

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**ACADEMIC MATTERS, ACADEMIC PRIORITIES AND**  
**PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCILS**

concerning a

**CERTIFICATE IN MEDICAL HUMANITIES**

Presented at the  
756<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
March 10, 2016

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ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

The College of Humanities and Fine Arts (CHFA) is proposing a new certificate in Medical Humanities. The purpose of the certificate is to provide students with an opportunity to consider medical issues from humanistic perspectives. The certificate will be available to students in any field, but is expected to be of particular interest to students who plan careers in health care. There will be two required courses (Philosophy 164 - Medical Ethics, and History 364 - History of Health Care and Medicine in the United States) and three electives drawn from a list of courses from various departments in CHFA.

At its meeting on December 2, 2015, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approval of the proposed Certificate in Medical Humanities. It was submitted as proposal #2136 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

Through an electronic vote, the Academic Priorities Council recommended approval of the Certificate in Medical Humanities, Proposal #2136 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL

The Program Subcommittee of the Program and Budget Council met on December 9, 2015, reviewed the Certificate in Medical Humanities proposal and recommended it for approval.

At its meeting on December 16, 2015, the Program and Budget Council unanimously approved the Certificate in Medical Humanities, Proposal #2136 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

**MOTION:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Certificate in Medical Humanities, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 16-040.  
17-16

*Briefly describe the Certificate.*

Medical humanities brings the methods and concerns of humanities disciplines to bear on the study of health and health care. This interdisciplinary certificate will provide a structured opportunity for students to approach medical issues from historical, philosophical, literary, and cultural perspectives. By providing further insight into the humanistic dimensions of illness, treatment, disability, death, and health policies, and by nurturing skills of analysis, empathy, and self-reflection, the certificate will particularly benefit students who plan to pursue careers in health care, but will also be of value to students in almost any field who have interest in the subject.

The certificate will consist of five courses, including two required courses—PHIL 164, Medical Ethics, and HISTORY 364, History of Health Care and Medicine in the United States—and three electives chosen from a range of offerings in CHFA departments. While it is possible to complete the certificate entirely online, thereby opening it to non-matriculated students, there are also a number of face-to-face courses available, providing on-campus students with flexibility and choice.

*Provide a brief overview of the process for developing this Certificate.*

This certificate arose from investigations into possible Continuing and Professional Education programs from CHFA, whose current CPE offerings consist primarily of individual General Education courses. We became aware of a burgeoning interest in Medical Humanities in several colleges and universities, and the development of certificates, minors, and—in at least two cases—full majors in the field, and decided to start with a certificate, with an eye toward possible expansion after a period of review and evaluation. We then polled the departments, several of which were interested in contributing existing courses or developing new ones for the certificate. We also consulted with administrators in the College of Nursing, the College of Public Health and Health Sciences, and the Pre-Medical Program to gauge levels of interest and support.

*Describe the Certificate's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills that will be acquired by participating students.*

Completion of the certificate will equip students interested in health care as a career or as an object of study with knowledge and skills that supplement and complement instruction in basic science and in clinical practice. The two required courses provide:

- Knowledge of the history and social meaning of medicine, medical practice, health care, and disease in the United States from 1600 to the present, with particular attention to the human experience of medicine.
- Grounding in the philosophical debates around such topics as cloning, distribution of medical resources, homosexuality, abortion, and animal experimentation.

The elective courses include a range of competencies, most involving “close reading” and analysis—of medical language, of literary, visual, and theoretical texts, and of scientific studies. They will also offer students further instruction in effective communication, and increase their awareness of the cultural and political dimensions of medical issues, practices, and services. The recent redesign of the Medical College Admission Text explicitly addresses the need for competency in these kinds of skills, with the overriding goal of producing more well-rounded physicians.

*If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.*

No additional resources will be required. The face-to-face classes will be scheduled as part of the regular offerings of each department, and the online courses will be supported by revenue from enrollments. It is

difficult to predict how many new enrollments to expect, but the face-to-face classes have adequate capacity, and the capacity of online courses could be increased should enrollment require that.

