

Postgraduate Education & Career Pathways in Health Humanities

Are you interested in developing your qualifications as a researcher, educator, or practitioner at the intersection of arts, humanities, and health? If you're an undergraduate looking for further training, or if you are interested in graduate degrees and diplomas in relevant fields (such as bioethics, disability studies, or art therapy, for example), read on.

This document is primarily focused on Health Humanities postgraduate education and training programs in Canada (with a few exceptions). Don't see your postgraduate program here? Contact us:

<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/labs/scope/contact/>

What is Health Humanities?

Over the past thirty years, health professional education has undergone a shift in attitude and disciplinary culture by balancing a conventional emphasis on biomedical knowledge with the so-called "soft" skills of communication, interpretation, and observation honed by the arts and humanities.

The flourishing interdisciplinary field known as Health Humanities—which explores human health and illness through the methods and materials of the creative arts and humanities—is one of the most vibrant outcomes of that shift.

What does Health Humanities research look like?

Research in Health Humanities is interdisciplinary, intellectually rigorous, and varied, with a wide range of applied and critical-theoretical purposes. Begin by introducing yourself to some of peer-reviewed scholarly journals dedicated to Health (or "medical") Humanities for more insight into current research and debates in this field.

Selected Health Humanities-Related Publications:

The British Medical Journal's Medical Humanities > <http://mh.bmj.com>
Journal of Medical Humanities > <https://link.springer.com/journal/10912>
Literature and Medicine > <https://www.pressjhu.edu/journals/literature-and-medicine>
Disability Studies Quarterly > <http://dsq-sds.org>
American Journal of Bioethics > <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uajb20/current>
Academic Medicine > <http://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/pages/default.aspx>
Arts and Health: An International Journal for Research, Policy and Practice > <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rahe20/current>
Bulletin of the History of Medicine > <https://www.pressjhu.edu/journals/bulletin-history-medicine>
Ars Medica > <http://www.ars-medica.ca/>
Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine > <http://www.theintima.org/>
Rhetoric of Health & Medicine (RHM) > <http://upf.com/rhm.asp>

Is it "Health Humanities" or "Medical Humanities"?

These two names suggest slightly different emphases. To simplify, Medical Humanities tends to focus on how biomedicine and clinical practices benefit from engaging with humanities and social sciences. Health Humanities, on the other hand, has a broader purview: an interest in the impact of the humanities and critical social sciences on "health," understood as a concept and profession not exclusively limited to medicine. Researchers have vigorously debated these different terms; some scholars argue that the trend away from medical humanities "completely bypasses a critical engagement with different understandings of what is meant by the key concepts of 'the medical' and of 'health'" (Atkinson et al. 2015), while others maintain that the terminology of Health Humanities is "more inclusive, outward-facing and applied" and better incorporates "the contributions of those marginalized from the medical humanities" (Crawford et al. 2010). Here (and in SCOPE's work more generally) we're sticking with Health Humanities, but the politics of naming this field is an important issue that all students and practitioners should be familiar with.

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

While The University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) offers Canada's first undergraduate program in Health Humanities, there are other opportunities across Canada to study related material—sometimes under slightly different names or emphases—at the undergraduate and graduate levels. See below for a continually updated list of programs across Canada (with a few US and UK links).

If you would like to see your school's program on this list, please contact us at: <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/labs/scope/contact/>

Bioethics, Health Law, and Justice

Bioethics examines the application of ethics to the field of medicine, health, and healthcare

Lakehead University, Social Justice Studies (MA, involves a creative project stream)

Memorial University, Health Ethics (MHE)

<http://www.mun.ca/bioethics/mhe/>

Lakehead University, Social Justice Studies

(MA, involves a creative project stream)

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/graduate/programs/masters/social-justice>

University of Toronto, Master of Health Science in Bioethics (MHSc)

<http://www.jcb.utoronto.ca/education/mhsc.shtml>

University of Toronto, OISE: Social Justice Education (MA)

<http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/sje/>

Health Law programs offer training in policy and lawmaking relating to health, usually as part of a JD degree. Such programs include University of Alberta's Health Law Institute, University of Toronto's Health Law and Policy program, University of Ottawa's Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics, Dalhousie University's Health Law Institute.

Disability Studies

Disability studies (DS) examines the meaning, nature, and consequences of disability as a social—as opposed to a medical—issue. DS is often concerned increasing accessibility (e.g., physical, psychological, intellectual), civil rights and quality of life for individuals with disabilities, as well as advocacy and activism.

Ryerson University, Disability Studies (undergraduate program)
<http://www.ryerson.ca/disabilitystudies/>

Brock University, Applied Disability Studies (M.ADS/ MA and Graduate Diploma)
<https://brocku.ca/social-sciences/departments-and-centres/centre-for-applied-disability>

University of Calgary, Master of Disability and Community Studies (MCDS)
<https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/gse/programs/community-health-sciences/prospective-students/master-disability-community-studies-mdcs>

University of Calgary, Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies (MSc)
<http://www.crdcs.org>

University of Manitoba, Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Disability Studies with Canadian Centre on Disability Studies
http://www.umanitoba.ca/disability_studies/

University of Northern British Columbia, Disability Management (MA)
<http://www.unbc.ca/health-sciences/disability-management>

York University, Critical Disability Studies (MA)
<http://cds.gradstudiesyorku.ca>

Aging, Gerontology, and Age Studies

This field examines the physiological, psychological and the sociological issues associated with aging. Arts-based therapies have particular relevance to older persons living with conditions including stroke, Parkinson's, and dementia.

