

Medical Humanities Major

Want to study the human side of illness, death, and medicine? Interested in a health career?

The Medical Humanities investigates the human experience of health and illness. Med Hum majors learn how different social contexts, belief systems, historical traditions, and literary works shape global and national perspectives on disease and the healing arts. Our students explore such diverse subjects as the ethics of care, the nature of death and dying, body image, patient advocacy, narrative medicine, disabilities rights, medical racism, reproductive autonomy, genetic counselling, arts-based therapies, public health, health policy, and the history of madness.

Flexible curriculum

The Medical Humanities major offers a broad and flexible curriculum. Majors take core courses in Bioethics, Medical Anthropology, and Literature and Illness and fulfill additional requirements through a choice of offerings in Psychology, History, Sociology, Religious Studies, Child Advocacy, and Biology. Majors also pursue individual academic and career goals by choosing one of 4 tracks of electives:

- Track 1: Caregiving, Aging Studies, and Disability Studies
- Track 2: Communication and Advocacy
- Track 3: Human Biology and Psychological Well-Being
- Track 4: Community and Public Health

Capstone project

In their final year, all Med Hum majors work one-on-one with a faculty supervisor to create a capstone project, one that may involve placement in healthcare institutions or health-related organizations in New Jersey and New York City.

A competitive edge for the job market

The Medical Humanities major gives students a competitive edge in the healthcare industries—the fastest growing sector of the economy today. Med Hum majors acquire knowledge in diverse healthcare fields as well as the transferable job skills that employers seek most: writing skills, oral communication, critical thinking, and ethical decision-making. Med Hum graduates find employment opportunities in hospitals, insurance carriers, universities, pharmaceutical companies, nursing facilities, physicians' offices, retirement communities, and outpatient centers. A degree in Medical Humanities also helps prepare students for medical school and law school as well as a range of interdisciplinary PhD programs in the humanities and social sciences.

Contact Information

Dr. Jeff Gatrall
Director of Medical Humanities
Schmitt Hall 241M
gatrallj@mail.montclair.edu