

# MINOR IN MEDICAL HUMANITIES

## Program Learning Outcomes for the Minor in Medical Humanities

Upon completing the minor in Medical Humanities, students will be able to:

1. Describe the historical, literary, artistic, and ethical domains of medicine.
2. Analyze and evaluate complex texts relating to the social and cultural aspects of medicine through close reading and critical interpretation of arguments, metaphors, and images.
3. Explain the history of racism and anti-racism in health and medicine.
4. Explain how disability shapes the healthcare experience for patients.
5. Conduct independent research and communicate their own arguments about medical humanities in research papers, class presentations, and discussions.

## Requirements for the Minor in Medical Humanities

Students pursuing the minor in Medical Humanities must complete:

- A minimum of 6-7 courses (18-21 credit hours), depending on course selection, to satisfy minor requirements.
- A minimum of 3 courses (9 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 3) tab.

The courses used in the Medical Humanities program examine the social, cultural, ethical, and aesthetic dimensions of medicine in contemporary and historical contexts, and are open to all undergraduate students at Rice from all backgrounds.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this minor. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the minor's academic advisor or, where applicable, the Program Director. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the minor's [Official Certifier](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/>)). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

### Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the Minor in Medical Humanities		18-21

## Minor Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Core Requirement</b>		
MDHM 201	INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL HUMANITIES <sup>1, 2</sup>	3
<b>Elective Requirements</b>		
Select 4 courses from the Electives list below <sup>2, 3</sup>		12
<b>Practicum <sup>1</sup></b>		
Select 1 from the following: <sup>2</sup>		3-6
MDHM 402 & MDHM 403	HEALTH, HUMANISM AND SOCIETY SCHOLARS MEDICAL HUMANITIES PRACTICUM 1 (1 YR SEQUENCE) and HEALTH, HUMANISM AND SOCIETY SCHOLARS MEDICAL HUMANITIES PRACTICUM 2 (1 YR SEQUENCE)	
MDHM 420	MEDICAL HUMANITIES SPANISH PRACTICUM ABROAD <sup>4</sup>	
MDHM 430	HEALTH, HUMANISM AND SOCIETY SCHOLARS MEDICAL HUMANITIES PRACTICUM (ONE SEMESTER)	
MDHM 435	TOPICS IN APPLIED MEDICAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH	
SPAN 323	SPANISH PROFESSIONAL PRACTICUM <sup>5</sup>	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>18-21</b>

### Footnotes and Additional Information

- <sup>1</sup> Students must complete the core course before they complete the practicum. The core course and the practicum may not be taken concurrently. MDHM 402 and MDHM 403 are a two-semester sequence and may not be taken individually. MDHM 430 is repeatable 3 times for credit, but only 3 credit hours may count towards the minor. If students are part of a rotation program in a Texas Medical Center Institution, this does not automatically count towards the minor. Students must enroll in the affiliated practicum course and complete all course requirements for the rotation to count towards the minor. For more information on the practicum courses, please refer to <https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/> or consult a minor advisor on this point.
- <sup>2</sup> No course at the 100-level may fulfill minor requirements without an approved exception by the minor advisor(s) *except* MDHM course offerings between MDHM 100-MDHM 199. No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) with the same subject code may fulfill minor requirements *except* course offerings from the MDHM subject code.
- <sup>3</sup> Of the 4 courses (12 credit hours) of Elective Requirements, at least 2 courses (6 credit hours) must be taken at the 300-level or above.
- <sup>4</sup> The Rice in Country, offered by the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication (CLIC), offers a six-week Rice faculty-led summer study abroad program in Pamplona, Spain (Rice in Spain). See the [Opportunities](#) (p. 4) tab for more information, or visit <https://clic.rice.edu/study-abroad/spain> (<https://clic.rice.edu/study-abroad/spain/>) for details and to apply.

