

MEDICINE, SCIENCE, AND THE HUMANITIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS

Medicine, Science, and the Humanities Requirements

(Also see Requirements for a Bachelor's Degree. (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/ksas-wse/undergraduate-policies/academic-policies/requirements-bachelors-degree/>))

This is an interdisciplinary, humanities-based major using cultural and historical contexts to explore scientific inquiry and the roots of medicine. The Medicine, Science, and the Humanities major is ideal for students who plan to pursue careers in the science and health professions, students interested in issues of importance to science and medicine, and students who plan to pursue graduate work in a range of humanities, social science, or professional disciplines.

Students complete two introductory courses, a focus area in a core humanities area, foreign language through the intermediate level, three humanities elective courses (9 credits) at the 300-400 level (offered through the Medicine, Science, and the Humanities Program, cross-listed with MSH, or with the POS-Tag MSCH-HUM), three science elective courses (9 credits) with the Science and Data foundational ability tag from approved departments (one must be at the 200-level or higher, two must be in the same department). A minimum grade of C- or better is required for all courses applying towards major requirements and courses may not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Courses directly equivalent to JHU courses from study abroad or taken at other universities may count towards requirements; however non-direct equivalent courses must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies for the major.

Students must complete at least 6 credits of Writing and Communication foundational ability coursework in one major. For this major, students would be able to fulfill this requirement by completing AS.145.219 Science Studies and Medical Humanities: Theory and Methods, a required 3 credit course of the major, and by selecting one of their electives (at least 3 credits) for the major that is designated as a Writing and Communications course.

Major Requirements:

Code	Title	Credits
AS.145.10x or AS.145.11x	One introductory medical humanities course	3
AS.145.219	Science Studies and Medical Humanities: Theory and Methods	3
Four courses in one pre-approved humanities focus area ¹		12
Foreign language through the intermediate level ²		12-18
Six additional courses totaling at least 18 credits in the humanities and sciences		18
Three must be in the humanities with POS-Tag MSCH-HUM at the 300 or 400 level		
Three must be in the sciences (courses with a science and data tag) ³		
Total Credits		48-54

¹ See choices in **Focus Area choices** below.

² Languages that currently apply automatically include: Akkadian, American Sign Language, Ancient Greek, Arabic, Biblical Hebrew, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Middle Egyptian, Portuguese, Russian, Sanskrit, Spanish, Yiddish, and Sumerian. Students should speak to the DUS if they wish to request that languages not taught at JHU apply.

³ Two of the science courses must be from the same department (or cross-listed with the same department) and one of them must be at the 200-level or higher.

To fulfill the MSH science elective requirements, the program will accept courses from these departments: Behavioral Biology, Biology, Biophysics, Chemistry, Cognitive Science, Earth and Planetary Science, Neuroscience, Physics and Astronomy, Computer Science, Mathematics, Engineering (all (<https://engineering.jhu.edu/education/academic-departments/>) undergraduate programs, except the Center for Leadership Education). All courses must carry the Science and Data foundational ability tag.

Focus Area Choices: Africana Studies*

Code	Title	Credits
AS.362.111	Introduction to African American Studies	3
One Africana Foundations course (select 1 course on the period of enslavement OR 1 course focused on the African continent)		3
Two Africana Studies electives at the 300 level or higher; if the Africana Foundations course is at the 300+ level, a student may take one Africana Studies elective course at the 100-400 level and one at the 300+ level		6
Total Credits		12

* CORRECTION - 10/14/2025 - AS.362.111 is no longer offered. AS.362.112 Introduction to Africana Studies is the course needed to fulfill the above requirement.

