

A person in need of care is, of course, more than a patient, diagnosis, subject or problem. That person is someone who embodies histories, cultures, stories, identities, hopes, fears and all the complexities that are part of human life and experience. In acknowledgment of this, a remarkable change is taking place in medical education and training for health care, helping or healing professions. Have you wondered:

- How gender, age, cultural identity, or race affects access to health care?
- Why art can express illness and inspire wellness?
- How ethically sound health care decisions can be made?
- Which religious customs and beliefs influence options for treatment?

Medical Humanities is an interdisciplinary field that explores, from multiple perspectives, connections between humans, cultures, medicine and allied health sciences. Medical Humanities complements the Health Sciences, and encompasses the Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts. It includes topics related to: health and illness; the interactions between health practices and conceptions of personhood, gender, and community; beliefs; practices, healing and ethics across cultures; the nature of suffering; and models of wellness.

Medical Humanities Major at a Glance:

Number of majors: 100+ Credit hours needed: 30

Degrees offered: B.A., B.S. Minors offered: Yes (15 credits)

Concentrations: No

Knowledge & Skills Gained as a Medical Humanities Major:

Knowledge:

- Learn the humanistic aspects of medicine.
- How race, ethnicity, gender, sex, age and income affect the experience of health, illness and medicine.
- Learn how health, illness, disease and medicine are experienced at a social and cultural level by individuals and societies.

Skills:

- Learn to think critically, compassionately and knowledgeably about the human condition.
- Observe and communicate an understanding of health, illness and healing.
- Written communication and presentation skills.
- Learn diverse ways to solve problems of health and health care delivery.
- Develop reflective and resilient habits of the mind.

Career Opportunities:

By nature, Liberal Arts majors make great employees in any field because of their ability to communicate effectively, think critically and solve complex problems. These timeless skills make them attractive to employers in all walks of society. Specifically though, some fields our majors pursue are:

- Medical Professions
- Dentistry
- Law
- Social Work
- Speech Therapy
- Health Education
- Public Health
- Healthcare Administration

When the MEDH major is matched with complementary minors and thoughtful internships, new possibilities arise. A few examples are:

- **MEDH** + Pre-Health = Health Care Worker
- **MEDH** + Gerontology = Nursing Home Coordinator
- **MEDH** + Emergency Management = Public Health
- **MEDH** + Non-Profit Minor = Non-profit Coordinator
- **MEDH** + English = Scientific & Medical Writing/Publishing

Participating Programs:

Students have the opportunity to take coursework from a variety of disciplines, such as:

- Anthropology
- Art
- Art History
- Biology
- Black Studies
- Communication
- English
- Gerontology
- Goodrich Program
- History
- Music
- Native American Studies
- Philosophy
- Public Health & Human Behavior
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Women's & Gender Studies
- Writer's Workshop

Did You Know?

A proposed Health Humanities Center was named for esteemed poet Ted Kooser, US Poet Laureate and cancer survivor, in July 2019. Medical Humanities majors will have the opportunity to help create and add to the many programmatic offerings of the UNO-UNMC Community Ted Kooser Health Humanities Center.

For more information:

For program information, contacts and course requirements visit:

www.unomaha.edu/cas

Dr. Timi Barone, Director
tbarone@unomaha.edu
402.554.3372