Scholarly Concentration in Humanities and Social Sciences

Outline for Students

The Scholarly Concentration in Humanities and Social Sciences provides an opportunity to pursue mentored advanced work in one or more HSS fields—including: philosophy of medicine/medical ethics; history of medicine; anthropology or sociology of medicine; health care politics and policy; social epidemiology, health equity and disparities; health services research; law and medicine; literature and medicine; medical STS (science, technology, and society); gender/sexuality studies and medicine; disability studies; postcolonial studies of medicine; and creative artistic studies of medicine with analytical, interpretive, and/or critical dimensions.[1] Students may apply to the HSS Scholarly Concentration in any semester of their training. Students' entry to the program, their progress, and certification of their cumulated scholarly efforts will be overseen by a HSS SC program committee.

Program Requirements:

A) Students will complete at least **6 hours of elective work or course work in an HSS area** supervised by a faculty member affiliated with the Concentration. This will involve a **scholarly project with a final presentation or paper** or both.[2]

AND

B) Students will document at least **2 longitudinal scholarly engagements with HSS**, such as:

1. **An "honors-equivalent" performance in Social & Health Systems 1 or 2**, (previously PD) or **SHS 3** (Advanced Seminars in the Humanities and Social Sciences).
2. Attendance at 6 or more **extracurricular lectures**/discussions in HSS fields during medical school, with completion of 2-page precis summary/reaction papers for each.[3]
3. Construction of 2 **HSS enrichment documents** to complement specific topics in Medical Science organ system blocks—or comparable work on **HSS videos/modules** in Application or Individualization Phases.
4. Substantive contribution to **other HSS pedagogical agendas** in the TEC curriculum—e.g.: mapping HSS "hooks" in Medical Science lectures; developing the Foundation curriculum in

[1] Artistic projects will require explicit connection to medicine or health, and scholarly examination: thickening of contexts, account of production, or theorizing – to open black boxes of artistic "creation" and "appreciation."

[2] This would typically (but not necessarily) consist of a SOCM elective taken during a 4-week block of Individualization phase. Every SOCM elective is developed in consultation with a Social Medicine faculty member. A student's desire to develop a SOCM elective at any juncture of medical school should be discussed with the Social Medicine elective director, Dr. Saunders. Electives with significant HSS dimensions that are completed outside Social Medicine may also be considered for Scholarly Concentration approval.

[3] Many such events occur outside the medical school. Sponsoring organizations include: Department of Social Medicine; Center for Bioethics; Center for Health Equity; Center for Genomics & Society; Bullitt History of Medicine Club; Moral Economies of Medicine Working Group; Carolina Seminar on Critical Global Health; Carolina Seminar on Interdisciplinary Health Humanities; Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, & History of Medicine (Duke); Health Humanities Venue for Interdisciplinary Exploration (HHIVE); etc. Events can be at UNC or Duke. Student will submit these precis summaries to the HSS Coil director. Each should also be approved by some faculty member who attended the same event. (Securing this approval is the student's responsibility.)

sexuality and sexual health; clarifying use of racial & ethnic categories in Foundation Phase courses; development of HSS aspects of military health considerations across the curriculum; development of health disparities or structural competence sessions in Application Phase Intensives.

5. Service as student representative on the **Hospital Ethics Committee**.
6. Presentation of an **HSS research poster** on Student Research Day (with an approved HSS mentor), or co-authorship of a **scholarly article** in an HSS journal.
7. Substantial role in academic engagements of a social advocacy project, local chapter of a national group, or **SOM student interest group,** (e.g.: Bullitt History of Medicine Club; Clinical Ethics Discussion Group; STS Interest Group; the GLBTSA, Health Policy Interest Group; DEI trainings or initiatives; Latino/a Medical Student Association; Physicians for Human Rights; etc.).
8. **Additional coursework** in HSS fields—for SOM elective credit, SPH credit,[4] or credit in another graduate program. This could include international electives with a robust HSS dimension.
9. Significant contributions to **organization/hosting of HSS conferences**, workshops, visits of HSS scholars from other institutions, etc.
10. **Creative artistic projects**, performed, published, or otherwise recognized (e.g. work in *Iris;* work awarded the Alan W. Cross Social Medicine Paper Prize), that have HSS scholarly dimensions (e.g. through framing/contextualizing liner notes).
11. Additional examples of substantive scholarly achievement that can be considered by the HSS Scholarly Concentration Program Committee.

HSS Scholarly Concentration Faculty & Program Committee

Affiliate faculty in the Concentration includes: faculty members of the Department of Social Medicine, clinician instructors in the SHS course series; other scholars in the SOM who work in HSS fields; faculty from the wider UNC campus working in medical humanities or other HSS fields.

The HSS Scholarly Concentration Committee includes a rotating subset of these: directors of the SHS courses; Department of Social Medicine Chair; Bullitt History of Medicine Club faculty advisor; Center for Bioethics director & associate director; Center for Health Equity director; Center for Genomics & Society director; Moral Economies of Medicine Working Group convener; ethics coordinators on Asheville and Charlotte campuses; other core HSS faculty members.

[4] Examples of SPH courses include courses in health disparities, or EPID 891. There is also precedent for SPH to grant credit for approved coursework in Arts & Sciences.

Student Application

The HSS Scholarly Concentration will be introduced to students as part of the SHS Courses (formerly PD) in the Foundation Phase. Application to the HSS Concentration may be made by students at specific times stipulated by the medical school (presently once annually in fall). Application should include a 1-page explanation of HSS interests and background, and anticipations of possible HSS scholarly activities, including elective coursework and/or mentor/s for a scholarly project. An interview/consultation with an HSS Concentration faculty member may follow. The number of "concentrating" students in a class will be limited to ten initially (expansion is possible).

Student Progress & Evaluation

Student progress within the HSS Scholarly Concentration will be reviewed annually by the Concentration Committee. A note of participation in the Concentration can be included in the Dean's Letter to residency programs. Final certification of academic success within the HSS Scholarly Concentration Program will be made by April prior to graduation, by the HSS Concentration Committee. Certification will be based on: coursework evaluations (including narrative evaluations in PD courses and HSS elective/s); review of scholarly portfolio (including scholarly framings of artistic work); a final presentation at a March symposium; possibly a final interview with members of the Concentration faculty. Students who do not complete the HSS Scholarly Concentration Program will not be penalized.

Student Activities

Students in the HSS Scholarly Concentration will be advised periodically of HSS events (such as Social Medicine talks, ethics rounds, etc.) as well as special opportunities to meet and converse with HSS faculty and with each other. These include informal lunch meetings at the Beach (or on Zoom) the 3rd Wednesday each month. Students are encouraged to share their work, interests, and news of HSS events within and across class cohorts via group email. Graduating students will make brief presentations of their HSS projects to their classmates during Capstone week.

Faculty Contacts for 2020-21

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