HEALTH AND SOCIETIES, BA: GLOBAL HEALTH

The Health and Societies (HSOC) major examines health and medicine in social context, equipping students with the critical faculties and multidisciplinary skills that will prepare them for careers in public health, health services, and a variety of other arenas. The program is built on the foundation of three core disciplines: anthropology, history, and sociology. Methods and courses from other disciplines and fields—including epidemiology, political science, business/economics, law, environmental studies, and bioethics—supplement the core disciplines and provide majors with the variety of skills necessary to grasp the forces that have shaped our contemporary health landscapes. The Health and Societies graduate is a "multilingual" scholar and citizen, fluent in the methods and perspectives of several social science disciplines - theoretically informed but practically minded, with a global outlook and local experience.

The minimum total course units (https://www.college.upenn.edu/credits-needed-major/) for graduation in this major is 34. Double majors may entail more course units.

For more information: https://hss.sas.upenn.edu/undergraduate/health-societies-major (https://hss.sas.upenn.edu/undergraduate/health-societies-major/)

For information about the General Education requirements, please visit the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum (https://www.college.upenn.edu/curriculum/) page.

Code	Title	Course Units
College General Education Requirements and Free Electives		
Foundational Approaches + Sectors[1] + Free Electives		20
Major Requirements		
Foundation Requirement		
HSOC 0480	Health and Societies	1
or HSOC 0490	Comparative Medicine	
Quantitative Methods		
HSOC 2002/ SOCI 2000	Sociological Research Methods [2]	1
or HSOC 2202/ SOCI 2220	Health of Populations	
Core Discipline		
HSOC 0400	Medicine in History	1
or HSOC 1411	American Health Policy	
or HSOC 1401	The Peoples Health	
HSOC 1382	Introduction to Medical Anthropology	1
or HSOC 1222	Medical Sociology	
HSOC or STSC Electives		
Select 3 HSOC or STSC Electives (Any courses with HSOC or STSC or Attribute AHSM)		3
Global Health Concentration		
Select 1 Core Course on World Health (Attribute AHSW)		1
Select 1 Regional Course (Attribute AHSR)		1
Select 4 Global Health Concentration Electives (Attribute AHSG)		4
Capstone Research Requirement		
Select 1 4000-level HSOC or STSC Research Seminar		1
Total Course Units		**34**

1 You may count no more than one course toward both a Major and a Sector requirement. For Exceptions, check the Policy Statement (http://www.college.upenn.edu/sectors-policy/).

2 HSOC 2002 Sociological Research Methods is cross listed with SOCI 2000 Sociological Research Methods and HSOC 2202 Health of Populations is cross listed with SOCI 2220 Health of Populations.

Honors

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.6 in the major and 3.3 overall. Students should complete their capstone paper in the spring of their Junior year or Fall of their senior year and must obtain the support of a faculty advisor before applying for an Independent Study (HSOC 4980) to complete the Honors thesis.

Code	Title	Course Units
Honors Thesis (non-course requirement QST)		

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2026 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Course Units
First Year		
Fall		
Fall Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
Spring		
Spring Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
Second Year		
Fall		
Fall Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
Spring		
Spring Courses		4
	Course Units	**4.00**
Third Year		
Fall		
Fall Courses		4.5
	Course Units	**4.50**
Spring		
Spring Courses		4.5
	Course Units	**4.50**

Fourth Year		
Fall		
Fall Courses		4.5
	Course Units	**4.50**
Spring		
Spring Courses		4.5
	Course Units	**4.50**
	Total Course Units	**34.00**