*Please describe the curriculum for this Certificate, listing all required courses and possible electives, any prerequisites or GPA requirements, the recommended order or coursework and any other pertinent information. You may attach additional materials related to the curriculum at the end of this section.*

2 required courses:

PHIL 164: Medical Ethics (4 credits, AT)

HISTORY 364: History of Health Care and Medicine in the United States (4 credits, HS)

3 of the following electives:

\*\*WOMENSST 285: Introduction to the Biology of Difference (4 credits, SI, U)

\*\*WOMENSST 291E: Feminist Health Politics (3 credits)

CLASSICS 250: Classical Origins of Western Medicine and Medical Terminology (4 credits, HS)

\*ENGLISH 217: (Dis)Ability and Literature (3 credits)

\*\*COMP-LIT 397G: Death and Dying (3 credits)

\*\*COMP-LIT 397M: The Mind and Its Discontents (3 credits)

COMP-LIT 552: Medical Interpreting (3 credits)

\*ITALIAN 333: Representing Women's Bodies: Poetry, Politics, and Power (3 credits)

JAPANESE 397A: Japan through its Afflictions (3 credits)

\*\*HISTORY 190S: Sex in History (4 credits, HS, G)

\*new course

\*\*seeking permanent course number

Additional electives are under development and will be added as appropriate.

Since the certificate is interdisciplinary, no single course serves as a prerequisite for another. It will be recommended, but not required, that students take the two required courses first. The initial advisor for students pursuing the certificate will be Professor Joseph Levine of the Philosophy Department.

*Explain how these courses represent a coherent course of study.*

The required courses provide a broad foundation in the history of medicine and in the most significant debates surrounding issues of health care. The electives provide more focused attention to the social and cultural dimensions of health and medical care.

*Describe how there is a clear educational objective that can be achieved in an efficient and well-defined manner.*

The educational objectives, as stated above, are to provide insight into historical, philosophical, literary, and cultural dimensions of medical/health issues, and to inculcate skills in analysis, self-reflection, and empathy. Matriculated students can spread the courses over their college career, weaving them in with their major and Gen Ed requirements, or take them within 2-4 semesters. Non-matriculated students could take courses online or in person, increasing their flexibility in completing the certificate.

*Explain how the course sequence offers a clear objective at the appropriate educational level.*

The curriculum is designed for undergraduates, with courses ranging from the 100- to the 300-level, and one applied elective at the 500-level. Students can progress through the courses at their own pace and in concert with their majors.

*Describe the perceived need for this Certificate.*

As mentioned above, several colleges and universities are working to provide a better-rounded curriculum for students entering the health professions. Our consultations with the College of Nursing, the College of Public Health and Health Sciences, and the Pre-Medical Program indicate a strong level of interest in the certificate as a credential that could benefit their students, many of whom are already likely to take some of the courses to fulfill General Education requirements. Offering the courses online will also open the certificate to current or aspiring health-care practitioners.

*If the courses that comprise the Certificate have been or currently are being offered, describe their schedule of availability. If the Certificate is comprised of new courses, describe their planned availability.*

PHIL 164:	face-to-face fall and spring, online summer
HISTORY 364:	online fall or spring, summer
WOMENSST 285:	F2F spring, online summer
WOMENSST 291E:	F2F spring
ENGLISH 217:	F2F fall or spring
COMP-LIT 397G:	online summer
COMP-LIT 397M:	online summer
COMP-LIT 552:	online spring
CLASSICS 250:	F2F once every other year
HISTORY 190S:	F2F fall or spring
ITALIAN 333:	F2F or online, every other year
JAPANESE 397A:	F2F once a year

*If the Certificate requires or includes courses from outside the sponsoring department, provide evidence of agreement(s) with the unit(s) offering those courses. You may attach any memoranda of understanding below.*

N/A

*If applicable, please attach any memoranda of understanding from other departments or colleges below.*

None at this time.

*If the requirements for this Certificate overlap with those of another certificate or a degree or a degree program, describe that overlap.*

*(Note that if a student who has completed a certificate seeks clearance for a degree program that overlaps with that certificate program, the Registrar will note on the transcript that the certificate has been superseded by the degree.)*

Three of the courses for this certificate (PHIL 164, WOMENSST 285 and 291), currently fulfill requirements for the Five-College Certificate in Culture, Health, and Science.

*What type of student is allowed to participate in this certificate program? (e.g., matriculated UMass students, non-matriculated CPE students, Five College students, graduate students, students in a specific degree program, etc.)*

Matriculated UMass students, non-matriculated CPE students, and Five-College students are all allowed to participate.

*What role will this Certificate play in relation to other departments or degree programs on campus? Certificates vary widely across campus and may represent a subset of an existing degree program, a multidisciplinary program, or an entirely free-standing area of focus.*

**This certificate is multidisciplinary and open to all students, regardless of major.**

*Is this a transitional certificate program?*

*(Transitional certificate programs are comprised of core courses from specific degree programs and may act as stepping stones into those programs. If a student who has completed a transitional certificate matriculates to the University and completes the degree program associated with that certificate, the transcript will note that the certificate has been superseded by the degree.)*

**No.**

*If applicable, please attach any additional material relating to the certificate (such as requirement check sheets for students, etc.) below.*

**None at this time.**