

Graduate Certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society

Vanderbilt University Center for Medicine, Health, and Society

Vanderbilt University's interdisciplinary program in Medicine, Health, and Society offers an interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate Program for graduate students interested in studying health-related beliefs and practices in their social and cultural contexts. The Certificate program aims to train students in interdisciplinary approaches to analyzing the social and cross-cultural formulations of health. The program emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, critical thinking, research skills, health disparities, and social contexts of health through a topically and methodologically broad curriculum. The Certificate Program is available to students enrolled in graduate study in the six participating Vanderbilt schools (A&S, Medicine, Divinity, Law, Nursing, and Peabody). The MHS Graduate Certificate Program is directed by the Director of Graduate Studies of MHS.

Requirements include:

1. *MHS 6100 Graduate Colloquium*. (3 credit hours) Introduction to graduate-level interdisciplinary work in medicine, health, and society, drawing on the perspectives of anthropology, economics, history, philosophy, political science and policy studies. Psychology, religious studies, and sociology.
2. Four additional graduate-level courses related to medicine, health, and society appropriate to the student's program of study (at least 12 credit hours). The courses must form an intellectually cohesive whole. Courses must be approved by the MHS Graduate Committee and should include at least two courses outside the student's home discipline. One course may be satisfied through an independent study with a faculty member affiliated with the MHS with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. Graduate courses taken at Vanderbilt University prior to admission to the MHS Graduate Certificate Program may be counted toward the Certificate requirements with the approval of the MHS Graduate Committee if the course can satisfy one of the curriculum requirements of the program.
3. A paper submitted to the MHS Graduate Committee for evaluation. The paper must demonstrate the application of interdisciplinary methods and knowledge of an area of study related to medicine, health, and society.
4. Participate in a minimum of five extracurricular activities sponsored by MHS. A short paper reflecting on the insights gained from participating has to be submitted to the Assistant Director of MHS.

Eligibility: Any student currently enrolled in a graduate program at Vanderbilt University is eligible to apply for the Certificate Program in Medicine, Health, and Society. Acceptance to the program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 and the approval of both the student's advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies for Medicine, Health, and Society. To apply, students will:

1. Complete the [Intent to Enroll Form](#) from the Graduate School's website.

2. Contact MHS to arrange a meeting with the Director of Graduate Studies.
3. After fulfilling the program requirements, complete the MHS Graduate Certificate Application Form. Turn in the application form and a copy of the paper to be evaluated by the MHS Graduate Committee to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Comparable Programs at Other Schools: Vanderbilt's Center for Medicine, Health, and Society is unique in offering an inter-disciplinary graduate certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society available trans-institutionally. The most comparable graduate certificate to the MHS certificate program is *Indiana University-Purdue Indianapolis' Graduate Certificate in Medical Humanities*. The certificate requires completion of five courses (15 credit hours). Two courses (6 credit hours) are required; the remaining three courses (9 credit hours) are electives drawn from upper level Liberal Arts courses, including Medical Humanities, Philosophy, Communication Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, English, and History.

Vanderbilt is unique in that the graduate certificate in MHS is offered through the Graduate School rather than the school of medicine or public health. Comparable programs offered through other schools include:

- The *School of Public Health at University of Texas in Houston* offers a Health Disparities Certificate to “enable students to focus practice and research activities on the recognition, description and elimination of disparities among people and populations.” The UT program is comprised of 12 credit hours or 4 courses plus 2 semesters of the Health Disparities Core Seminar. The 12 hours include two required courses and two elective courses.ⁱ
- The *School of Public Health at University of North Carolina* offers a similar Interdisciplinary Certificate in Health Disparities including 2 required courses (4 hours), 2 required courses (6 hours) and a prerequisite course. No certificate courses may count toward the student's primary degree program. The UNC program addresses “the complexity of health disparities and promotes the use of interdisciplinary methods and innovative approaches in their research or public health practice.”ⁱⁱ
- *State University of New York (SUNY) Albany* offers a Health Disparities Certificate Program housed in the School of Public Health in partnership with the School of Education and School of Social Welfare. The program “aims to improve students' cultural competence and leadership skills as they gain knowledge of the causes of health disparities, the relevant issues, and potential strategies for eliminating these disparities.”ⁱⁱⁱ Program requirements include 12-credit hours comprised of one required and three elective courses chosen from a list of seven courses.

