

Center for the Study of Human Health
FAQs – Human Health Major

What is the BA in Human Health?

Emory College offers a B.A. degree in Human Health. The major requires 41 credit units. This is an interdisciplinary course of study and is open to all students with an interest in health and well-being. The major is designed for students with interests in health and humanities, public health and preventive health, any allied health profession, integrative health and medicine, as well as basic science research into aspects of health and disease. The requirements span the humanities, social sciences and biological sciences and include content from the molecular level to the population level, permitting a student to actualize personal interests across a wide range of perspectives. Three principles organize the major: descriptive analyses of health, mechanistic understandings and translational applications. Courses are categorized by the academic goals they were designed to achieve. The latter category includes courses that tackle issues in social justice, ethics, global health interventions, community outreach, health economics and social inequality, and delivery of biomedical services, to name a few.

What can a major in Human Health go on to do?

The career outlook for graduates with a Human Health major is bright, and it will only improve in the coming decade. The U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the number of positions in health, healthcare, and related technical fields to grow by 21 percent by 2018. An aging population factors into this as well as the need for medical and health services and products growing in parallel, including jobs in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

Human health studies need not, of course, be a precursor to medical degrees or other professional training, but some will choose this course, and their prospects are excellent. The number of physician assistants for example is projected to increase by a startling 39 percent over the next five years, with many other medical/health specialties following suit. Estimates put the number of new healthcare-related jobs over that time period at roughly 1.6 million.

Graduates of our program will also find opportunities in research administration, clinical trials, and lab management. Most such positions are portable – since research administration comes under federal guidelines – and many offer advancement to high-level grants management careers at educational institutions, health care organizations, and foundations.

Human Health majors can also seek, with and without graduate training, positions in a wide variety of other fields. A few examples are: Health Education Coordinator, Laboratory Technologist, Health Program Director, Public Health Analyst, Infection Control Associate, Research Project Coordinator, Health Policy Analyst, Infection Control Associate, Public Health Nutrition Fellow, Health Program Director, Food Safety Expert and Environmental Consultant. All of our graduates, whatever their chosen field, will be well served by the Human Health major's focus on the humanistic and social-science aspects of health science and practice. They will receive a foundation not only in cutting-edge biology but in the language and perspectives of bioethics, behavioral science, and the humanities' disciplines as they pertain to human health and research. A major which grounds students in the

psychosocial dimensions of human health, which fosters critical and cross-disciplinary thinking and investigates the ways that religion, art and philosophy both affect and translate notions of health, will prepare them to study and influence such crucial current areas as health marketing and advertising, translational science writing, behavior-based health coaching, tele-medicine, genetic testing and screening, gene therapy, human enhancement and trans-humanism, environmental management and regulation, and the potential and limits of biotechnology.

How do I declare a Human Health Major?

Come by the Center for the Study of Human Health, located in Candler Library suite 107, and ask the Academic Degree Coordinator for an application form. The main office is staffed Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Who are the advisors for the major?

As of September 2014, Dr. Freeman is the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and shares with Drs. Lampl, Quave, Sarrett, Welkey, and Ms. Simonds the role of faculty advisor for the major. You are assigned one faculty advisor, but all faculty members in the CSHH are available for informal advising.

But I am not “pre-health”, is this for me?

Yes, the BA was designed for individuals interested in the human experience of health and well-being and offers courses in health and narrative, health theater, health communication, historical perspectives on health and social issues ranging from health disparities to ethics. Health is a central value and issue in the 21st century and the major was designed to educate, engage and empower individuals to participate in the dialogues and issues of our society. There are no pre-requisites for the introductory courses.

I am pre-health, do the ‘pre-health’ science requirements count for the major?

No, the introductory science courses do not count for the major. Some upper level courses are applicable and students are encouraged to broaden their perspectives to include social and humanistic aspects of health and the human condition provided by the liberal arts educational program.

Can I double major?

Yes, you can double major provided you meet all requirements. You may also have a major and a minor.

Human health majors may minor in Global Health, Culture, and Society, or Nutrition Science, but they may not minor in Predictive Health. Minors in other departments across campus are also applicable.

How many courses can count towards the Human Health major as well as another major or minor?

If you are a double major, a maximum of two courses may double count towards the human health major and your second major. (Many other programs also require QTM100, so this is frequently one of the courses that is double counted.) If your second major allows only one course to double count, that rule prevails and only one double counted course will be allowed.

You may double count only **one** course between your human health major and any minor. This includes minors in Global Health, Culture, and Society, or Nutrition Science.

Can I do an honors thesis in Human Health?

Yes, as long as you have a 3.5 GPA overall and a 3.7 GPA in the major, you may apply to the Human Health honors program in the spring of your Junior year. Additional information and application forms are available on the Human Health Majors Bb site.

