

Scholarly Concentration in Humanities and Social Sciences

Fall 2023 Revision

Outline for Students

The Scholarly Concentration in Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS-SC) 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 enrolled in the HSS-SC as of Fall 2023 will continue to receive support for and recognition of their ongoing work. New student applicants from any class cohort may be accepted on an *ad hoc* basis if they have qualifying HSS elective plans in place. 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 culminating in a paper or presentation**.² Students make a further brief presentation of this project in in a Symposium during the spring of their graduation year.

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 or 3.**
2. An excellent portfolio of writing from SHS1-3 and SHS4/RICE.
3. Attendance at 4 or more extracurricular lectures/events in HSS fields during medical school, with completion of 2-page precis summary/reaction papers for each.³

¹ Artistic projects need 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 elective work would typically (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 in other departments or institutions 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; Health Humanities Venue for Interdisciplinary Exploration (HHIVE); Carolina Seminar on Critical Global Health; Carolina Seminar on Interdisciplinary Health Humanities; Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, & History of Medicine (Duke). Events can be at UNC or Duke. Student will submit

4. Substantive contribution to **HSS pedagogical agendas** in the TEC curriculum—e.g.: curricular interventions around health equity/social justice; development of **HSS enrichment materials** to complement specific topics in Medical Science organ system blocks—or topics in Application or Individualization Phases.
5. Service 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; Med Student Pride Alliance; Physicians for Human Rights; Health Policy Interest Group; DEI trainings or initiatives; [Latino/a Medical Student Association](#); 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](#) or [The Health Humanities Journal](#); 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.

these precis summaries to one of the HSS Faculty Contacts. Each should also be approved by some faculty member who attended the same event. (Securing this approval is the student's responsibility.)

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

Student Application

Commencing Fall 2023, application to the HSS Concentration may be made by students from any class cohort directly to the program directors. Application should include a 1-page explanation of HSS interests and background, and specific plans for HSS scholarly activities, especially mentored elective coursework. Students will be accepted only if a faculty elective preceptor has already agreed to mentor their project. Interviews/consultations with HSS Concentration faculty members can be requested at any time.

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 in the noon hour of every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Students are encouraged to share work, interests, and news of HSS events within and across class cohorts via group email or announcements through the Sakai site in which all are enrolled (which will transition over winter 2023-24 to a Canvas site). Graduating students will make brief presentations of their HSS projects to their classmates in a HSS Scholarly Concentration Symposium during Capstone week.

Faculty Contacts for 2023-24

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