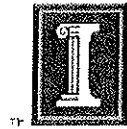


EP.09.23  
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ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Establish a Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree Program in Health in the College of Applied Health Sciences with Three Available Concentrations

**SPONSOR:** Tanya M. Gallagher, Dean, College of Applied Health Sciences, 110 Huff Hall, 333-2131, [tmgallag@illinois.edu](mailto:tmgallag@illinois.edu).

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** William Stewart, Interim Associate Dean, College of Applied Health Sciences, 110 Huff Hall, 333-2131, [wstewart@illinois.edu](mailto:wstewart@illinois.edu).

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** The proposed undergraduate degree program is interdisciplinary in nature, focusing on applied health and societal issues across a range of traditional fields. The proposed degree will be housed in the College of Applied Health Sciences, under the guidance and management of the College. The program of study includes a set of core courses that focus on applied health, provides students with basic knowledge of applied health issues, and includes one course specifically focusing on the nature of interdisciplinary education. The degree program also includes a set of three concentrations, at least one of which a student must complete, that emphasize major health related societal issues: health and aging; health behavior change; and health diversity. Finally, the degree program includes a capstone experience with several options for completion of, for example, a practicum experience, an internship, or engagement in a faculty-guided research experience. The program of study addresses a major need in the state of Illinois and across the nation for graduates prepared to enter a range of applied health fields and/or to pursue graduate study in health-related fields. The degree is structured in such a way as to serve as an ideal pre-professional undergraduate program for a range of biomedical and health-related careers including medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and public health. The significant number of free electives (24-28 hrs) will enable students to design a program that will meet the entry requirements for post-graduate study in a range of biomedical and health-related graduate programs. An academic advisor dedicated to serving students in the program will ensure appropriate guidance and oversight of student needs. The key elements of the program of study are summarized below.

Health Major Requirements	42 hours
Concentrations (students complete at least one)	
a. Health and Aging	21 hours
b. Health Behavior Change	22 hours
c. Health Diversity	22-23 hours

The remaining components of the interdisciplinary degree in Health include campus general education requirements (36-39 hours) and free electives courses (24-28). See Appendix A for detailed program requirements.

The degree will be administered by the College of Applied Health Sciences. The Dean of the College will appoint a Health Curriculum Committee, to be chaired by the AHS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, consisting of 8 – 10 faculty members who will serve as the policy-making unit for academic and curricular decisions pertaining to this degree. Health Curriculum Committee members will include representatives of each department in AHS as well as individuals from other participating units on campus. The Health Curriculum Committee will develop proposals for new courses and degree modifications as needed. Proposals from the Health Curriculum Committee will be reviewed by the AHS College Educational Policy Committee and then forwarded to the Office of the Provost and the Senate.

**JUSTIFICATION:** Today’s complex societal challenges require solutions that are grounded in creative, path-breaking science and scholarship. Over the past decades, many of the promising solutions have come from collaborations of scholars, scientists, and professionals who work across traditional fields of inquiry and practice. The University of Illinois provides the ideal context for the development of an interdisciplinary program of study that prepares undergraduate students to address some of the most urgent health issues facing society.

The proposed Health degree program is interdisciplinary in nature, focusing on applied health and health-related societal issues across a range of traditional fields. There are three key points that justify the implementation of this new interdisciplinary program of study and the unique context for supporting the degree in the College of Applied Health Sciences (AHS): (a) Societal trends create significant demand for a wide range of health professionals; (b) University of Illinois undergraduates are seeking opportunities to pursue study in areas related to health and society, and no interdisciplinary program in this area currently exists; and (c) Faculty members and professional staff within the College of Applied Health Sciences and across the UIUC campus are experts in applied health and society issues. Each is discussed in turn.