Anthropology

Code	Title	Credits
Two courses in the Anthropology Department at the 100-400 level (AS.070.1xx-AS.070.4xx)		6
Two courses in the Anthropology Department at the 300-400 level (AS.070.3xx-AS.070.4xx)		6
Total Credits		12

Archaeology

Code	Title	Credits
AS.136.101	Introduction To Archaeology	3
or AS.130.177 World Prehistory: An Anthropological Perspective		
One course with POS-Tag ARCH-ARCH at the 100-400 level		3
Two courses with POS-Tag ARCH-ARCH at the 300-400 level		6
Total Credits		12

Bioethics

Code	Title	Credits
AS.150.219	Introduction to Bioethics	3
AS.150.220	Introduction to Moral Philosophy	3

Two courses in the Philosophy Department (AS.150.3xx-4xx) with POS-Tag PHIL-BIOETH at the 300-400 level	6
Total Credits	12

Classics

Code	Title	Credits
Two Classics courses (or cross-listed with Classics) at the 100-400 level		6
Two Classics courses (or cross-listed with Classics) at the 300-400 level		6
Total Credits		12

East Asian Studies

East Asian language courses cannot be used to fulfill the focus area requirement. However, students pursuing the East Asian focus area are encouraged to study an East Asian language to fulfill the foreign language requirement of the Medicine, Science, and Humanities major.

Code	Title	Credits
Two East Asian Studies courses (or cross-listed with East Asian Studies) at the 100-400 level		6
Two East Asian Studies courses (or cross-listed with East Asian Studies) at the 300-400 level		6
Total Credits		12

English

Code	Title	Credits
AS.060.107	Introduction to Literary Study	3
One period or theme course at any level **		3
Two courses in the English department at the 300-400 level (AS.060.3xx-4xx courses)		6
Total Credits		12

** To identify these courses, students should select one course with either the POS-Tag of ENGL-PR1800 or ENGL-GLOBAL. If this course is at the 300 or 400 level in the English department, students will need another English course at the 100-400 level to complete a total of 4 courses for the focus area.

Film and Media Studies

Students are encouraged to take AS.061.226 Special Topics: Writing About Film. This will count as the 200 level course with the POS-Tag FILM-CRITST.

Code	Title	Credits
AS.061.140	Introduction to Cinema, 1892-1960	3
or AS.061.141	Introduction to Cinema, 1960-present	
One course with POS-Tag FILM-CRITST at the 200 level		3
Two courses with POS-Tag FILM-CRITST at the 300-400 level		6
Total Credits		12

German

One of the four courses may be taught in English (identified with POS-Tag MLL-ENGL).

Code	Title	Credits
Four courses designated AS.210.3xx (German language only); AS.211.3xx-4xx (with POS-TAG GRLL-GERM) and AS.213.3xx-4xx ¹		12

¹ AS.210.xxx courses taught in German that apply are: AS.210.361, AS.210.362, AS.210.363, or AS.210.365.

History

Code	Title	Credits
AS.100.293	Historical Methods, Archives and Interpretations	3
One course in the History Department at the 100-200 level (AS.100.1xx-2xx)		3
Two courses in the History Department at the 300-400 level (AS.100.3xx-4xx)		6
Total Credits		12

History of Art

Code	Title	Credits
AS.010.101	Introduction to Art History, Pre-1400	4
or AS.010.102	Introduction to Art History, 1400 to the Present	
One History of Art course (cross-listed with History of Art) at the 200-400 level		3
Two History of Art courses (or cross-listed with History of Art) at the 300-400 level		6
Total Credits		13

History of Science, Medicine, and Technology

Code	Title	Credits
One survey course selected from:		3
AS.140.105	History of Medicine	
AS.140.105	History of Medicine	
AS.140.301	History of Science: Antiquity To Renaissance	
AS.140.302	Rise Of Modern Science	
AS.140.321	Scientific Revolution	
One History of Science, Medicine, & Technology course (or cross-listed) at the 100-400 level		3
Two History of Science, Medicine & Technology courses (or cross-listed) at the 300-400 level		6
Total Credits		12

Italian

Code	Title	Credits
AS.210.351	Advanced Italian I	3
AS.210.352	Advanced Italian II	3
AS.214.362	Italian Journeys: Medieval and Early Modern	3
or AS.214.363	Italian Journeys: An Other Story	
One course AS.211.2xx-4xx with POS-Tag MLL-ITAL or AS.214.2xx-4xx		3
Total Credits		12

Latin American Studies

Code	Title	Credits
One survey course: ¹		3
AS.100.115	Modern Latin America	

One course cross-listed with Latin American Studies at the 100-400 level	3
Two courses cross-listed with Latin American Studies at the 300-400 level	6
Total Credits	12

¹ If offered, AS.100.105 and AS.100.239 would also apply.