How many 100 level courses will count towards the major requirements?

As of September 2014, **no** 100 level courses count toward the major requirements (with the exception of QTM100, MTH107, PHIL129, or PHIL116).

Will topical health courses such as 285, 385, and 485 count towards the major?

Yes, these courses will be assigned into one the Descriptive, Mechanistic, or Translational categories depending upon the prominent approach in the course. Be aware that 285, 385, 485 courses are subject to change and may be assigned to different categories for different semesters depending upon how they are taught. A list of courses will be posted each semester on the CSHH Students Bb site which specifies how the courses are categorized.

How are my requirements affected when a course I took previously is now listed in a different category? For example: I took a course when it was listed in the Mechanistic category and now it is listed as an Elective. Can I still use it to fulfill a Mechanistic requirement?

Occasionally we courses to a new category. We try to keep these changes to a minimum, but as both courses and the program develop it is clear that some courses are a better fit in a different category. Please note, that these changes are **not** retroactive - you will receive credit for the category where the course was listed when you enrolled.

Does Health 300 count towards the major?

Effective Fall 2015, HLTH300 may only be applied towards the major requirements **one** time. Any additional times you enroll in HLTH300 may be applied toward general hours required for graduation, but not towards the human health major requirements.

If you took HLTH200 prior to Fall 2015, it will not fulfill any major requirements but you may take HLTH300 two times – once to fulfill a Translational requirement and once to fulfill an Elective requirement.

Will Health 200 count towards the major?

Effective Fall 2015, HLTH200 will fulfill an elective requirement.

If you took HLTH200 prior to Fall 2015, it will not fulfill any major requirements but you may take HLTH300 two times – once to fulfill a Translational requirement and once to fulfill an Elective requirement.

Which courses can be used to replace QTM Introduction to Statistical Inference course?

It must be a statistics course and not calculus or other mathematics courses. MTH107, PSY360, and BUS350 are three examples of alternative courses that meet this requirement.

What can I expect in the HLTH 410 capstone course?

You will be expected to produce a final project which can range from a research paper to a video presentation or other product. It must demonstrate that the student has mastered the competences required for the major and include content that lays out a problem-solving approach from description to exploration of mechanisms and suggest ideas or insight into action steps.

Successful projects for academic year 2012-13 included developing an exercise card game and growing hydroponic lettuce, both of which are in the new business start-up phase.

What are the approved electives for the major?

All HLTH courses numbered 200 or greater will fulfill one of the elective requirements for the human health major, as will any course listed in the Descriptive, Mechanistic, or Translational categories on the human health major requirements checklist. You may also petition for a health-focused course offered through any other department on campus to fulfill an elective requirement.

Notable exceptions:

- HLTH 300 may only be applied towards the major requirements one time.
- 3CU from any of the independent study courses (HLTH 397R, HLTH 399R, HLTH 497R, or HLTH 499R) may fulfill one elective requirement. If taking two of these courses, topics must be distinct and demonstrate variety.

Please note: While a 2 CU course may be used to fulfill an elective requirement, the human health major requires 41 CU to be distributed across the required courses and electives. When selecting your classes, make sure that the number of credit units the course offers is sufficient for you to meet this requirement.

Which Emory study abroad programs are most appropriate for the major?

The CSHH offers a Human Health study abroad program in Paris. Summer 2015 this will include two courses: HLTH385: French Perspectives on Health and Well Being (4CU) and HLTH385: The History of Mental Health in Paris (4CU).

Other Emory summer abroad programs offer additional courses which are also applicable towards the human health major requirements include: *SOC 390* - Health Care/Society, *REL 358* - Mind, Medicine and Healing, and *SPAN 385* – Medicine and Global Health in Argentina. Students may petition for other health-focused courses from summer or semester abroad programs to be considered. Please see the study abroad policy and course approval process posted on the CSHH Students Bb site.

How many hours of study abroad will count towards the major?

Two courses (or 6 CU) from non-Emory study abroad programs may be applied toward the human health major elective requirements. (Courses taken through Emory summer abroad programs do not count against this limit.)

How many hours of study abroad will count towards the minor?

One course (or 3 CU) from non-Emory study abroad programs may be applied toward the GHCS, Predictive Health, or Nutrition Science minor elective requirements. (Courses taken through Emory summer abroad programs do not count against this limit.)

If applicable, GHCS minors may petition for a second course from a non-Emory study abroad program to be applied towards the category III. Perspectives in Global Health requirements.

How do I obtain approval for a Semester Abroad or Summer Abroad course taken through a school other than Emory University?

CIPA programs

There is a two-step approval process for study abroad credit from CIPA programs to be applicable towards requirements for the human health majors. You must get pre-approval for the course from the CSHH DUS prior to enrolling in the course and final approval upon your return. The requirements are outlined in the study abroad document posted on the Human Health Majors Bb site.