Graduate Catalog Text:

DEGREE OFFERED: Master of Arts Graduate study in medicine, health, and society at Vanderbilt offers an interdisciplinary master of arts and a graduate certificate for students interested in studying health-related beliefs and practices in their social and cultural contexts. It is available to graduate and professional students from the six participating Vanderbilt schools (Arts and Science, Divinity, Law, Medicine, Nursing, and Peabody). External candidates are also considered for admission, as are Vanderbilt undergraduates applying through the 4+1 program in the College of Arts and Science. MHS draws on a variety of fields in the social sciences and humanities—anthropology, economics, history, literature, psychology, sociology, philosophy/ethics, and religious studies. It should be of particular interest to students preparing for careers in a health-related profession, but also has much to offer any graduate or professional student interested in examining an important part of human experience from multiple perspectives and developing a critical understanding of contemporary society.

Master of Arts Students may choose a thesis option (24 credit hours of course work plus 6 credit hours of thesis research) or non-thesis option (30 hours). The thesis should draw on at least two disciplines. Requirements include the 3 credit hour core colloquium (MHS 6100) and an additional 21 or 27 credit hours (depending on the option) of courses approved for the MHS graduate program. It is expected that students who can devote themselves to the MHS program full time will complete their studies in three terms (i.e., two semesters and one summer or three semesters). However, the length of the program will be flexible to accommodate the needs of different constituencies.

M.D./M.A.

This program is available to current medical students, who may choose between the thesis and non-thesis options described above. The M.A. may be completed in one year, plus either a summer or two research electives. 4+1 M.A. Program This program is available only to current Vanderbilt undergraduate students. Students may choose between the thesis and non-thesis options described above.

Graduate Certificate

The certificate is available only to current graduate and professional students from the six participating Vanderbilt schools (Arts and Science, Divinity, Law, Medicine, Nursing, and Peabody). Acceptance to the program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 and the approval of both the student's adviser and the Director of Graduate Studies for Medicine, Health, and Society. To apply, students will:

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3. Participation in a minimum of five extracurricular activities sponsored by MHS. A short paper reflecting on the insights gained from participating has to be submitted to the Assistant Director of MHS.

ⁱ <https://sph.uth.edu/academics/graduate-certificate-programs/health-disparities/>

ⁱⁱ <http://sph.unc.edu/echo/unc-interdisciplinary-certificate-in-health-disparities/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.albany.edu/cemhd/9320.php>

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Assessment Plan for Graduate Certificates

An assessment plan should be included as part of the approval process for new graduate certificates.

After a certificate is approved, please submit a copy of the final assessment plan to
Vanderbilt Institutional Assessment at via@vanderbilt.edu

Please submit the plan in Microsoft Word format and include
any documents/tools used as assessment measures.

Certificate: Medicine, Health, and Society

Contact Person: JuLeigh Petty, PhD, Senior Lecturer and Assistant Director of MHS
JuLeigh.Petty@Vanderbilt.edu

Date Submitted: April 16, 2015

I. Mission Statement

Vanderbilt University's Center for Medicine, Health, and society offers an interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate Program for graduate students interested in studying health-related beliefs and practices in their social and cultural context.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Knowledge of foundations: Students will demonstrate knowledge and mastery of the foundations, principles, and methodologies of discovery in a discipline or interdisciplinary area relevant to the field of medicine, health, and society.

2. Knowledge – Application: Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze a problem in health or health care that effectively integrates multiple disciplinary methods via one course paper demonstrating their ability to integrate approaches from different disciplines.