<sup>5</sup> Students may take SPAN 323 as either an elective or the practicum, but it will not count toward both requirements. SPAN 323 is offered in many course sections, and only those sections designated as Spanish for Medical Professionals track count towards the Medical Humanities minor. See <https://courses.rice.edu/> for the course schedule and section details. With any questions, students should consult a minor advisor regarding this point.

### Elective Requirements

To fulfill the Elective Requirements for the Medical Humanities minor, students must complete a total of 4 courses (12 credit hours) from the following Rice departmental course offerings. Students must fulfill the Elective Requirements by completing coursework from at least 2 different subject codes (i.e., ANTH, ENGL, etc.), and must take a minimum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) at the 300-level or above.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Elective Requirements</b>		
<i>Select 4 courses from the following:</i>		12
<b>Anthropology</b>		
ANTH 250	PLAGUES AND PEOPLE	
ANTH 306	ILLNESS NARRATIVES: RE-WRITING HEALTH INEQUALITIES	
ANTH 321	SOCIAL LIFE OF DNA	
ANTH 342	ETHNOGRAPHIES OF CARE	
ANTH 354 / SWGS 353	ILLNESS, DISABILITY, AND THE GENDERED BODY	
ANTH 380	GLOBAL HEALTH JUSTICE: HEALTHCARE INEQUALITIES IN CONFLICTS	
ANTH 381	MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY	
ANTH 382	BODY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENHANCEMENT	
ANTH 399	ANTHROPOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION	
ANTH 419	BLACK FEMINIST SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY STUDIES	
ANTH 443	ANTHROPOLOGY OF RACE, ETHNICITY AND HEALTH	
ANTH 444	ANTHROPOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY, AND MADNESS	
ANTH 477	SPECIAL TOPICS <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Asian Studies</b>		
ASIA 356	GENOMIC GOVERNANCE IN ASIA	
<b>Biosciences</b>		
BIOS 368	CONCEIVING AND MISCONCEIVING THE MONSTROUS IN FICTION AND IN ART, IN MEDICINE AND IN BIOSCIENCE	
BIOS 370	CURRENT BIOSCIENCES AND HEALTH POLICY TOPICS	
BIOS 447	EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY AND THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE	
<b>Chinese</b>		
CHIN 319	SPECIAL TOPICS: ADVANCED CHINESE I <sup>1</sup>	
<b>English</b>		
ENGL 272	LITERATURE AND MEDICINE	

ENGL 273 / SWGS 273	MEDICINE AND MEDIA
ENGL 386 / FILM 381	MEDICAL MEDIA ARTS LAB
ENGL 395	TRANSLATIONAL HUMANITIES METHODS: MEDICINE, ENVIRONMENT, RACE, TECHNOLOGY
<b>Environmental Studies</b>	
ENST 312	JUSTICE IN THE FOOD SYSTEM
ENST 314	CULTURES AND MEDIA OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ENST 315	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
<b>German Studies</b>	
GERM 335	GERMAN FILM (IN ENGLISH)
GERM 352	POLITICS OF THE FLESH IN GERMAN LITERATURE, THOUGHT AND FILM
GERM 477	SPECIAL TOPICS
<b>Health Sciences</b>	
HEAL 212	CONSUMER HEALTH AND THE MEDIA
HEAL 222	PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
HEAL 350	UNDERSTANDING CANCER
HEAL 360	VIOLENCE IN AMERICA: A PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE
HEAL 380	DISPARITIES IN HEALTH IN AMERICA
<b>History</b>	
HIST 208	RACE AND MEDICINE IN AMERICAN HISTORY
HIST 310	THE BODY IN GLOBAL HISTORIES OF MEDICINE
HIST 312	ENVIRONMENT, MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN LATIN AMERICA
HIST 426	DISABILITY AND U.S. LAW
HIST 430	HISTORIES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN ASIA
HIST 480	HISTORY OF MEDICINE: FROM ART TO SCIENCE
<b>Latin American and Latinx Studies</b>	
LALX 332	WRITING TO HEAL: U.S. LATINE NARRATIVES ON MENTAL HEALTH
<b>Medical Humanities</b>	
MDHM 238	SPECIAL TOPICS
MDHM 250	INTRODUCTION TO DISABILITY STUDIES
MDHM 260	TOPICS IN CREATIVE WRITING FOR MEDICAL HUMANITIES: WRITING AND READING (NEAR) DEATH EXPERIENCES
MDHM 275	TOPICS IN HEALTH INEQUITIES
MDHM 280	MEDICAL HORROR IN FILM AND LITERATURE
MDHM 300	IMMUNITY IN MEDIA, SCIENCE, AND CULTURE
MDHM 306	PERSPECTIVES IN HEALTH AND HUMANITIES

