

Section I: Action

The University of Utah Department of Anthropology is requesting a transcript designation ("Anthropology with health emphasis") that will recognize completion of a course of study in its existing health emphasis track. The track was initiated in 2008 with the approval of the College of Social and Behavioral Science in order to provide an appropriate curriculum for students preparing to enter medical and other health-related professional schools. The program educates students about (a) the interactions between biological, environmental and social factors influencing health and illness, (b) human adaptation and maladaptation from an evolutionary perspective, and (c) how systems of medical knowledge and health care vary across cultures.

The program includes courses in two sub-fields of Anthropology: (1) Human Biology, which focuses on human biological diversity and adaptation, and (2) Medical Anthropology, which emphasizes the cultural context of health and disease. Both fields have a recognized knowledge base, and each has its own professional organization and journals. For more information about the Human Biology Association and the American Journal of Human Biology, see <http://www.humbio.org>. For more information about the Society for Medical Anthropology, see <http://www.medanthro.net>.

Both Human Biology and Medical Anthropology provide relevant background and training for medical professionals, but we feel that the best preparation combines the biological and the cultural, and the track includes courses in both. The broader designation "health emphasis" was suggested by the University pre-professional advising office because there is precedent for that terminology and because it would be widely understood.

There are two components to the curriculum: (a) Anthropology courses with health content and (b) allied courses that satisfy prerequisites for Medical and other health-related professional schools. The Anthropology courses include a required course in Medical Anthropology, plus a choice of Maternal and Child Health, Evolution of Human Health, or Human Biology, plus three electives from a broader list of medically-relevant courses. The allied courses required to meet professional school entrance requirements are also specified in the program materials, together with additional recommended courses suggested by our alumni. The course of study is attached.

The number of Anthropology credit hours in the new program is identical to that of the regular program (33-34), but the total number of credit hours is normally larger because of the additional pre-professional requirements in biology and other disciplines.

Section II: Need

Medical schools are looking for applicants from a diversity of majors. Anthropology has always been a suitable major, but because it is a very broad field in comparison to most other pre-med majors, students benefit from the more focused curriculum and guidance the health emphasis track provides. For the same reason, the transcript designation will be helpful to both students and professional schools in conveying information about that specialized preparation. Students in the track are eager to have their preparation recognized in this way. Response to the health emphasis track has been enthusiastic, with 70 students enrolled since its inception in 2008.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The track should have negligible impact on other departments, and advising is being handled adequately by existing Anthropology staff. No new facilities or equipment are required.

Section IV: Finances

There will be no financial impact on the department or university.

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All courses must be completed with a "C" grade or better and one must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0

Introductory Anthropology: 3 courses
(9 hrs)

1010 Culture & the human experience

PLUS any two of:

1020 Human origins: evolution and diversity

1030 World prehistory: An introduction

1050 The evolution of human nature

ANTH 3001: 1 course (1 hr)

Study Resources in Anthropology

Statistics: 1 course (3-4 hrs)

Medical Anthropology: 2 courses (6 hrs):

4193 Medical Anthropology

PLUS at least one of:

4133 Maternal and Child Health

4252 Human Biology

4291 Evolution of Human Health

Geographical area courses: 2 courses
(6 hrs):

Any two of Anthropology 3111-3961.

Independent research:

4990 Independent research, health emphasis track, or equivalent

Electives: 3 courses (9 hrs) (in addition to above):

3211 Biology of Native Americans

4130 The Anthropology of Food

4133 Maternal and Child Health

4138 Anthropology of Violence and Non-Violence

4183 Sex and Gender: Biosocial Perspectives

4192 Culture, Health, and Healing

4231 Soc Consequences of Human Biol. Div.

4242 Anthropology of Clinical Health Care

4252 Human Biology

4271 Human Osteology

4272 Forensic Anthropology

4291 Evolution of Human Health

4334 Population Issues in Anthropology

4372 Zooarchaeology

4461 Behavioral Ecology and Anthropology

4481 Evolutionary Psychology

5221 Human Evolutionary Genetics (4 hrs)

In addition to the courses listed above, health emphasis students must complete the admission requirements for medical school or another professional health-related graduate program. These requirements are listed in the full Health Emphasis Brochure.