The Program in Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities (PJHC), provides students with a multifaceted understanding of human well-being. A key goal of the minor is to enrich students’ understanding of poverty and inequality, so that, regardless of their choice of occupation, PJHC alumni will maintain a longstanding commitment to enhancing the well-being of all people. More generally, the program trains Rice students to be future leaders in solving global problems.

This interdisciplinary minor emphasizes a “capabilities approach,” which considers what people are able to do and to be — for example, live to old age and engage in economic and political activities — rather than strictly what material goods they possess. The program also acknowledges the central importance of a variety of additional influences on well-being beyond income, such as gender, health status, racial and ethnic disparities, education, human rights, political freedoms, and material necessities, including food and shelter.

Although impediments to human well-being take many forms, barriers to the capabilities of women and girls persist across societies; women and girls are therefore disproportionately represented among the poor and those unable to attain their full capabilities. The academic component of the program, including the content of core and required courses, acknowledges gender inequality as a powerful influence on disparities in human well-being and recognizes gender as a central analytic category.

For Rice University degree-granting programs:
To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice’s Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)
To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.cat)

Description and Code Legend
Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule
• Course offerings/subject codes: Courses from various subject codes may apply toward the minor.

Program Description and Code
• Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities: PJHC

Undergraduate Minor Description and Code
• Minor in Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities: PJHC

Minor

Poverty, Justice and Human Capabilities does not currently offer an academic program at the graduate level.