Near Eastern Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Two Near Eastern Studies courses (or cross-listed with Near Eastern Studies) at the 100-400 level		6
Two Near Eastern Studies courses (or cross-listed with Near Eastern Studies) at the 300-400 level		6
Total Credits		12

Philosophy

Of the four required courses, at least two courses must be at the 300-400 level. Either AS.150.111 or AS.150.112 Philosophical Problems will count, but not both.

Code	Title	Credits
One course in philosophy of science ¹		3
One course with POS-Tag PHIL-ANCIEN, PHIL-MODERN, PHIL-ETHICS, or PHIL-MIND		3
Two additional philosophy courses		6
Total Credits		12

¹ Philosophy of science courses will have the POS-Tag PHIL-LOGSCI. However, as some courses with this POS-Tag are focused solely on logic and not science, students will need to speak to the director of undergraduate studies to confirm if a course will apply.

Science and Technology Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Two MSH listed courses at any level (AS.145.XX)		6
One MSH listed course at the 300+ level		3
AS.145.39x Advanced Topics in Medicine, Science, and the Humanities		3

Writing Seminars

Code	Title	Credits
AS.220.105 Introduction to Fiction & Poetry I or AS.220.108 Introduction to Fiction & Nonfiction		3
AS.220.106 Introduction to Fiction & Poetry II		3
AS.220.200 The Craft of Fiction or AS.220.201 The Craft of Poetry		3
One course in the Writing Seminars Department at the 300-400 level (AS.220.3xx-4xx)		3
MSH majors with a focus area in Writing Seminars are required to take a 4th MSH humanities elective at the 300+ level		
Total Credits		12

Sample Program of Study

A typical program might include the following sequence of courses:

First Year			
First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
Foreign language	4	Foreign language	4
AS.145.10x or AS.145.11x course	3	Natural science course at the 100 level	3
Natural science course at the 100 level	3	Course in selected focus area at any level	3
		10	10

Second Year			
First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
AS.145.219	3	Foreign language	3
Foreign language	3	Course selected focus area at any level	3
Natural science course at the 200 level	3		
		9	6

Third Year			
First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
Course in selected focus area at the 300-400 level	3	Course in selected focus area at the 300-400 level	3
		300-400 level Humanities elective with POS-Tag MSCH-HUM	3
		3	3

Fourth Year			
First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
300-400 level Humanities elective with POS-Tag MSCH-HUM	3	300-400 level Humanities elective with POS-Tag MSCH-HUM	3
		3	3

Total Credits 47

Honors in the Major

Honors will be offered as an option to juniors with a minimum GPA of 3.50 in major requirements. Honors work will require enrollment in two courses, culminating with an original thesis paper (or equivalent scholarly or creative work) approximately 20-25 pages in length, whose topic is closely related to the student's humanities core area. Thesis projects may be supervised by a faculty member in the student's core area, or by another faculty member with expertise relevant to the topic. In either case the supervisory/mentoring role will be by arrangement between the student, MSH Director of Undergraduate Studies, and the faculty member being solicited. All topics and supervisors are to be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Juniors interested in pursuing the honors option must apply with the Director of Undergraduate Studies by the end of the junior year spring semester. The application requires development of an approved research proposal with an accompanying mentorship plan.

For the first course requirement, all students hoping to pursue honors in the major must take the MSH Capstone course (AS.145.350 MSH Research Capstone) in the spring of their junior year. This capstone course may count as a 300 level MSCH-HUM POS-Tagged course only if the student does not pursue honors. If the student pursues honors, they must take three other 300 level MSCH-HUM POS-Tagged courses. Completion of this course does not require a student to write a thesis in

the senior year nor does it guarantee a student will be approved to write an honors thesis.

Students are expected to write their thesis in fall of their senior year by enrolling in an honors-specific "MSH Honors Thesis Seminar" course for 3 credits. These credits do not count as fulfilling a requirement of the major.