3. Students will broaden their knowledge of medicine, health, and society beyond their disciplinary specialization by participating in a minimum of five extracurricular activities sponsored by MHS.

II. Assessment Measures (Please provide rubrics or assessment tools if used)

Assessment Measure(s) for Student Learning Outcome 1

Students will demonstrate knowledge and mastery of the foundations, principles, and methodologies of medicine, health, and society via course work in MHS 6100. The graduate committee will evaluate final papers in MHS 6100. A student will meet expectations for this learning outcome if their final paper earns a minimum of 3 on a 4 point scale for the following 4 criteria. (4= highly proficient, 3= proficient, 2= some proficiency, 1= limited/no proficiency)

Assessment Measure(s) for Student Learning Outcome 2

Students will demonstrate application of interdisciplinary methods in an area of study related to medicine, health, and society, as indicated by a paper submitted to the MHS Graduate Committee for evaluation. The committee will evaluate the paper using the following criteria adapted from Repko (2008) "Assessing Interdisciplinary Learning Outcomes." A student will meet expectations for this learning outcome if their final paper earns a minimum of 3 on a 4 point scale for the following 3 criteria. (4= highly proficient, 3= proficient, 2= some proficiency, 1= limited/no proficiency)

Assessment Measure(s) for Student Learning Outcome 3

Students are required to reflect on the insights gained from participating in five MHS-sponsored extracurricular events by writing a short paper that will be reviewed by the Graduate Committee of MHS.

Learning Outcome 1 Criteria	
I. Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarity of writing/argument• Free of grammatical and spelling errors• Technical language used appropriately and clearly• Professional, constructive style
II. Critical analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criticism is substantiated and constructive• Insightful assessment of strengths and weaknesses of the book• Goes beyond criticism to make a broader point
III. Theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incisive overview of the theory of the field and the place of the book within it• Presentation of multiple disciplinary perspectives
IV. Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates M.A.-level knowledge of the field• Strong and convincing argument

Learning Outcome 2 Criteria
I. Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarity of writing/argument• Free of grammatical and spelling errors• Technical language used appropriately and clearly• Professional, constructive style
II. Interdisciplinary analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• integrate knowledge and modes of thinking drawn from two or more disciplines• address conflicting and overlapping insights from two or more disciplines
III. Overall contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none">• produce an interdisciplinary understanding of a complex problem or intellectual question• Demonstrates M.A.-level knowledge of the field• Strong and convincing argument

From: [McGill, Jordaan Tiara](#)
To: [Rahman, Nadia](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Graduate Certificate in MHS
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 2:31:40 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Petty, JuLeigh <juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu>
Date: Wed, Apr 22, 2015 at 2:19 PM
Subject: FW: Graduate Certificate in MHS
To: "McGill, Jordaan Tiara" <jordaan.t.mcgill@vanderbilt.edu>

Thanks!

JuLeigh Petty, PhD
Assistant Director
Medicine, Health and Society
Vanderbilt University
331 Calhoun Hall
juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu

From: Carpenter, Laura M
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 12:52 PM
To: Petty, JuLeigh
Subject: Re: Graduate Certificate in MHS

Dear Julie,

Thanks for your note. Women's and Gender Studies would be delighted to have students in the MHS graduate certificate program use our graduate courses for credit. We very much value the many ongoing links between our programs and look forward to continuing the relationship in the years to come.

All best,
Laura

From: <Petty>, JuLeigh <juleigh.petty@Vanderbilt.Edu>
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Laura Carpenter <laura.carpenter@vanderbilt.edu>
Subject: Graduate Certificate in MHS

Dear Laura,

As you know, Vanderbilt is updating its graduate certificate programs. We offer a graduate certificate in MHS. The administration is asking that we get letters of support from the programs in which certificate students are likely to take courses.

I am contacting you because of our shared interests and we anticipate your students may be interested in the MHS certificate. Will you allow students getting a certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society to

take a class in your department? If so, please respond to this email with just a sentence or two letting us know. I very much apologize for the short notice, but the administration would like this letter today.

