human and Organizational Development), John Tarpley (Surgery), Sten Vermund (Pediatrics and Global Health), Kenneth Wallston (Psychology)
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Kathryn Anderson (Economics), Victor Anderson (Religious Studies), Karen Campbell (Sociology), Monica J. Casper (Sociology), Beth Conklin (Anthropology), Kate Daniels (English), Carolyn Dever (English), Kathy Gaca (Classics), Elizabeth Heitman (Medicine), Craig Anne Heflinger (Human and Organizational Development), Melanie Lutenbacher (Nursing), F. Carter Philips (Classical Studies), Matthew Ramsey (History), Ruth Rogaski (History), David Schlundt (Psychology), Benigno Trigo (Spanish), Arleen Tuchman (History), Holly Tucker (French)
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Gregory Barz (Ethnomusicology), Mark Bliton (Medicine), Tony Brown (Sociology), Laura Carpenter (Sociology), Sara Eigen (German), Stuart Finder (Medicine), Scott Pearson (Surgery), Michele Salisbury (Nursing), Shawn Salvant (English), Lucia Tanassi (Medicine)
SENIOR LECTURERS Russell M. McIntire Jr. (Philosophy), Lorraine Sciadini (Spanish), Stephanie So (Economics)

THE program in Medicine, Health, and Society offers an interdisciplinary minor (18 hours) for students interested in studying health-related beliefs and practices in their social and cultural contexts. The program draws on a variety of fields in the social sciences and humanities—anthropology, economics, history, psychology, sociology, philosophy/ethics, and religious studies. It will be of particular interest to premedical students but will have much to offer any student open to examining an important part of human experience from multiple perspectives and developing a critical understanding of contemporary society.

Students may also design an individual interdisciplinary major, which must include at least 48 hours of approved work, under the supervision of an appropriate faculty adviser. In addition to courses in the humanities and social sciences, the program may include up to 18 hours in basic biomedical sciences. The final contract must be approved by the director of the Center for Medicine, Health, and Society and by the Committee on Individual Programs of the College of Arts and Science. The program is directed by Matthew Ramsey, associate professor of history.
Minor in Medicine, Health, and Society

The interdisciplinary minor consists of a minimum of 18 hours of course work, distributed as follows:

1. Medicine, Health, and Society 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society (3 hours).
   Note: of the 15 remaining hours, no more than 9 may be in the same department; no more than 9 may be in courses designated MHS.

2. Two of the following core courses (6 hours): Anthropology 240, Medical Anthropology; Economics 268, Economics of Health; History 204, History of Medicine; Philosophy 270, Ethics and Medicine; Psychology 268 or Peabody Psychology 2560, Health Psychology; Religious Studies 150, Medicine, Healing, and Spirituality; Sociology 237, Society and Medicine.

3. Three additional courses, chosen from the following list of other approved courses:

   ANTHROPOLOGY: 106, Evolution and Creationism; 240, Medical Anthropology; 250, Shamanism and Spiritual Curing; 260, Medicine, Culture, and the Body; 267, Life, Death, and the Human Body. Note that only ONE of the following courses may be counted: 270, Human Osteology; OR 271, Human Evolution; OR 272, Human Variation.

   BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: Note that only ONE course in each of the three groups will count. (1) 105, Human Biology: Heredity and Society; OR 210, Principles of Genetics. (2) 226, Introduction to Immunology; OR 273, Molecular Mechanisms of Environmental Toxins. (3) 239, Behavioral Ecology; OR 254, Neurobiology of Behavior.

   CLASSICS: 171, Ancient Greek Medicine and Its Legacy.

   ECONOMICS: 268, Economics of Health.

   ENGLISH: 243, Literature, Science, and Technology (as appropriate). Note: topics vary; the director of the MHS program will approve versions with sufficient MHS content for credit toward the minor.

   HISTORY: 204, History of Medicine; 205, Historical Perspectives on Women, Health, and Sexuality; 206, Medicine, Culture, and the Body (same as Anthropology 260); 221, Sexuality and Gender in the Western Tradition to 1700; 222, Sexuality and Gender in the Western Tradition since 1700; 248, History of Chinese Medicine.

   HUMAN AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PEABODY): 2500, Health and Human Services Professions; 2510, Health Service Delivery to Diverse Populations; 2530, Introduction to Health Promotion.
MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY: 201, Fundamental Issues in Medicine, Health, and Society; 290, Special Topics; 293a–293b–293c, Internship (Note: 293a, Internship Training, must be taken Pass/Fail and concurrently with 293b, Internship Research, and/or 293c, Internship Readings; these hours may not be included in the minimum hours required for the MHS minor); 294a–b–c, Service Learning (Note: 294a, Service Learning, must be taken Pass/Fail and concurrently with 294b, Service Learning Research, and/or 294c, Service Learning Readings; these hours may not be included in the minimum hours required for the MHS minor); 296, Independent Study.


PHILOSOPHY: 105, Introduction to Ethics; 206, Technology and Human Values; 239, Moral Problems; 245, Humanity, Evolution, and God; 256, Philosophy of Mind; 270, Ethics and Medicine.