First, the demand for professionals ready to work in applied health-related fields vastly exceeds the supply of current graduates, both in the state of Illinois and across the nation (see Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/> for top 10 areas of most rapid employment growth, seven of which are in health-related fields). Societal demographics will continue to contribute to this need in the coming years, as the population ages and as the burden of chronic disease increases for all age groups. In addition, health-related

difficulties associated with a range of societal trends and conditions, such as inactivity, obesity and diabetes, create increased professional opportunities in areas such as health behavior change, wellness promotion and disability prevention more than ever before.

Second, the undergraduate population in the College of AHS has increased significantly over the past decade, and faculty numbers have also increased in recent years. The College serves a significant number of inter college transfer students, primarily from general biology and students who have not declared a major upon admission to the institution. There is a growing interest in applied health fields among our undergraduates, many of whom begin in traditional science disciplines and then discover options in the College of AHS. Many AHS undergraduates seek a general applied health education, preparing them to enter a range of fields and/or to pursue graduate studies. Thus, an interdisciplinary program of study, managed at the level of the College, serves both student interest and societal demand.

Third, the College of AHS is uniquely well-positioned to lead and guide an interdisciplinary undergraduate program of study focused on Health. The College's faculty members include internationally renowned leaders in this field and scholars with expertise across a range of areas related to applied health. Furthermore, the disciplines within the College are ideally positioned to create and manage an innovative program of study related to health and society. Finally, AHS has a strong record of student success; the College has exceptional retention (95-98% of AHS freshmen return for their sophomore year) and graduation rates (82% six-year graduation rate), among the highest on campus.

#### **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

- a. *Additional staff and dollars needed:* The new interdisciplinary program of study in Health will have budgetary implications for the College. In the area of staff, an academic advisor dedicated to serving students in the program will be essential to ensure appropriate guidance and oversight of student needs.
- b. *Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.):* Internal reallocations will be made within AHS to ensure availability of seats in key courses for the interdisciplinary major students, and for the development and instruction responsibility of the two new courses (i.e., Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Practicum Experience). It is estimated that approximately 100 students will be admitted to the program each year for a total cumulative four year enrollment of 400 students. Over time, increased enrollment in the Health program of study will defray costs associated with program management. The Health program of study can be managed with current AHS faculty resources; however, if this program grows over time additional faculty may be needed.
- c. *Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments:* Given the interdisciplinary nature of the program of study, some of the courses in the Health core are drawn from units outside the College of AHS (e.g., statistics and psychology from LAS; nutrition from ACES). Support for enabling enrollment for Health students has been secured from each of the units offering such courses, see attached letters.
- d. *Impact on the University Library (A letter of acknowledgement from the University Librarian must be included for all new program proposals.):* Given that the foundation for the Health degree is built on the programs within the College of AHS

and guided by the faculty of the units, no new library resources are anticipated (cf. letter of support from Paula Kaufman, University Librarian).

- e. *Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.:* Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the degree, students will participate in a variety of laboratory courses in both the core and elective components of the program. To ensure availability of seats in key courses some adjustments in capacity may be needed. Computer resources available to support existing courses in the home college (AHS) will be adequate to provide instructional support to the faculty and students.
- f. **DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 2009

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

**Health**

The undergraduate degree program in Health is interdisciplinary in nature, focusing on applied health and societal issues across a range of traditional fields. The program of study includes a set of core courses that focus on applied health, and provides students with basic knowledge of applied health issues. The degree program also includes a set of three concentrations, of which a student must complete at least one, that emphasize major societal issues: health and aging; health behavior change; and health diversity. Finally, the degree program includes a capstone experience with several options for completion, e.g., an internship, faculty-guided research experience. The program of study addresses a major need in the state of Illinois and across the nation for graduates prepared to enter a range of applied health fields and/or to pursue graduate study in health fields.

**Program Requirements:**

**Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree in Health**

The curriculum requires certain existing courses from the approved lists be taken as noted below. The prescribed courses prepare the student for upper division study and may be used to satisfy General Education Requirements provided they are on the appropriate General Education List.

