

Office of Engaged Humanities and Health Advocacy



DREXEL UNIVERSITY
College of
Medicine

The mission of the Office of Engaged Humanities and Health Advocacy is to advance the professional formation of excellent, compassionate and engaged physicians.

In medical school, we are called to be our best selves and develop the intellectual, emotional, social and ethical capacities to care for those who are ill and vulnerable. Engaged medical humanities apply humanistic knowledge to real-world issues affecting the health of people and communities. We learn from people's lived experiences of illness, healing and doctoring. We also address intersecting health needs of individuals and their communities, and the social drivers of health.

Health Advocacy Curriculum

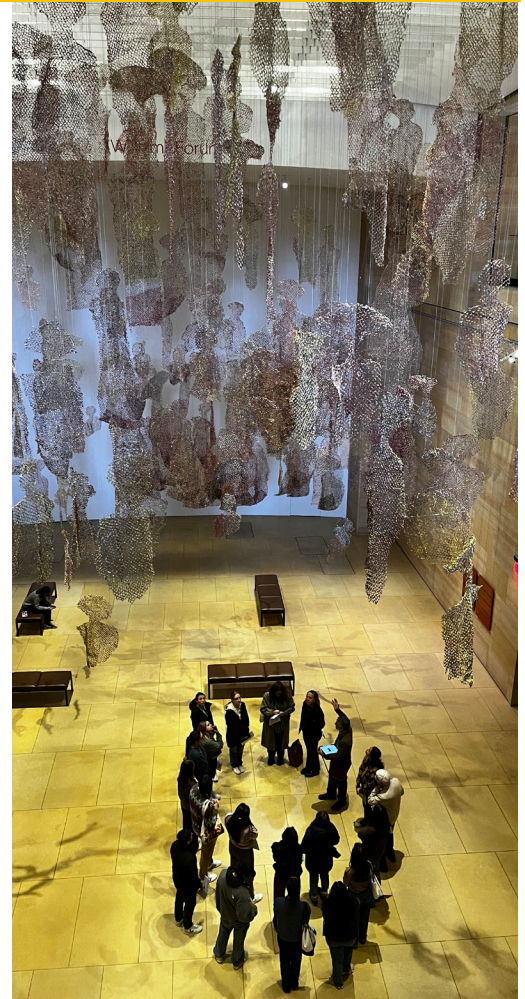
Physicians are health advocates and patient allies who strive to overcome medical and social barriers to health. Through a comprehensive curriculum, we address social drivers of health and health inequities, and the foundations of the therapeutic alliance between doctors and underserved patients.

In our required two-year curriculum, students learn to promote trust, foster common humanity, develop our empathy and compassion, and collaborate by hearing patients' priorities and meeting people where they are. We address ways to overcome stigma and bias, and incorporate principles of harm-reduction and trauma-informed care. We cover topics that include street medicine, anti-poverty medicine, disability and anti-ableist health care, medical care for people who are incarcerated or reentering, and other timely issues.

First-year students participate also in a **yearlong practicum** in community or clinical settings that serve people experiencing homelessness, youth at risk, vulnerable elders, people with disabilities and other underserved or at-risk groups. Other educational opportunities include the **Bridging the Gaps Community Health internship** and our fourth-year elective, **Providing Health Care for Vulnerable Populations**.

Student Engaged Free Clinics: Health Outreach Project

Our Health Outreach Project (HOP) works in partnership with the community to provide caring, nonjudgmental and interdisciplinary health services to individuals who have limited or no access to care. HOP students provide health services supervised by faculty at several different sites in the Philadelphia and West Reading areas. Sites include shelters; housing first, rehab and back-to-work residential programs; street outreach; and others.



The Office of Engaged Humanities and Health Advocacy fosters a culture of medical humanism, compassion, and commitment to the health of all people and communities through:

- | Health Advocacy required courses and electives
- | Student engaged free clinics
- | Medical Humanities Program
- | Clinical and Professional Ethics
- | Restorative Community Building

Medical Humanities

Medicine is about people caring for people. As a scholarly field, the medical humanities include those disciplines concerned with the human dimensions of illness, healing and doctoring, such as anthropology, contemplative studies, cultural studies, ethics, film, history and history of ideas, literature, philosophy, ethics, theater, visual arts, religious and spiritual thought, and sociology.

Campus enrichment program. Our Medical Humanities program offers over 10 elective courses each year, as well as many special events that are open to all medical students.

Medical Humanities Scholars certificate program. Students may choose to complete a scholarly concentration in the medical humanities and graduate with distinction. This is a rich opportunity to

intensively explore an area of personal interest.

Clinical and Professional Ethics

Our unique and leading edge ethics curriculum emphasizes patient care in the real world. Students are challenged to critically analyze ethical issues and deliberate best actions, tolerate ambiguity, and further develop themselves as moral agents.

We emphasize virtue ethics—developing our moral capacities such as compassion and courage—to do the right thing even under duress.

Topics include medical student ethical challenges, informed decision-making, confidentiality, research ethics, bias and ethics of care, medical mistakes, public

health emergencies and disaster ethics, end-of-life decision-making, dual loyalties, moral distress and moral courage, medical aid in dying, professional ethics, and others.

Nourishing Our Resilient Community of Practice

Restorative practices are a set of social strategies for building inclusive and resilient communities. These practices draw from peace and justice teachings among traditional cultures.

The Office of Engaged Humanities and Health Advocacy builds many of these practices into our courses and programs to foster connection, inclusion, respect, empathy and accountability among all.



Get in touch!

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