I've pasted the catalog copy of the requirements below.

Thanks so much,

JuLeigh

JuLeigh Petty, PhD
Assistant Director
Medicine, Health and Society
Vanderbilt University
331 Calhoun Hall
juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu

Graduate Certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society

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and society.

3. Participation in a minimum of five extracurricular activities sponsored by MHS. A short paper reflecting on the insights gained from participating has to be submitted to the Assistant Director of MHS.

--

Jordaan McGill

Vanderbilt University, Class of 2016

Medicine, Health, and Society, Major

Student Employee, Center for MHS

Vice President, Vanderbilt Prison Project

President, The Mu Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

President, Vanderbilt NPHC

From: [McGill, Jordaan Tiara](#)
To: [Rahman, Nadia](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Graduate Certificate in MHS
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 2:39:18 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Petty, JuLeigh <juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu>
Date: Wed, Apr 22, 2015 at 2:20 PM
Subject: FW: Graduate Certificate in MHS
To: "McGill, Jordaan Tiara" <jordaan.t.mcgill@vanderbilt.edu>

2 of 4

JuLeigh Petty, PhD
Assistant Director
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331 Calhoun Hall
juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu

From: Harrington, Joel F
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 12:08 PM
To: Petty, JuLeigh; Igo, Sarah E
Cc: Metzl, Jonathan Michel
Subject: RE: Graduate Certificate in MHS

Dear JuLeigh,

I am happy to confirm the Department of History's enthusiastic support of this certificate. I anticipate that it will certainly find some takers among our current or future graduate cohorts.

Best wishes,
Joel

Joel F. Harrington
Professor and Chair
Department of History
Vanderbilt University
[615-322-2577](tel:615-322-2577)

From: Petty, JuLeigh
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 10:40
To: Harrington, Joel F; Igo, Sarah E
Cc: Metzl, Jonathan Michel
Subject: Graduate Certificate in MHS

Dear Joel, Sarah -

As you may know, Vanderbilt is updating its graduate certificate programs. We offer a graduate certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society. The administration is asking that we get letters of support from the programs in which certificate students are likely to take courses.

I am contacting you because of our shared interests and we anticipate at some point a history PhD

student may be interested in the MHS certificate. Will you allow students getting a certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society to take a history class? If so, please respond to this email with just a sentence or two letting us know. I very much apologize for the short notice, but the administration would like this letter today.

I've pasted the catalog copy of the requirements below.

Thanks so much,

JuLeigh

JuLeigh Petty, PhD
Assistant Director
Medicine, Health and Society
Vanderbilt University
331 Calhoun Hall
juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu

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Jordaan McGill

Vanderbilt University, Class of 2016

Medicine, Health, and Society, Major

Student Employee, Center for MHS

Vice President, Vanderbilt Prison Project

President, The Mu Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

President, Vanderbilt NPHC

From: [McGill, Jordaan Tiara](#)
To: [Rahman, Nadia](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Graduate Certificate in MHS
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 2:39:24 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Petty, JuLeigh <juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu>
Date: Wed, Apr 22, 2015 at 2:22 PM
Subject: FW: Graduate Certificate in MHS
To: "McGill, Jordaan Tiara" <jordaan.t.mcgil@vanderbilt.edu>

3 of 4

JuLeigh Petty, PhD
Assistant Director
Medicine, Health and Society
Vanderbilt University
331 Calhoun Hall
juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu

From: Heimbürger, Douglas
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:24 AM
To: Petty, JuLeigh; Martin, Marie H.
Cc: Metz, Jonathan Michel
Subject: RE: Graduate Certificate in MHS

JuLeigh and Jonathan, we are jumping through the very same hoops for our Graduate Certificate in Global Health, so we know exactly what you're up against!

Yes, indeed, we are very happy to have MHS graduate students in the VIGH courses you listed, as well as other courses that we manage. We appreciate the breadth of perspective they add to our class cohorts, and it is a pleasure to contribute to the MHS graduate certificate.

Yours truly, Doug

Douglas C. Heimbürger, M.D., M.S.

Professor of Medicine

Associate Director for Education and Training

Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health

2525 West End Avenue

Suite 750

Nashville, Tennessee 37203-1738

USA

Phone: [+1 \(615\) 322-9374](tel:+16153229374)

Fax: [+1 \(615\) 343-7797](tel:+16153437797)

Email douglas.heimburger@vanderbilt.edu

Assistant jennifer.stclair@vanderbilt.edu

Web page www.globalhealth.vanderbilt.edu

From: Petty, JuLeigh
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:21 AM
To: Martin, Marie H.; Heimburger, Douglas
Cc: Metzl, Jonathan Michel
Subject: Graduate Certificate in MHS

Dear Marie, Doug -

As you know, Vanderbilt is updating its graduate certificate programs. We offer a graduate certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society. The administration is asking that we get letters of support from the programs in which certificate students are likely to take courses.

Will you allow students getting a certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society to take a VIGH class? Possibilities include MHS 305 (7305), 306 (7306), 311 (7311), and 314 (7314) (new course numbers in parentheses). If so, please respond to this email with just a sentence or two letting us know. I very much apologize for the short notice, but the administration would like this letter today.

I've pasted the catalog copy of the requirements below.

Thanks so much,

JuLeigh

JuLeigh Petty, PhD

Assistant Director

Medicine, Health and Society

Vanderbilt University

331 Calhoun Hall

Graduate Certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society

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Student Employee, Center for MHS

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President, The Mu Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

President, Vanderbilt NPHC

From: [McGill, Jordaan Tiara](#)
To: [Rahman, Nadia](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Graduate Certificate in MHS
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 2:39:31 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Petty, JuLeigh <juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu>
Date: Wed, Apr 22, 2015 at 2:23 PM
Subject: FW: Graduate Certificate in MHS
To: "McGill, Jordaan Tiara" <jordaan.t.mcgill@vanderbilt.edu>

4 of 4

JuLeigh Petty, PhD
Assistant Director
Medicine, Health and Society
Vanderbilt University
331 Calhoun Hall
juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu

From: Donato, Katharine
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Petty, JuLeigh
Cc: Metz, Jonathan Michel
Subject: RE: Graduate Certificate in MHS

Yes, of course. KD

From: Petty, JuLeigh
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 10:43 AM
To: Donato, Katharine
Cc: Metz, Jonathan Michel
Subject: Graduate Certificate in MHS

Dear Kathryn,

As you may know, Vanderbilt is updating its graduate certificate programs. We offer a graduate certificate in MHS. The administration is asking that we get letters of support from the programs in which certificate students are likely to take courses.

I am contacting you because of our shared interests and we anticipate at some point a sociology PhD student may be interested in the MHS certificate. Will you allow students getting a certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society to take a class in your department? If so, please respond to this email with

just a sentence or two letting us know. I very much apologize for the short notice, but the administration would like this letter today.

I've pasted the catalog copy of the requirements below.

Thanks so much,

JuLeigh

JuLeigh Petty, PhD

Assistant Director

Medicine, Health and Society

Vanderbilt University

331 Calhoun Hall

juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu

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Jordaan McGill

Vanderbilt University, Class of 2016

Medicine, Health, and Society, Major

Student Employee, Center for MHS

Vice President, Vanderbilt Prison Project

President, The Mu Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

President, Vanderbilt NPHC

From: [Perkins, Douglas D](#)
To: [Petty, JuLeigh](#); [Metzl, Jonathan Michel](#)
Cc: [Shinn, Beth](#)
Subject: Re: Graduate Certificate in MHS
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 3:44:42 PM

In case you also want our support and approval of our grad students to take the MHS certificate and its courses, that is also fine for our Ph.D. students in Community Research & Action and our M.Ed. students [in Community Development & Action and Human Development Counseling], although the M.Ed. Students have less room to take electives than do our PhD students.