Hours	Communication Arts
3-6	Composition I
3	Advanced Composition

Hours	Quantitative Reasoning I & II
6	From approved campus list

Hours	Humanities and the Arts
6	From approved campus list

Hours	Social and Behavioral Sciences
6	From approved campus list

Hours	Natural Sciences and Technology
6	From approved campus list

Hours	Cultural Studies
3	From Western cultures approved campus list
3	From U.S. minority cultures or non-Western cultures approved campus list
	Foreign Language: Completion through the third level of the same language in high school or college
36-39	Total General Education hours

1. Courses in cultural studies may be completed through other categories where appropriate.

Hours	Health Major Requirements
3	CHLH 101—Introduction to Public Health
3	CHLH 274—Introduction to Epidemiology
3	CHLH 456 – Organization of Health Care
3	KIN 122 – Physical Activity and Health
3	RST 100 – Society and Leisure
3	SHS 170 – Human Comm: Sys, P & D
3	FSHN 120 – Contemporary Nutrition
4	PSYC 100 – Intro to Psychology
3	STAT 100 – Intro to Statistics
3	REHB 330 – Disability in American Society
3	New Course – Interdisciplinary Studies
8	New Course – Practicum Experience (may include internship, research experience, etc.)
42	Total

**Concentrations (at least one concentration is required)**

<b>Hours</b>	<b>Health and Aging</b>
3	KIN 262 Motor Development, Growth and Form
3	CHLH/RST 314 – Introduction to Aging
3	SHS 271 – Communication of Aging
3	PSYC 361 – Psychology of Aging
9	Choose 3 courses from the following list (at least two at the 300- or 400-level):
	FSHN 322 – Nutrition and the Life Cycle SHS 320 – Development of Spoken Language CHLH 404 – Gerontology SOCW 415 – Social Services for the Aged EPSY 430 – Early Adolescent Development KIN 459 – Physical Activity and Aging
21	Total

<b>Hours</b>	<b>Health Behavior Change</b>
3	KIN 240 – Sociology & Psychology of Physical Activity
4	CHLH 304 – Foundations of Health Behavior
3	RST 316 – Leisure & Human Development
3	SHS 199 G – Hearing Health
9	Choose 3 courses from the following list (at least two at the 300- or 400-level):
	ANTH 143 – Biology of Human Behavior CHLH 201 – Health Informatics SOC 201 – Social Psychology SPCM 260 – Intro to Health Communication CHLH 340 – Health Promotion Practicum PSYC 352 – Attitude Theory and Change KIN 448 – Exercise & Health Psychology SPCM 462 – Interpersonal Health Communication
22	Total

<b>Hours</b>	<b>Health Diversity</b>
3	CHLH 199 – Health Disparities in Society
3	CHLH 409 – Women’s Health
4	EPS 310 – Race & Culture in Society
4	SHS 270 – Comm Disability in the Media
8-9	Choose 3 courses from the following list (at least two at the 300- or 400-level):

	CHLH 210 – Community Health Organizations CHLH 245 – Disability and Popular Culture CHLH 407 – Disability, Culture & Society HIST 263 – US History of Medicine HIST 281 – Constructing Race in America KIN 446 – Gender & Physical Activity REHB 206 – Exploring Disabilities I REHB 207 – Exploring Disabilities II RSOC 110 – Intro to Rural Society RST 230 – Leisure and Diversity SPED 432 – Multiple Disabilities Any course from AAS, AFRO, AFST, AIS, ANTH, GWS, LAST, LLS, PS, RLST, SOC or SOCW with advisor's approval.
22-23	Total


Hours	Free Electives
24-28	Free Electives

### Summary of Degree Requirements

Hours	Requirements
36-39	General Education
42	Health Major Requirements
22-23	Concentration Requirements
24-28	Free Electives
128	Total Hours Required for Graduation

**CLEARANCES:** *(These signatures must appear on a separate sheet.)*

Signatures:

  
College Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

9/15/08  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provost Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Educational Policy Committee Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: