

# Health Policy Studies

Department of Behavioral Sciences  
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

## The Program

One of the most important elements of American society is its health care system. A vast and complex enterprise, it provides vital services to the entire population and is one of the largest employers in the country. The study of American health policy and the development of the healthcare system is an important and timely enterprise, attracting students in universities and colleges all over the country. At the University of Michigan–Dearborn, students interested in the various health professions can begin their pre-professional education by enrolling in the program in health policy studies (HPS). This program provides interdisciplinary perspectives on many aspects of health policy and health care delivery. By taking courses rooted in sociology, political science, humanities, economics, management, and education, the student receives liberal arts and pre-professional preparation for both graduate school and the job market. The program is built on three foundations: the University's general liberal arts distribution requirements, the HPS core, and the specialty tracks or minors. The HPS core includes courses that provide multiple perspectives on American health policy and health care system.

The four specialty tracks include:

- administration
- planning
- health behavior and education
- an individualized track

Depending on which specialty a student chooses, course work will be in carefully selected, appropriate areas. The program also provides an opportunity for the student to tailor the curriculum to his/her own interests through elective courses. This curriculum reconceptualizes traditional, disciplinary study to focus on a topic-oriented interdisciplinary program with an applied orientation. It combines the best of UM–D's liberal arts tradition with a practical, real-world orientation.

## Health Policy Studies as a Minor

Because of the social importance of this field and its frequent prominence as a national and state policy issue, many students in other fields find HPS a useful minor. This is accomplished by taking five of the core courses (15 hours). Students choosing this minor are encouraged to meet with the program director to work out an appropriate selection of courses.

## For Pre-Medical Students

It is increasingly crucial that future physicians understand the health care system, its continuous development and its policy issues. For pre-medical students, the program recommends

taking some combination of medical sociology, health policy, medical ethics, health care and the law, financing the health care system, comparative health care systems, and the senior seminar. This would constitute an important minor. Nationally, employment for people with business backgrounds is growing in the health care field, making HPS an excellent minor for business, economics, and students with other majors. Choose from courses listed above and consider medical information systems as well.

## The Curriculum

### General Information

*Degree-seeking students are required to fulfill the required courses in effect at the time admitted or readmitted to the program. Since these are subject to change, students should see an advisor for current requirements.*

Core Courses All HPS students take the following 29 hours of core course work:

HPS/SOC 440	Medical Sociology
HPS/SOC 410	Social Research Methods
HPS/POLSCI 364	Health Policy and Administration
ANTH 430	Medical Anthropology
PHIL 442	Medical Ethics
HPS/SOC 456	Health Care and the Law
HPS 451	Financing the Health & Medical System
or ECON 355	Economics of the Medical Sector (with permission of the HPS director)
HPS 350	Medical Information Systems
HPS 401	Internship
HPS 402	Senior Seminar

## Prerequisites for Core Courses

Prerequisites are ideally taken in the freshman and sophomore years when the student is fulfilling the CASL distribution requirements. You may obtain a list of these requirements from the Department of Behavioral Sciences. These courses can be taken to fulfill some distribution requirements. Getting all the prerequisites for the core and the track requires careful planning.

SOC 200	Understanding Society
POL 101	Introduction to Political Science
PHIL 240	Ethics
MIS 120	Management Information Systems
ECON 201	Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 202	Principles of Microeconomics
ACC 298	Principles of Accounting

Note: A minimum of 120 hours is required for graduation and this should include 48 credits of upper division courses.

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## Professional Opportunities in HealthCare

HPS graduates can consider the following locations for entry-level job opportunities:

- hospitals
- health maintenance organizations
- ambulatory care clinics
- community health organizations
- long-term care facilities
- health insurance industry
- medical supplies and equipment business
- pharmaceutical industry
- private health consultancies
- quality assurance agencies
- health profession societies

Recent graduates of this program are working in the following areas:

- quality assurance
- health education
- health promotion
- health care law
- management of clinical departments
- administration of community health organizations
- health services research
- health finance
- health maintenance organization marketing
- health corporation information systems
- professional review organizations

## The Faculty

**Lawrence Radine, Ph.D.**, Director of HPS and Associate Professor of Sociology; Teaching: Research Methods, Health Care and the Law

**Elias Baumgarten, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophy; Teaching: Medical Ethics

**Daniel E. Moerman**, Professor Emeritus

**Thomas Nantais, M.B.A.**, Vice President for Finance Henry Ford Health Care System; Adjunct Lecturer of Sociology; Teaching: Health Finance

Other visiting faculty also teach courses in the HPS program.

## For More Information

For more information about the health policy studies program, contact:  
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The University of Michigan–Dearborn  
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To request an application or obtain more information about admission:

Office of Admissions and Orientation  
University of Michigan–Dearborn  
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