MDHM 310	TOPICS ON EXPERIENCES OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS
MDHM 325	ETHICAL DEBATES IN MEDICINE: DIGNITY AND WELFARE
MDHM 330	TECHNOLOGIES OF HEALTH
MDHM 340	GLOBAL HEALTH HUMANITIES
MDHM 359	RESPONSIBLE AI FOR HEALTH
MDHM 397	TOPICS IN MENTAL HEALTH
MDHM 410	ETHICS AND THE HUMAN BODY
MDHM 415 / FREN 408	UNMASKING MADNESS

#### Philosophy

PHIL 166	ETHICS IN PANDEMICS
PHIL 265	DEATH AND DYING: METAPHYSICS AND ETHICS
PHIL 266	MEDICAL ETHICS
PHIL 267	PHILOSOPHY OF SEX AND LOVE
PHIL 354	THE PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE
PHIL 460	ADVANCED TOPICS IN ETHICS

#### Religion

RELI 142	THE COLORS OF LIFE AND THE END OF LIFE
RELI 333	KNOWING BODY/GLOWING MIND: BUDDHIST ARTS OF CONTEMPLATION AND ANALYSIS
RELI 335	MEDICINE AND THE MUSEUM: CLINICAL AESTHETICS AND THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON
RELI 344	SEMINAR ON THE END OF LIFE
RELI 350 / MDEM 350	DEMONS, MENTAL ILLNESS AND MEDICINE
RELI 361 / HURC 361	THE HUMANITIES OF CARE & END OF LIFE
RELI 362	RELIGION AND SCIENCE

#### Sociology

SOCI 344	SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH
SOCI 345	MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY
SOCI 377	HEALTH DISPARITIES IN THE UNITED STATES
SOCI 422	SOCIAL AUTOPSIES: HOW SOCIETY KILLS US
SOCI 465 / SWGS 465	GENDER AND HEALTH

#### Spanish

SPAN 322	SPECIAL TOPICS: ADVANCED SPANISH II <sup>1</sup>
SPAN 323	SPANISH PROFESSIONAL PRACTICUM I <sup>2</sup>
SPAN 333	CURRENT HEALTHCARE ISSUES IN LATINE COMMUNITIES
SPAN 370	DISABLED BODIES: ILLNESS AND LITERATURE IN LATIN AMERICA

#### Footnotes and Additional Information

- <sup>1</sup> ANTH 477, CHIN 319, ENGL 203, and SPAN 322 are special topics courses, and not all sections are eligible to be applied towards the minor Elective Requirements. Please see a minor advisor for more information.
- <sup>2</sup> Students may take SPAN 323 as either an elective or the practicum, but it will not count toward both requirements. SPAN 323 is offered in many course sections, and only those sections designated as Spanish for Medical Professionals track count towards the Medical Humanities minor. See <https://courses.rice.edu/> for the course schedule and section details. With any questions, students should consult a minor advisor regarding this point.

## Policies for the Minor in Medical Humanities

### Program Restrictions and Exclusions

Students pursuing the minor in Medical Humanities should be aware of the following program restriction:

- As noted in [Majors, Minors, and Certificates](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/>), i.) students may declare their intent to pursue a minor only after they have first declared a major, and ii.) students may not major and minor in the same subject.

### Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/>). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the designated transfer credit advisor for the appropriate academic department offering the Rice equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content). The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of [transfer credit advisors](https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/) (<https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/>) on their website: <https://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with the applicable transfer credit advisor as well as their academic program director when considering transfer credit possibilities.

### Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the minor in Medical Humanities should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing may apply towards the minor.
- Transfer credit received via the articulation of approved exam credit, such as Advanced Placement (AP) credit, International Baccalaureate (IB) credit, or A-level credit will not be considered towards minor requirements.

### Distribution Credit Information

The determination of distribution credit eligibility is done initially as part of the [new course creation process](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/>). Additionally, as part of an annual roll call ([https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution\\_credit/](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/)) coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution credit eligibility is

routinely reviewed and reaffirmed by the Dean's Offices of each of the academic schools.

Faculty and leadership in the academic schools are responsible for ensuring that the courses identified as distribution-credit-eligible meet the criteria as set in the [General Announcements \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text). Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet [graduation requirements \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) by completing coursework designated as distribution-credit-eligible at the time of course registration.

### Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Medical Humanities website: <https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/>.

## Opportunities for the Minor in Medical Humanities

### Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see [Latin Honors \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and [Distinction in Research and Creative Work \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

### Distinction in Research and Creative Work

Students completing the minor in Medical Humanities are eligible to apply for the university honor [Distinction in Research and Creative Work \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/). If awarded, Distinction will be noted on the student's transcript upon graduation and on commencement materials. All applications for Distinction will be judged by a committee of faculty affiliated with the program in Medical Humanities. Work deemed to be "above and beyond" expectation will be considered for Distinction..

- Applications for Distinction must be submitted via the application portal on or before the last day of classes in the spring semester by 5:00 pm.
- As part of the application for Distinction, students must submit a single-authored research or creative work, created for a Medical Humanities class, that represents the substantive output of a semester's work (length will vary by discipline).
- A typical assignment completed for a class will not be competitive for graduation with Distinction. Work that represents at least one semester of rigorous work will be eligible. Only work determined to be of extraordinary quality (and work that goes beyond requirements) will receive distinction.
- The student's project does not have to be completed, nor in its final format, to apply for Distinction. All final research and creative work materials will be due on the last day of classes.
- Applications must include a 1-page letter of support from a sponsoring faculty advisor. The faculty member must submit this letter through the application portal; the student may not submit the letter on behalf of the faculty member.
- Applications and eligibility guidelines are available on the Medical Humanities website at: <https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/>

[distinction-research-and-creative-work \(https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/distinction-research-and-creative-work/\)](https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/distinction-research-and-creative-work/)

### Annual Best Essay and Creative Work Competition

Students who take any approved Medical Humanities core course or elective course may submit an entry to the annual Best Essay and Creative Work competition. For details, see: <https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/annual-essay-competition> (<https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/annual-essay-competition/>)

### Experiential Learning

Advanced students in the Medical Humanities minor have the opportunity to conduct experiential learning and research in our practica and enroll in internships at Houston-area hospitals, archives, and community partner institutions when offered.

### Study Abroad

The Rice in Country, offered by the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication (CLIC), offers a six-week Rice faculty-led summer study abroad program for 6 credit hours in Pamplona, Spain (Rice in Spain), designed for students interested in pursuing a career in medicine or health-related professions. Students complete a total of 6 credit hours, either SPAN 322 **and** SPAN 324 **or** SPAN 324 **and** MDHM 420. SPAN 322 counts as an Elective toward the Medical Humanities minor, and MDHM 420 counts as a Practicum toward the Medical Humanities minor. (**Note:** SPAN 324 does *not* count towards minor requirements.) Admission to the program is subject to proficiency level exam and interview. For more information, please see the Rice in Spain website: <https://clic.rice.edu/study-abroad/spain> (<https://clic.rice.edu/study-abroad/spain/>).

### Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Medical Humanities website: <https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/>.