Best,

--

Prof. Douglas D. Perkins
Director of Graduate Studies, Dept. of Human & Org. Development
<http://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/departments/hod/index.php>
Director, Ph.D. Program in Community Research & Action <http://vu.edu/cra>
M.Ed. Program in Community Development & Action <http://vu.edu/cda>
B.S. Track in Community Leadership & Development
Peabody College #90, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37203-5721 USA
D.Perkins@vanderbilt.edu; skype: dougperkins1; google+
phone: (615) 322-7213, Fax: (615) 322-1769
My homepage: <https://my.vanderbilt.edu/perkins/>
Assoc. Editor, *Psychosocial Intervention/Intervención Psicosocial* / <http://www.psychosocial-intervention.org>

From: <Shinn>, Beth Shinn <beth.shinn@vanderbilt.edu>
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 3:16 PM
To: "Petty, JuLeigh" <juleigh.petty@Vanderbilt.Edu>
Cc: "Metzl, Jonathan Michel" <jonathan.metzl@Vanderbilt.Edu>, Douglas Perkins <douglas.d.perkins@vanderbilt.edu>
Subject: RE: Graduate Certificate in MHS

Hi JuLeigh,

We would be happy to have MHS students take courses in the CRA program. Do you need anything more than this from me?

Beth

Beth Shinn
Professor and Chair,
Department of Human and Organizational Development
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Nashville, TN 37203-5721
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From: Petty, JuLeigh
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 10:35 AM
To: Shinn, Beth
Cc: Metz, Jonathan Michel
Subject: Graduate Certificate in MHS

Dear Beth,

As you may know, Vanderbilt is updating its graduate certificate programs. We offer a graduate certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society. The administration is asking that we get letters of support from the programs in which certificate students are likely to take courses.

I am contacting you because we have heard from at least one CRA student interested in the MHS certificate. Will you allow students getting a certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society to take a CRA class? If so, please respond to this email letting us know. I very much apologize for the short notice, but the administration would like this letter today.

I've pasted the catalog copy of the requirements below.

Thanks so much,

JuLeigh

JuLeigh Petty, PhD
Assistant Director
Medicine, Health and Society
Vanderbilt University
331 Calhoun Hall
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Graduate Certificate in Medicine, Health, and Society

The certificate is available only to current graduate and professional students from the six participating Vanderbilt schools (Arts and Science, Divinity, Law, Medicine, Nursing, and Peabody). Acceptance to the program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 and the approval of both the student's adviser and the Director of Graduate Studies for Medicine, Health, and Society. To apply, students will:

1. Complete the [Intent to Enroll Form](#) from the Graduate School's website.
2. Contact MHS to arrange a meeting with the Director of Graduate Studies.
3. After fulfilling the program requirements, complete the [MHS Graduate Certificate Application Form](#). Turn in the application form and a copy of the paper to be evaluated by the MHS Graduate Committee to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Requirements include:

1. Completion of MHS 6100 and an additional 12 credit hours of graduate level coursework in Medicine, Health, and Society. The courses must form

an intellectually cohesive whole. Courses must be approved by the MHS Graduate Committee for credit and should include at least two courses (at least 6 credit hours) outside the student's home discipline. One course may be satisfied through an independent study with a faculty member affiliated with the MHS with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Graduate courses taken at Vanderbilt University prior to admission to the MHS Graduate Certificate Program may be counted toward the Certificate requirements with the approval of the MHS Graduate Committee if the course can satisfy one of the curriculum requirements of the program. No more than two courses (6 credit hours) of specifically-named courses required for the primary degree may be applied toward the Certificate.

2. Submission of a research paper to the MHS Graduate Committee for evaluation. The paper must demonstrate the application of interdisciplinary methods and knowledge of an area of study related to medicine, health, and society.
3. Participation in a minimum of five extracurricular activities sponsored by MHS. A short paper reflecting on the insights gained from participating has to be submitted to the Assistant Director of MHS.