

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN
HEALTH STUDIES**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa for a bachelor of arts in health studies in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this program.

Description of proposed program. The College proposes to revise the three tracks that now exist within the health and human physiology major [awarded with a bachelor of arts (BA)] into three stand-alone majors. One of these tracks is health studies, a 43-45 semester hour program that prepares students for a range of pre-professional and graduate programs, including public health and healthcare administration.

The proposed health studies major interconnects the systems, technologies and policies driving the U.S. wellness and health care industries. It offers a comprehensive curriculum that provides flexible opportunities to work with faculty in developing the knowledge and skills needed to understand health determinants and anticipate continuing changes in preventive and clinical health delivery. It does not require lab courses and focuses on policy, service, and education with a wider choice of elective courses that best fit with student career interests.

Academic objectives. The objectives of the proposed health studies BA will:

- Provide students a broad education in the health sciences.
- Prepare students to employ their fundamental knowledge of human physiology and health sciences.
- Provide opportunities for students to use and understand scientific methods to solve problems at the level needed in their chosen professional and/or graduate career fields.
- Instill an understanding and appreciation of the relevance of healthy behaviors to a fulfilling and productive life.
- Encourage life-long learning in the rapidly evolving fields of physiology and the health sciences.

Relationship to existing programs at the institution. The proposed health studies BA will continue to align with the college and university's strategic plan in the areas of teaching and student success.

Pending approval, the UI Department of Health and Human Physiology also plans to convert the other two tracks to stand-alone majors – BS in exercise science and BS in health promotion. The BA in health studies will complement these other two programs with a different set of required core courses that focus on the environmental and social determinants of health, health services, human disease, and provides students with the opportunity to take more electives (12 s.h.), with a broader range of topics.

Relationship to existing programs at other colleges and universities. Iowa State University offers a BS in diet and exercise (with a combined MS degree option available). The University of Northern Iowa offers a BA in movement and exercise science. Several other institutions in Iowa also offer similar programs.

The proposed BA in health studies will offer students a flexible, well-rounded curriculum that allows them to acquire knowledge and skills to understand health determinants and to anticipate changes in preventive health delivery.

Resources to establish a high-quality program. The university currently offers all related courses and labs needed to support the proposed stand-alone BA in health studies and also has adequate facilities and personnel needed for this program.

The university provides excellent health and wellness facilities to support instruction and research in this area of study. Cooperative efforts with other units facilitate specialization by allowing Department of Health and Human Physiology students to use these additional special facilities and research equipment in other departments on campus (e.g., biology, biochemistry and molecular biology, molecular physiology and biophysics, orthopedic surgery, internal medicine, pharmacology, and those in the College of Engineering).

Student demand. Health studies has been an established track within the BA in health and human Pphysiology over the last 10 years and we anticipate the students who enroll in the health studies BA will be those currently enrolled in the health studies track of the health and human physiology BA. The proposed major will also be a destination major for new students.

Workforce need/demand. Students graduating in this area are prepared to work in the policy, service, and educational professions that focus on health and healthcare. Graduates are also prepared for entrance into graduate and professional programs leading to careers in fast-growing health professions, including public health and healthcare administration. (Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019).

Funding and Cost. No further resources are needed given that the curriculum for health studies is already offered with the current track and the faculty and staff necessary to administer the program are already in place.

Projected student enrollment. The current health studies track provides a good estimate of how many students will be annually enrolled in the program.

	Y1	Y 2	Y3	Y4	Y5
Undergraduate	380	380	380	380	380

Accreditation. Accreditation is not offered in this field.

Date of implementation. Fall 2022.

Letters of Support



Office of the Dean

January 12, 2022

Dr. Cornelia Lang
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Iowa

Dear Dr. Lang,

Please accept this letter of consultation and support on behalf of the University of Northern Iowa College of Education in regard to the proposed redesign of the Health and Human Physiology (HHP) major in the Department of Health and Human Physiology. Along with our Department of Kinesiology and Department of Health, Recreation and Community Services, we have reviewed your proposal and offer our support for the revision.

We wish you well as you continue to develop this new curriculum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colleen S Mulholland".

Colleen S Mulholland, Dean

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "O. Grybovych Hafermann".

Oksana Grybovych Hafermann, Associate dean for academic affairs

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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May 7, 2020

Helena Dettmer
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum and the Humanities
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
120 Schaeffer Hall
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242-1409

Dear Dean Dettmer,

Thank you for your note requesting input on the University Iowa's proposed BS majors in *Exercise Science*, *Health Promotion* and BA major in *Health Studies*. I have shared your request with ISU's College of Human Sciences as that is the home of the BS degree in *Kinesiology and Health*. The College of Human Sciences degree program also features multiple options, including Exercise Science and Physical Activity and Health Promotion, and has much in common with the University of Iowa programs.

We support the three proposed majors and understand that the request is simply a natural evolution of the program from curriculum tracks to degree pathways. It is important that students graduate with the credential that best represents their expertise to future employers and graduate programs. There is no doubt that the demand for well-prepared students in the broad field of health studies will continue to grow.

ISU's Colleges of Human Sciences and Liberal Arts and Sciences appreciated the opportunity to review the proposal. We look forward to future faculty and student collaborations in the area of exercise sciences, health promotion and health studies. If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Amy R. Slagell
Associate Dean for Academic Programs
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Iowa State University
(515) 294-7270



Robert D. Reason
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs
College of Human Sciences
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