University of Waterloo, Diploma in Gerontology - Aging Studies (undergraduate)
<https://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/page/AHS-The-Area-of-Gerontology-1>

Lakehead University - Interdisciplinary Certificate in Dementia Studies
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/gerontology/certificate-programs/dementia-studies>

Lakehead University, Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Certificate Program
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/other-programs/online/programs/certificates/palliative-care>

Lakehead University, Graduate Specialization in Gerontology
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/graduate/programs/masters-specialization/gerontology/node/7263>

McMaster University, Health and Aging (MA)
<https://healthagingandsociety.mcmaster.ca/programs>

McMaster University, Department of Health, Aging and Society
<https://healthagingandsociety.mcmaster.ca/>

University of Toronto, Master's of Social Work in Gerontology (MSW)
<http://socialwork.utoronto.ca/programs/msw-programs/>

Trent University - Collaborative Specialization in Aging Studies (MA or MSc)
<https://www.trentu.ca/aging/education-and-training/graduate>

Trent Centre for Aging and Society
<https://www.trentu.ca/aging/>

Health Communication/Promotion and Medical Illustration

A number of Canadian universities offer graduate degrees in Communication Studies with special emphases on health, occasionally in conjunction with Public Health programs. The University of Toronto's medical illustration program is focused on combining the visual representation of science and health with state-of-the-art technologies of illustration.
<https://bmc.med.utoronto.ca/bmc/admissions/>

Art, Drama, & Music Therapy

The fields of art, drama, or music therapy explore how the arts can be used as a therapeutic intervention to help people with physical, mental, social and emotional challenges.

Concordia University, MA in Creative Art Therapies (Art Therapy, Drama Therapy)
<https://www.concordia.ca/finearts/creative-arts-therapies/programs/art-therapy-ma.html>

Concordia University, Music Therapy (MA and Graduate Diploma)
<https://www.concordia.ca/academics/graduate/musictherapy-diploma.html>

Kutenai Art Therapy Institute (KATI, British Columbia),
 Art Therapy Diploma Program
<http://info.kutenaiarttherapy.com>

Langara College (British Columbia),
 Expressive Arts Therapy Certificate Training Program
<http://langara.ca/continuing-studies/programs-and-courses/programs/expressive-arts-therapy/index.html?r=exa>

Prairie Institute of Expressive Arts Therapy (Alberta),
 Expressive Arts Therapy Certificate Program
<http://pieat.ca>

St. Stephen's College (Ontario),
 Master of Psychotherapy and Spirituality - Art Therapy Specialization (MPS)
<http://www.calisting.net/biz/ststephenscollegemasterofpsych>

Toronto Art Therapy Institute (TATI)
<http://www.tati.on.ca>

The Create Institute (formerly ISIS Canada, Ontario),
Creative Integrative Arts Therapies Training Program
<http://www.thecreateinstitute.org>

Vancouver Art Therapy Institute (British Columbia)
<http://www.vati.bc.ca>

Wilfrid Laurier University, Master of Music Therapy (MMT)
<https://wlu.ca/programs/music/graduate/musictherapy-mmt/index.html>

Childhood Education

Although not typically considered a cognate field of Health Humanities, a range of childhood education specialties regularly employ the arts and humanities to alleviate stress and anxiety in children and families during the process of hospitalization.

Douglas College (Vancouver, British Columbia), Child and Youth Care Diploma
<http://www.douglascollege.ca/programs-courses/faculties/child-family-community-studies/early-childhood-education>

McMaster University, Child Life and Pediatric Psychosocial Care - Child Life Studies Diploma Program (MSc)
<http://childlife.mcmaster.ca/admissions-info>

George Brown College (Toronto, Ontario), Early Childhood Diploma Programs
<http://www.georgebrown.ca/C100-2015-2016/>

Ryerson University, Early Childhood Studies (MA)
<http://www.ryerson.ca/ecs/admissions/early-childhood-ma/>

Therapeutic Clowning

Therapeutic Clowning uses spontaneous humour, performance, and gentle play to minimize stress during hospitalization and treatment. For more information, see this resource from SickKids Hospital (<http://www.sickkids.ca/patient-family-resources/Creative-Arts-Therapy/TherapeuticClowning/TherapeuticClowning.html>).

Ryerson University, Chang School of Continuing Education: Caring Clown Program
<http://ce-online.ryerson.ca/ce/default.aspx?id=3390>

Health Design

Health Design responds to the complexity of healthcare through a comprehensive, academically-rich approach to architecture, structural accessibility, and participatory design.

