

# Health Policy Studies



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

## The Field

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 health care system is an important and timely enterprise, attracting students in universities and colleges all over the country.

Students interested in the various health professions can begin their pre-professional education by enrolling in the program in Health Policy Studies (HPS). The 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.

## Career Opportunities

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 Major

*Requirements are subject to change. Degree-seeking students will be subject to the requirements in effect at the time they are admitted or re-admitted.*

The program is built on three foundations: the University's general liberal arts distribution requirements, the HPS core, and the specialty tracks or minors.

## Prerequisites

Prerequisites are ideally taken in the freshman and sophomore years when the student is fulfilling the CASL distribution requirements. These courses can be taken to fulfill some distribution requirements.

SOC 200	Introduction to Sociology
or	
SOC 201	Contemporary Social Problems
PHIL	Any 100 or 200 level course (PHIL 240 is recommended)
ECON 201	Principles of Macroeconomics
or	
ECON 200I	Introductory Economics

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

## Core Requirements

All HPS students take the following 31 hours of core coursework:

HPS 440/SOC 440	Medical Sociology
HPS 410/SOC 410	Quantitative Research Methods
HPS 364/POL 364	Health Policy and Administration
HPS 442/PHIL 442	Medical Ethics
HPS 456/SOC 456	Health Care and the Law
HPS 403	Medical Information Systems
HPS 404	Financing the Health & Medical Systems
HPS 448	Comp. Health Care Systems (or PSYC 455 or ANTH 430)
HPS 401	HPS Internship (or HPS 405, Healthcare Administration, by petition)
HPS 402	HPS Senior Seminar (capstone course)
ANTH 455/PSYC 455	Medical Anthropology / Health Psychology

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## Tracks

In addition to the above core, which includes courses that provide multiple perspectives on American health policy and health care system, HPS majors must complete at least 12 upper level hours in one specialty track. The specialty tracks are:

- administration track (12 hours)
  - human resources
  - finance
  - information systems
  - marketing
- health behavior and education (12 hours)
- health planning (12 hours)
- individualized track (12 hours)

## Minor/Area of Focus

Health Policy Studies is also available as a minor, and as an area of focus in General Studies or Liberal Studies. The minor or area of focus requires successful completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours of HPS coursework.

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. Students choosing this minor are encouraged to meet with the program director to work out an appropriate selection of courses.

It is increasingly crucial that pre-medical students, as future physicians, understand the health care system, its continuous development and its policy issues. It is recommended that pre-med students take 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.

## 2+2 Programs with Community College Allied Health Programs

Graduates with Associates of Applied Science degrees from community college Allied Health programs such as nursing (RN), health information technology, respiratory therapy assistant, radiography technician, surgical technology, physical therapist assistant, pharmacy technician, and diagnostic medical sonographer, may be able to transfer in 62 credit hours of allied health and nursing courses to the Health Policy Studies Bachelor's Degree (BA) Program. Students wishing to enter UM-D would have to meet the 2.5 cumulative GPA grade point average and other qualifications as any other community college graduate seeking admission.

## The Faculty

**Lawrence B. Radine, Ph.D.**, Director, Health Policy Studies, Associate Professor of Sociology

**Paul Draus, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Sociology

**Elias Baumgarten, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophy

**Brian McKenna, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

**David Chatkoff, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Psychology

**Lois Lamerato, Ph.D.**, Lecturer II, Health Policy Studies, Epidemiologist, Henry Ford Health System

**Tom Nantais, M.B.A.**, Lecturer, Health Policy Studies; CFO, Henry Ford Medical Group

## For More Information

For more information about the Health Policy Studies program, contact:  
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