

Medical Humanities

at Benedictine University

Medical patients are increasingly seeking medical professionals who are not only experts, but are also ethically grounded and psychologically informed – doctors, nurses and technicians who are attuned to the human condition, suffering and personal responsibility. The Bachelor of Arts in Medical Humanities program at Benedictine University – a school renowned for its excellence in the sciences, its values-based liberal arts curriculum, its commitment to the Catholic intellectual tradition and its 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, sociology) and the arts (literature, film, 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 and 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 in which 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 which require advanced work at the intersections of life sciences and the humanities. The coursework for the major reflects both 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
Math 110 or 111	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
Core elective or Math 111	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
Core elective	3
Core elective	3
Med World (HUMN 230)	3
	14-17

Human Physiology	4
College Physics II	3
College Physics II Lab	1
Converging Hemispheres	3
Core elective	3
Core elective	3
	17

SOPHOMORE

Intermediate I	3
Basic Speech	3
Organic Chemistry I	3
Organic Chemistry I Lab	1
Genetics	3
Genetics Lab	1
Core elective	3
	17

Intermediate II	3
Baptism of Europe	3
Organic Chemistry II	3
Organic Chemistry II Lab	1
Core elective	3
Core elective	3
	16

SENIOR

Principles of Biochemistry	3
Core elective (300 level)	3
Electives	9
Contemporary World (HUMN 250)	3
	15-18

Cell Biology	3
Medical Humanities Capstone course	
Medical Humanities in Action	3
Electives	12
	12-18

Medical Ethics and Calculus I are recommended for students considering medical school.