OCADU (Toronto, Ontario), Design for Health (MDes)
<http://www.ocadu.ca/academics/graduate-studies/design-for-health.htm>

Emily Carr Art and Design University (Vancouver, Canada), Health Design Lab
<http://research.ecuad.ca/healthdesignlab/>

Humanities Within Medical School Curriculum

The arts and humanities are increasingly part of undergraduate medical school curriculum across North America. Keep in mind the distinction between “health humanities” and “medical humanities” explained above; the curriculum in medical schools is primarily clinical, with some integration of the humanities into select courses (generally with specific application to patient care and physician wellbeing). Here are a few highlights in the Canadian context:

Dalhousie University, Medical Humanities
<http://medicine.dal.ca/departments/core-units/DME/medical-humanities.html>

University of Alberta, Arts and Humanities in Health and Medicine Program
<https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/programs/ahhm/postgrad>
<https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/programs/ahhm/humanities>

University of Ottawa, Medicine and Humanities Program
<https://med.uottawa.ca/undergraduate/medicine-and-humanities-program>

University of Toronto, Health Arts and Humanities Program
<http://health-humanities.com/>

McMaster University, History of Medicine and Medical Humanities
<http://medhumanities.mcmaster.ca/index/about>

See also The Muse Magazine, an online student-run medical humanities initiative
https://issuu.com/themuse_magazine

Health Humanities in the USA

While far from comprehensive, here are a few well-established programs in the United States:

Columbia University, School of Professional Studies, Narrative Medicine (MSc)
<http://sps.columbia.edu/narrative-medicine>

Boston University, Health Communication (MSc)
<http://healthcommunication.bu.edu/>

Boston University, Master in Design Studies in Design in Human Health
<http://the-bac.edu/academics/school-of-design-studies/master-of-design-studies/master-of-design-for-human-health>

Case Western Reserve University, Medicine, Society, and Culture (MSc)
<http://www.case.edu/medicine/msc/>

Case Western Reserve University, Dual Degree in Bioethics with Nursing, Public Health, or Social Administration (MSW)
<http://www.case.edu/medicine/msc/program-details/admission-requirements/>

John Hopkins University, Medical and Biological Illustration (MA)
<http://medicalart.johnshopkins.edu/the-first-program-of-its-kind/>

New York University, MA in Drama, Music, Art Therapies
Drama: <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/music/dramatherapy>
Art: <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/art/therapy/>
Music: <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/music/therapy/programs>

University of Rochester, Medical Humanities (MS)

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/masters/medical-humanities.aspx>

Vanderbilt University, Center for Medicine, Health and Society (MA)

<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/mhs/>

Health Humanities in UK

A highly selective overview of Health Humanities research programs in the United Kingdom:

King's College London, Medical Humanities (MSc)

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/ahri/centres/chh/study/index.aspx>

King's College London, Centre for the Humanities and Health

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/ahri/centres/chh/index.aspx>

University College London, Health Humanities (MA)

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/degrees/health-humanities-ma>

University of Nottingham, Health Humanities

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/healthhumanities/index.aspx>

Swansea University: Master of Philosophy and Health Humanities

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/human-and-health-sciences/phd-mphil-health-humanities/>

RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS

Arts Health Network of Canada <http://artshealthnetwork.ca>

Canadian Bioethics Society <https://www.bioethics.ca>

The International Health Humanities Network <http://www.healthhumanities.org>

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities <http://asbh.org>

HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory, pronounced "haystack") <https://www.hastac.org/groups/health-humanities>

Medical and Health Humanities Africa <https://mhhnisa.wordpress.com>

Health Humanities Consortium <https://healthhumanitiesconsortium.com>

SCOPE: The Health Humanities Learning Lab www.scopelab.ca

Follow the vibrant Health Humanities community online!

-  #HealthHumanities, #HealthHum (at UTSC we use #UTSCHealthHum)
-  #MedicalHumanities, #medhum
-  Health Humanities Academic Journal Club: #HealthHumJC
-  #Bioethics
-  #DisabilityStudies, #filmdis, #Deaf
-  Rhetoric of Medicine: #medrhet, #rhetmed

So why should I study Health Humanities?

Traditional, single-discipline programs generally treat the arts/humanities and science as mutually exclusive, but Health Humanities encourages students to learn from both of these fields. This interdisciplinary field is motivated by the principle that the skills and aptitudes typical to arts/humanities-based learning can enrich and nuance the learning done in science-based health studies—and vice versa.

By developing your ability to analyze theoretical and applied dimensions of health studies, you will gain a greater understanding of how the arts and humanities reveal the complex, interdisciplinary nature of human health and illness - in professional settings, scholarly contexts, and in your own lived experience as a health care consumer and potential patient. As a result of this interdisciplinary training, Health Humanities students are uniquely prepared to confront the complexities of health in the public sphere: as rigorous, articulate, and, perhaps above all, critically empathetic evaluators.

SEE
SOMETHING
MISSING?

FOUND A
BROKEN
LINK?

WANT YOUR
PROGRAM
FEATURED HERE?

Help build the community by contacting us at www.scopelab.ca and we'll update.

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