

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Resolution to Recommend New Minor in Arts in Health and Narrative Medicine
013-23/24-ICC December 12, 2023 - Curriculum Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt recommends to the Provost that the Minor Arts in Health and Narrative Medicine program detailed in proposal [22-1868](#) be approved.

RATIONALE: This interdisciplinary minor option serves as an introduction to the fields of arts in health, narrative medicine, health humanities, and medical humanities with an emphasis on health justice (See [World Health Organization Health Evidence Network Synthesis Report: Evidence on the Role of Arts in Improving Health and Well-Being](#)). The minor also prepares students for careers that emphasize the connections between culture and health: including community health programs, prison arts, hospital artist-in-residence programs, teaching artist programs, and creative arts therapies. Graduates of this program are equipped to facilitate community-based public health learning opportunities with a skillset in arts and communication, as they also are able to support health organizations in building awareness campaigns. The curriculum emphasizes narrative competence and cultural humility, so that peoples' storied lives are better understood, and responded to, in the medical office and in community health frameworks. Moreover, the program equips California health practitioners with health justice frameworks that should guide their practice, supporting community health integration and culturally-relevant health models.

The California legislature has recognized the importance of Arts in Health for our state and our workforce. [California Senate Bill 628](#) (California Creative Workforce Act of 2021) says this about the relationship between arts and health: *“Creative arts workers and projects serve to heal communities, drive social-emotional learning, improve cultural competency and cohesion, address trauma, and inspire new thinking in communities with unmet needs. Arts and culture are essential drivers of civic participation and dialogue, and considerable research shows that integrating artists and creative workers into recovery drives better outcomes related to critical concerns including racial justice, health, education, community cohesion, and public safety.”* In January, Governor Newsom proposed a 40 million dollar budget to grow the creative arts workforce in our state (see [press release](#)). No other California state university has an arts in health program designed to respond to the needs expressed in this 2021 Workforce Act.

The [2020 Survey of Baccalaureate Programs in Health Humanities](#) demonstrates consistent growth in this field, yet California has only three universities that include health humanities program-level offerings: a Ethics and Medical Humanities concentration in the Human Biology Major at Stanford University and minor programs at UC Riverside and UC Irvine. No California university offers a BA degree program in the health humanities at this time; there is opportunity for growth in this area at Humboldt. See also: [State of the Field 2009 Report: Arts in Healthcare](#)

While we have only anecdotal evidence of student demand, multiple indicators of interest can be identified:

- Students in English department have been asking for narrative medicine offerings for some time as this area opens additional career paths. We've had at least two graduates of Humboldt's English department in recent years complete graduate programs in the field and go on to establish foundations, work in nonprofits, and participate in community health on a full-time basis.
- Students in the art, music, theater, and dance majors have asked for arts therapy programs.
- Students in the nursing program have sought out and benefited from reflective writing workshops that have been offered as extracurricular workshops.

While largely anecdotal at this stage, there is evidence that this program would match student interests. We have found that as student awareness of the opportunities associated with arts in health grows so does student interest.

Program Learning Outcomes

- Recognize how culture, art, and health have been interrelated since time immemorial; recognize the continued understanding of culture as health among Indigenous peoples.
- Identify the range of settings where arts in health is practiced (including inpatient and community health sites).
- Respect scope of practice and the established professional ethics of the field.
- Distinguish professional boundaries and relationships between arts in health professionals, artists, creative art therapists, and clinical care teams.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of an arts in health administrator.
- Design programs and identify practices that emphasize cultural understanding.
- Identify considerations for art curation and architectural design in healthcare environments.
- Demonstrate how philosophies of care can guide artists' work.
- Analyze structural determinants of health and recognize intersectional oppression as a public health issue.
- Contextualize Arts in Health and Narrative Medicine within health justice frameworks.
- Identify principles of Universal Design, disability justice, and antiracism.
- Develop an artistic practice and craft.

