

New Program Proposal

Global Health and Social Medicine Minor

Select one of the following 1000-level courses:		3-4
ANTHRO 1005	Introduction To Biological Anthropology	
ANTHRO 1021	The Body In Culture	
BIOL 1131	Human Physiology And Anatomy I	
Select one of the following 2000 level courses:		3
ANTHRO 2104	Medicine in Culture and History	
ANTHRO 2105	Human Variation	
SOC 2180	Alcohol, Drugs And Society	
SOC 2338	Health & Society	
Select two of the following 3000-4000 level courses:		6
ANTHRO 3209	Forensic Anthropology	
ANTHRO/GERON 3212	Medical Anthropology	
ANTHRO 3217	Anthropology of Pregnancy and Birth	
ANTHRO 3215	Aging Across Cultures	
ANTHRO 3245	Evolutionary Medicine	
SOC 3250	Sociology Of Victimization	
SOC 4361	Social Gerontology	
GERON 4445	Aging, Chronic Illness & Disability	
GERON 4500	Physiology & Pharmacology of Aging	
Select one of the following courses:		3
ANTHRO 4000	Ethnographic Field Research Methods	
ANTHRO 4307	Community Based Research in Anthropology	

SOC 4307	Community-Based Research in Sociology
Total Hours	15-16

All required courses for the minor must be completed with a grade of C- or better.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

Department	Contact Person	Phone #	Objections
S004550	Tom Meuser	5421	No
S007250	Rocky Keel	6052	No
S002850	Wendy Olivas	4241	No
S006550	Roberta Lavin		No

Rationale

Currently there are about 300 UMSL students who have identified as “pre-health,” the large majority of which are in Biology. However, about 37% of the students have GPAs below 2.7 and, realistically, will not be competitive in medical and professional school applications. To meet the needs of these students, the Departments of Anthropology & Archaeology and Sociology, Gerontology & Gender Studies are working toward proposing a new major in Global Health and Social Medicine, which will be an interdisciplinary, pre-health major grounded in the social sciences. In addition, they are proposing this minor. As is apparent from the proposed curriculum, these departments already offer an appealing list of courses related to health and medicine, and it only remains to pull them together into a minor. The proposed minor and major respond to a perceived need for healthcare professionals who possess “cultural competency” and understand that medicine is embedded in a social context (embodied in the label “social medicine”). To this end, the MCATs recently added a social section. Biocultural/social pre-health programs grounded in anthropology have become very popular in recent years, including at Washington University, where anthropology is the largest undergraduate major. UMSL’s Biology and Nursing programs have an “exit problem” – where to send the students who realize when they begin taking upper-level courses that their science and math skills are not up to standard? One solution has been to take a biology minor and combine it with another minor/certificate for a BLS degree. This minor would be an excellent choice for the second minor. The minor might also be attractive to psychology, social work, and other majors with a medical interest. The healthcare industry is one of the few growing economic sectors, and it includes many jobs that require strong social analytical skills. This minor will help inform students about those career options, and will provide another option to the students whose intellectual strengths lie in social analysis and people-oriented approaches.