PSYCHOLOGY: Note: (P) before a course number indicates that the course is offered at Peabody. 215, Abnormal Psychology; 231, Social Psychology; 232, Mind and Brain; 235, Biological Basis of Mental Disorders; 240, Cognition, Consciousness, and Self; 243, Feminist Approaches to Clinical Practice; 244, Introduction to Clinical Psychology OR (P)2690, Introduction to Clinical Psychology; 245, Emotion; 246, Schizophrenia; 247, Depression; 250, Control of Human Behavior; 252, Human Sexuality; 266, Interpersonal and Intergroup Relations; 268, Health Psychology OR (P)2560, Health Psychology; 277, Brain Damage and Cognition; (P)1200, Minds, Brains, Cultures, and Contexts; (P)1500, Cognitive Aspects of Human Development; (P)1630, Developmental Psychology; (P)1700, Social and Emotional Context of Cognition; (P)1750, Social and Personality Development; (P)2250, Infancy; (P)2320, Adolescent Development.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: 120, Religion, Sexuality, Power; 150, Medicine, Healing, and Spirituality; 202, Natural Science and the Religious Life; 234, Post-Freudian Theories and Religion; 236, The Religious Self According to Jung

SOCIOLOGY: 220, Population and Society; 237, Society and Medicine; 257, Gender, Sexuality, and the Body; 264, Social Dynamics of Mental Health; 268, Race, Gender, and Health.

SPANISH: 211, Spanish for the Medical Profession; 294, Special Topics: Literature and Medicine.

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Contract Major in Medicine, Health, and Society
The contract major requires a minimum of 48 hours of course work. The contract should include MHS 201 and a minimum of three of the core courses listed above. Additional courses may be chosen from the list of approved MHS courses, or from the Basic Biomedical Sciences option:
Biological Sciences 110ab, Introduction to Biological Sciences.
Biological Sciences 220, Biochemistry I.
Chemistry 220ab, Organic Chemistry.

Other courses may be approved at the discretion of the program director, with the consent of the Committee on Individual Programs.


290. Special Topics. May be repeated for credit once if there is no duplication of topics. FALL, SPRING. [3]

293a–b–c. Internship. Under faculty supervision, students from any discipline can gain experience in a broad range of public and private agencies, institutions, and programs devoted to health care, public health, health-related policy and research. Two options are available. (1) Full-time: 12–15 hours total, including 6–9 hours in 293a, 3 hours in 293b, and 3 hours in 293c. (2) Part-time: 6–9 hours total, including 3–6 hours in 293a and 3 hours in either 293b or 293c. To be accepted for either option, students must have a 2.90 grade point average and 6 hours of prior work in approved MHS courses; they must submit a specific plan for the internship to the MHS program director. After completing the internship, all students must write a thorough report. Note: All work for an internship must be completed during a single semester or summer.

293a. Internship Training. Must be taken Pass/Fail and concurrently with 293b and/or 293c. These hours may not be included in the minimum hours required for the MHS major or minor. FALL, SPRING. [Variable credit: 3–9]

293b. Internship Research. Students will write a substantial research paper under the supervision of a Vanderbilt faculty member. FALL, SPRING. [3]

293c. Internship Readings. Readings and a substantial interpretive essay on topics related to the internship training, under the supervision of a Vanderbilt faculty member. FALL, SPRING. [3]

294a–294b–294c. Service Learning. Under faculty supervision, the student will design a program of community service associated with a set of learning objectives. The service component (294a) should benefit both the recipient and the provider of the service, offering the latter opportunities for self-reflection, self-discovery, and the development of values, skills, and knowledge. A central objective must be firsthand experience of a central issue or issues studied in sociology, psychology, political science, economics, or another academic discipline. The MHS program will work to find placements for interested students. The other component(s) —293b and/or 293c— will consist of an independent study in the relevant discipline and must be closely linked to the issue(s) addressed in 293a. For example, a student may provide services to the elderly in nursing homes and use 293b and/or 293c to study how state and federal policies affect the delivery of health care and other services to nursinghome populations. To be accepted, students must have a 2.90 overall grade point average and 6 hours of prior work in approved MHS courses; they must submit a specific plan for the service-learning experience to the MHS program director.

294a. Service Learning. Must be taken Pass/Fail and concurrently with 294b and/or 294c. These hours may not be included in the minimum hours required for the MHS major or minor. After
completing the experience, all students must write a thorough report. FALL, SPRING. [Variable credit: 6–9 hours, including 3 hours in 294a and 3–6 hours in 294b and/or 295c.]

294b. Service Learning Research. Students will write a substantial research paper under the supervision of a Vanderbilt faculty member, on a topic related to their service learning experience. FALL, SPRING. [3]

294c. Service Learning Readings. Readings and a substantial interpretive essay on topics related to the service learning experience, under the supervision of a Vanderbilt faculty member. FALL, SPRING. [3]

296. Independent Study. A program of reading and/or research in one area of MHS studies to be selected in consultation with an adviser. Normally limited to qualified MHS minors or majors. May be taken no more than two times, and not twice from the same professor. Approval of faculty adviser and MHS program director required. FALL, SPRING. [3]

296. Independent Study. A program of reading and/or research in one area of MHS studies to be selected in consultation with an adviser. Normally limited to qualified MHS minors or majors. May be taken no more than two times, and not twice from the same professor. Approval of faculty adviser and MHS program director required. FALL, SPRING. [3]