

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
 Health and Human Sciences**

USC Department of Sociology

Total units: 41-44

The field of healthcare, including medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, and allied health providers, has changed so dramatically over the last twenty-five years that our traditional approach to training undergraduates has become obsolete. The traditional biology degree does not adequately provide the student with the knowledge to pursue a career in health. Preparing for a career in health requires an interdisciplinary approach with a foundation of science. A scientific background is only about half of what it takes to be a good practitioner: the other half is the “human” component. As stated by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the doctor must be able to appreciate the diverse populations they work with and “have a clear understanding of the impact of behavior on health”. This requires understanding how psychological, cultural, social, economic, ethical, and biological factors influence our lives and most importantly, our health.

The Health and Human Sciences curriculum combines all the necessary science, social science, humanities, and critical thinking concepts, as well as field experience, in order to educate a broadly thinking and prepared premedical student. The major is designed so that every student will be able to choose a semester abroad program as a component of this major. Lastly, this major is open to all students. Students are not required to pursue a pre-health track to declare this major.

Lower Division Core Requirements (16 Units)

Course Prefix	Course Title	Units
BISC 150Lx	The Nature of Human Health and Disease, OR	
BISC 120Lg	General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution, OR	
BISC 220Lg	General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology	4
CHEM 105aL	General Chemistry	4
MATH 114x	Foundations of Statistics, OR	
MATH 125	Calculus I, OR	
MATH 208x *	Elementary Probability and Statistics	4
SOCI 242	Sociology, Human Behavior, and Health	4

* BISC 305, HP 305, HP 340, PSYC 274 may be taken in place of MATH 208 to fulfill the Statistics pre-health requirement.

Modules in the Human Sciences (16 Units)

Choose to complete **one module** option among the six below:

A. Health, Gender, and Ethnicity (4 Courses)		
ANTH 125	Social Issues in Sexuality and Reproduction, OR	
SWMS 225	Gender, Sex, and Science: A Gender Studies Approach	4
ANTH 305	Childhood, Birth, and Reproduction	4
PSYC 462m	Culture and Mental Health	4

SWMS 336	Health, Gender, and Ethnicity, OR	
SWMS 420	Women, Nature, and Culture: The Behavioral Ecology of Women	4

B. Health and the Mind (4 Courses)		
PSYC 100Lg	Introduction to Psychology	4
PSYC 336L	Developmental Psychology, OR	
PSYC 367g	Stress, Health, and the Mind-Body Connection	4
PSYC 360	Abnormal Psychology	4
PSYC 462m	Culture and Mental Health, OR	
PSYC 361	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	4

C. International Health (4 Courses)		
ANTH 101	Illness and Healing: The Cross-Cultural Perspective, OR	
ANTH 105	Culture, Medicine, and Politics	4
IR 339	Public Health and International Relations	4
IR 306	International Organizations, OR	
IR 371	Global Civil Society: Non-State Actors in World Politics	4
IR 382w	Order and Disorder in Global Affairs, OR	
SOCI 362	Global and Transnational Sociology	4

D. Sociology of Health (4 Courses)		
SOCI 200	Introduction to Sociology, OR	
SOCI 225	Sociology of Health and the Body	4
SOCI 360m	Social Inequality: Class, Status, and Power	4
ANTH 336	Health, Gender, and Ethnicity, OR	
IR 339	Public Health and International Relations	4
SOCI 475	Medical Sociology	4

E. Health and Aging (4 Courses)		
GERO 320	Psychology of Adult Development, OR	
GERO 330	Society and Adult Development	4
GERO 340	Policy, Values, and Power in an Aging Society, OR	
GERO 437	Social and Psychological Aspects of Death and Dying	4
GERO 380	Diversity in Aging, OR	
GERO 435	Women and Aging: Psychological, Social, and Political Implications	4
GERO 416	Health Issues in Adulthood	4

F. Biology of Health (4 Courses)		
HBIO 300	Evolution, Ecology, and Culture	4
HBIO 301L	Human Anatomy	4
HBIO 302	Nutrition and Metabolism, OR	
BISC 450L	Principles of Immunology	4
BISC 307	General Physiology, OR	
HBIO 420	Applied Human Physiology	4

Experiential Learning Component (1-4 Units)

Choose one course from the list below:

AMST 365	Leadership in the Community	4
GERO 495	Practicum in Geriatric Care	4
MDA 250	Internship for Liberal Arts: Work and Career—Theory and Practice	1-2
POSC 395	Directed Governmental and Political Leadership Internship	4
SOCI 450	Non-Governmental Organizations/Non-profits Field Practicum	4
SWMS 311	Gender Studies in the Community: Internship	4

Upper-Division Electives (8 Units)

Choose two courses from the list below **OR** one from this list and one upper-division elective from a different module option that you have not completed.

BISC 312	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, OR	
CHEM 350	Molecular Principles of Biochemistry	4
BISC 325	Genetics	4
BISC 406L	Biotechnology	4
BISC 421	Neurobiology	4
BISC 440	Biodemography of Aging	4
CHEM 322A	Organic Chemistry A	4
HBIO 405	Evolutionary Medicine	4
HIST 330	Drugs, Diseases, and Medicine in History	4
MDA 320	Global Ethics: Poverty, Health, and the Human Condition	4
PSYC 320	Principles of Psychobiology, OR	
PSYC 326	Behavioral Neuroscience	4
PSYC 337L	Adult Development and Aging	4
PSYC 355	Social Psychology	4
REL 460	Senior Seminar: Medical ethics	4
SOCI 305m	Sociology of Childhood	4
SOCI 331	Cities	4
SOCI 342	Race Relations	4
SOCI 369	Changing Family Forms	4
SSCI 340	Community Health Scan	4

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For additional information, contact an advisor:

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To make an appointment with an advisor: <https://www.usc.edu/advise>