



Health Sciences-B.S.

College of Health and Human Services
Western Kentucky University

Degree Offering: Bachelor of Science

Department of Allied Health

Academic Complex 201B

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Program Description:

The Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (564) is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a health and human sciences related career. The program is an interdisciplinary program with three primary purposes: 1) allowing students with a general interest in Health Sciences to pursue a B.S. while obtaining a concentration in a specific area of study, 2) providing an option for students with a Health related A.S. who wish to continue their education, and 3) permitting students to prepare for post-graduate or professional health sciences programs. The major in Health Sciences leads to a Bachelor of Science degree. The major will require 65-67 core Health Sciences credit hours, including a required concentration ranging from 21-22 credit hours. Students pursuing the major are required to select one of the following concentrations: Environmental Health Science, General Wellness Studies, Gerontology, Health Promotions, Health Services, Social Services, or an Associate of Science Degree in a Health field (approved by the Health Sciences Advisor).

Required courses for the Health Sciences core are: CFS 111, PSY 199, BIO 120/121, BIO 131, CHEM 304, AH 190, AH 290, PHYS 231/232, PE 311, PH 381, PH 383 or SOCL 300, PH 447 or PHIL 322, HCA 340, and HCA 446/447 or CIS 343. One of the below mentioned concentrations is required.

Environmental Health Science (22 hrs.), required courses include ENV 280, 375, 380, PH 385, ENV 480 OR 460, and 7 hours of electives.

General Wellness Studies (22 hrs), required courses include PE 122, 211, 212, 221, 222, 310, 312, 313, 324. At least two credit hours of the open electives need to be upper division.

Gerontology (21 hrs), required courses include BIOL 344, PSY 423, PH 443, SOC 342. In addition, nine hours of electives must be chosen with approval of the academic advisor from the following (six credit hours of electives must be upper division): GERO 100, CFS 311, CFS 495, ECON 365, CD 489, FIN 261, HCA 345, HCA 440, HCA 471, PH 444, PH 463, PH 464, PHIL 426 or SWK 326.

Health Promotions (22 hrs), required courses are SFTY 171, PH 261, 365, 384, 402, 461, 467, and 469.

Health Services (21 hrs), required courses are HCA 344, 440, 441, and 442; and HCA 345 or 346, MGMT 310, and ECON 202.

Social Services (21 hrs), required courses include SWRK 101, 205, 330, 331, 395. Students are also required to take two social work electives (6 credit hours) in consultation with their social work advisor.

An **Associate Degree in a focused Health Area** would also be acceptable and needs to be approved by an academic advisor (students in this area will need a maximum of 19 of their open elective credit hours to be upper division courses). Students with a completed A.A. or A.S. have completed WKU general education requirements. All other students need to meet with an advisor.

Students must maintain a "C" or better in each course in the major. Additionally, in accordance with university policy, an overall grade point average of 2.0 or better must be attained upon completion of required curriculum.

Career Opportunities in Health Sciences:

Students who enter this program with an **Associate Degree in Health**, and complete the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences will position themselves for professional advancements in their respective field.

Students completing the **Environmental Health Science** concentration will gain an awareness of environmental hazards and risks, and will be prepared for an entry level position directed by an environmental professional.

Students with a concentration in **General Wellness Studies** will be prepared to develop, implement, and coordinate exercise and health promotion programs for persons of all ages and in a variety of private or public settings. Certification may be necessary for entry level employment. At least two credit hours of the open electives need to be upper division.

Students with a concentration in **Gerontology** will be prepared for employment opportunities in caring for the fastest growing age group in America and Kentucky. The American population will increase by almost 50% from 1995 to 2050, while the 65+ age group will increase by 135%. Kentucky is experiencing the same types of group, ranking 25th in the percentage of adults over 65 years of age but the older adult population will increase significantly and Kentucky will rank 14th by 2020. Career opportunities in this field will continue to grow as the population increases.

Students with a concentration in **Health Promotions** will have an awareness of issues and methods in Health Education (not Teacher Education).

Students with a concentration in **Health Services** will have an awareness of management issues in health care facilities.

Students with a concentration in **Social Services*** will be able to obtain entry level positions in the health sciences field that emphasize the social services, including, but not limited to, medical and home health services, aging services, disability services, and mental health. The health sciences major and social services concentration would also be excellent preparation for graduate education in social work.

*The social services concentration does not qualify the student as a professional social worker, as a member of the professional organization, for licensure by the state of Kentucky, for advanced standing in a graduate school of social work, nor for social work practice in an employment situation.

NOTE: These concentrations may afford students the opportunity to further their education beyond the Baccalaureate degree. Graduate school requirements will vary by program. Students interested in graduate school are advised to investigate specific requirements.

Major Course Sequence for Bachelor of Science Degree:

5 th Semester		6 th Semester	
Courses	Course Title	Courses	Course Title
5 or 6 hrs. Concentration**		4 hrs. Concentration**	
@PH 381 (3 hrs.)	Community Health	PH 383 or SOCL 300 (3 hrs.)	Biostatistics in Health Sciences or Statistics in Sociology
@PSY 199 (3 hrs.)	Developmental Psychology	HCA 340 (3 hrs.)	Health Care Organization & Mgmt.
PHY 231/232 (4 hrs.)	Physics & Biophysics	Open electives (4 hrs.)	
		@AH 190 (2 hrs.)	Intro to Allied Health
TOTAL: 15 - 16 hours		TOTAL: 16 hours	

7 th Semester		8 th Semester	
Courses	Course Title	Courses	Course Title
6 hrs. Concentration**		6 hrs. Concentration**	
PE 311 (3 hrs.)	Exercise Physiology	@HCA 446/447 (4 hrs.) or CIS 343 (3 hrs.)	Health Care Informatics or Principles in MIS
CHEM 304 (4 hrs.)	Biochemistry	PH 447 or Phil 322 (3 hrs.)	Human Values in Health Sciences or Biomedical Ethics
Open electives (3 hrs.)		Open electives (3 or 4 hrs.)	
TOTAL: 16 hours		TOTAL: 16 - 17 hours	

NOTE: Concentration course sequencing is available on 2+2 plan, or through advisor. (http://www.wku.edu/chhs/ace/undergraduate_majors.php; or call (270) 745-3827).

Distance and on-line courses are designated with an @ to identify the courses available.