Non-CIPA approved programs

Students must petition CIPA to receive credit for courses taken through non-CIPA approved study abroad programs. This process must be completed in advance and requires the pre-approval of courses from the CSHH DUS in two-step process mentioned above, as well as the recommendation of a faculty sponsor. In order to receive approval from CIPA, students must demonstrate that this program fulfills an academic need directly related to their major. Additional information is available on the CIPA website and the study abroad document posted on the Human Health Majors Bb site.

May I do an internship for credit?

Yes, provided the internship offers a significant learning opportunity directly related to health and is coupled with a directed reading component (HLTH397 or HLTH497). Also, to be eligible you must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Additional information on the requirements and application process are available on the Human Health Majors Bb site.

What are the differences between “directed” and “independent”? What are the differences between “reading” and “research”? How do I know whether or not I should enroll in HLTH 397, HLTH 399, HLTH 497, or HLTH4 99?

CSHH offers 4 different independent study courses: *HLTH 397R-Directed Reading*, *HLTH 399R-Directed Research*, *HLTH 497R-Independent Reading*, and *HLTH 499R-Independent Research*. Approval from the CSHH DUS is required for enrollment in any of these courses. Application forms are found under “Forms” on the CSHH Students Bb site or can be picked up in the CSHH office.

Directed vs Independent

The 300-level “directed” study courses provide an introduction to a subject area and would almost always proceed a 400-level “independent” study course. The 400-level “independent” courses are intended for students who have previous experience in the subject area and the projects in these courses are expected to be more student driven than the 300-level “directed” courses. The projects proposed for the 400-level “independent” course must culminate in a final academic product (e.g., research paper, professional manuscript, or conference presentation).

Reading vs Research

The HLTHX97 reading courses are intended for students pursuing a deeper understanding of a topic that is not available through the courses offered. You would identify a mentor and develop an appropriate course of study appropriate for the topic. The HLTHX99 research courses are expected to include data collection and analysis according to a specific research aim. Since health is an interdisciplinary field, applicable research may be conducted in any of the natural sciences, social sciences, or humanities.

How many credit hours of Directed Reading (HLTH 397R), Directed Research (HLTH 399R), Independent Reading (HLTH 497R), and/or Independent Research (HLTH 499R) will count towards the major requirements?

You may enroll in these courses for a maximum of 6 CU combined. Each time you take one of these courses the topic must be significantly different. In other words, two directed reading projects on the same topic will not be approved.

The student and faculty mentor, who does not have to be a CSHH faculty member, must develop a course contract prior to registering for the course. The proposed course request, which includes this contract, must be submitted to the CSHH Academic Program Coordinator in the CSHH main office (Candler Library 107) for approval before registration is permitted. 3CU of directed reading or directed research experience may replace one elective course requirement.

Both of the elective requirements of the human health major may not be fulfilled with the same directed, or independent, study project. The project must have significant change in expectations and experience for you to be eligible for credit beyond a single semester. In other words, after 3CU of 397 (or 399), you are expected to advance to the 497 (or 499) course which has additional expectations and requirements. Receiving credit for a second semester of 397 (or 399) requires that the project have a distinctly different focus than the previous semester. The lack of academic credit, however, does not prohibit you from continued participation in research experiences.

How do I decide how many credit units are appropriate for a directed reading, directed research, independent reading, and/or independent research course?

Credit units are based upon the Carnegie Unit system. Three hours of independent study work per week is equivalent to 1 credit hour. Therefore, if you are participating in a directed research or directed reading course, 3 credit units requires 9 hours of work per week. The Emory College policy on credit hours is below.

**Emory College Guidelines for
Assigning Credit Hours to Courses**

The primary standard for establishing course credit hours in Emory College is the Carnegie Credit Hour, the standard commonly used by the Federal Government. An hour of credit is awarded for lecture/seminar course meeting 50-minutes each week during a 14-15 week semester and requiring two hours of outside preparation each week by the student. An hour of contact time in the rest of the document is based on this 50-minute session. A standard lecture/seminar course meeting 150 minutes per week with 6 hours of outside preparation will carry three-credit hours.

If I have AP Statistics credit do I still need to take QTM100?

No, AP Statistics credit for MTH107 will fulfill the QTM100 requirements. However, the AP credit hours are only good towards graduation requirements and are not applicable towards the major. You will need to take an additional 3CU elective to fulfill the Human Health major requirements. We also recommend you take HLTH307 Practice-based Epidemiology. The statistical methods in this course are specific for the public health studies that frequently discussed in multiple HLTH courses.

Does the Center offer prizes and awards for outstanding students?

We are considering offering prizes and awards.