Requirements (17-18 units)

Core Courses (6 units)

- HEAL 307/ENGL 307. Arts-Based Programs in Health (3)
- ENGL 309. Narrative Medicine. (3) *Fulfills General Education: UD Area C

Health Justice Requirement (3 units)

- Choose one course:
 - ENST 471. Arts, Climate, & Health Justice. (3).
 - ES 309. Health Issues in African American Communities (3).
 - NAS 374. Native American Health. (3).
 - NAS 400. Decolonizing Public Health (3).

Practicum Hours (8-9 units)

- Option 1: 9 units of studio art and community-based art:
3-6 units of studio art and ART 497s Service Learning & Art Education I. If completing only 3 units of studio art, take 498s Service Learning & Art Education II.
- Option 2: Complete 8-9 units in a single artistic field: choose from the list of courses below in either dance, music, theatre, film, art, creative writing, or another creative art. Please consult the minor advisor to plan for this requirement.

Art

Take 9 units of art studio electives.

Film

- FILM 315. Filmmaking I
- FILM 375. Filmmaking II
- FILM 350. Writing for Film
- FILM 362. Social Change Digital Production
- FILM 378. Film/Digital Production Workshop (1-4 Variable Topic)
- FILM 478. Advanced Film/Digital Production Workshop (1-4 Variable Topic)

Dance

- DANC 103. Modern/Contemporary I
- DANC 104. Modern/Contemporary II
- DANC 110. Ballet I
- DANC 120. Jazz Dance Styles I
- DANC 240. African Dance
- DANC 241. Hip-hop Dance
- DANC 243. Tap Dance
- DANC 245. Middle Eastern Dance
- DANC 247. Mexican Folklorico Dance
- DANC 248. Danza Azteca
- DANC 310. Ballet II
- DANC 320. Jazz Dance Styles II
- DANC 330. Modern/Contemporary III

Music

- MUS 106 (any). (These are all large Ensembles - choirs, Wind Ensemble, Humboldt Symphony, etc.)
- MUS 107 (any). (These are generally smaller Ensembles - Chamber Music, etc.)
- MUS 108 (any). (These are beginning Voice and Instrument Classes)
- MUS 109 (any). (These are the continuations of 108 classes)
- MUS 220 - 238. Studio Lessons
- MUS 406 (any). (These are all large Ensembles - choirs, Wind Ensemble, Humboldt Symphony, etc.)
- MUS 407 (any) (These are generally smaller Ensembles - Chamber Music, etc.)

Theatre

- TA 104. Story Through Word and Image
- TA 105. Acting 1: Principles of Performance
- TA 106. Behind the Scenes in Theatre
- TA 215. Acting 2: Principles of Voice and Movement
- TA 221. Makeup for Stage and Screen
- TA 231. Production and Stage Management
- TA 237. Production Techniques
- TA 307. Theatre of the Oppressed
- TA 322. Creative Drama
- TA 328. Production Practicum

Creative Writing

- ENGL 211. Introduction to Creative Writing. (Prerequisite for ENGL314, ENGL315, & ENGL316)
- ENGL 212. Topics in Writing
- ENGL 311. Creative Writing for Environmental Justice
- ENGL 313. Critical Topics in Writing and Rhetoric
- ENGL 314. Creative Writing: Nonfiction
- ENGL 315. Creative Writing: Fiction
- ENGL 316. Creative Writing: Poetry
- ENGL 318. How Writers Persuade: Cross-Cultural Rhetorics
- ENGL 319. Podcasts, Social Media, and Web-Based Writing
- FILM 350. Writing for Film

Recommended: Second Language

It is recommended that students take at least 6 units in a second language (Spanish, French, American Sign Language, Indigenous linguistics, etc.).

Depending on your major, some courses may double count for both your major and this minor. To fulfill the minor program, at least 9 units must be distinct and taken only for the minor.