Medical Humanities

at Benedictine University

Why study medical humanities at Benedictine?

Medical patients are increasingly seeking medical professionals who are not only experts, but are also ethically grounded and psychologically informed. This includes doctors, nurses and technicians who are attuned to the human condition, and take seriously their professional responsibility to promote health and relieve suffering. The Bachelor of Arts in Medical Humanities program at Benedictine University – a school renowned for its excellence in the sciences, values-based liberal arts curriculum, commitment to the Catholic intellectual tradition and Benedictine core values, which promote consideration of the whole person – integrates the fields of humanities (literature, philosophy, ethics, history and religion), social science (anthropology, cultural studies, psychology and sociology) and the arts (literature, film and visual arts) and their application to medical education and practice.

What are the goals of the Medical Humanities program?

The Medical Humanities program at Benedictine University is designed to:

- Foster students' awareness of the interconnectedness and relevance to life of the disciplines that are the object of academic study.
- Expose students to the current ideas and practices that humanize the medical sciences.
- Encourage students to make productive connections between their practical knowledge, their daily activities, their values and their relationships with others.
- Nurture a spirit of collaboration between students and faculty.
- Educate future professionals who are both accomplished in their fields and responsible, engaged global citizens.
- Promote the creation of a medical community that regards the patient and practitioner as whole persons.

How will the Medical Humanities program prepare me for a medical career?

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of course content and the larger social context where the human sciences are practiced and studied.
- Create professional quality reports, papers, presentations and other projects that demonstrate successful and productive research, critical thinking and social engagement.
- Collaboratively plan and execute projects that demonstrate a willingness and ability to work positively with others.
- Demonstrate an ability to design and complete individual projects and programs of study.
- Plan and perform service activities that connect professional ability with societal and global responsibility.

What are the benefits of the Medical Humanities program at Benedictine?

The Medical Humanities major at Benedictine University is designed to prepare students for medical school, graduate work in interdisciplinary science/humanities programs or other professional careers that require advanced work at the intersections of life sciences and the humanities. The coursework for the major reflects the emergence of Medical Humanities as a distinct graduate-level discipline at highly selective medical schools and universities and the increased preference of medical schools for applicants with a significant background in the humanities.

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Arts in Medical Humanities

FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
College Algebra or College Trigonometry	3
Modern Language Introduction I	3
General Chemistry I	3
General Chemistry Lab	1
Principles of Organismal Biology	3
	16

Research Writing	3
Modern Language Introduction II	3
College Trigonometry	3
General Chemistry II	3
General Chemistry II Lab	1
Principles of Biology	3
Principles of Biology Lab	1
	17

JUNIOR

College Physics I	3
College Physics I Lab	1
Biology Lab or lab course	1-4
CLA Track 300-level elective	3
CLA Track/Mode of Inquiry course	3
Human Dignity and the Common Good (IDS 301)	3
	14-17

Human Physiology	4
College Physics II	3
College Physics II Lab	1
CLA Track/Mode of Inquiry course	3
CLA Track 300-level elective	3
CLA Track/Mode of Inquiry course	3
	17

SOPHOMORE

Intermediate I	3
Basic Speech	3
Organic Chemistry I	3
Organic Chemistry I Lab	1
Genetics	3
Genetics Lab	1
Introduction to Medical Humanities	3
	17

Intermediate II	3
Catholic and Benedictine Intellectual Traditions (IDS 201)	3
Organic Chemistry II	3
Organic Chemistry II Lab	1
CLA Track/Mode of Inquiry course	3
CLA Track/Mode of Inquiry course	3
	16

SENIOR

Principles of Biochemistry	3
CLA Track 300-level elective	3
CLA Track/Mode of Inquiry course	9-12
	15-18

Cell Biology	3
Medical Humanities Capstone course: Medical Humanities in Action	3
CLA Track/Mode of Inquiry course	6-12
	12-18

Medical Ethics and Calculus I are recommended for students considering medical school.
College of Liberal Arts (CLA) concentration courses may also fulfill Mode of Inquiry requirements.