

Bachelor of Science in Education
Proposed Major: Human Wellness Studies
CIP Code: 51.000

The BSEd in Human Wellness Studies prepares individuals for either entry into specialized training programs or for a variety of concentrations in allied health fields. This is a degree completion program, designed for students entering their Junior year of study at the University of Arkansas.

Overview

Concerns for an individual's health is not only a private concern related to an individual, but a public concern as it relates to society's support for healthy living, choices, and medical attention. Current academic degree programs tend to segregate perspectives on health to specific fields of study, for example, community health, nursing, leisure studies, etc. This creates difficulties for individuals who have an interest in broader training areas and for those interested in working in health-related fields, but who may not be interested in formal pre-professional or licensure-regulated positions.

Proposal

To create a BSEd major that provides students interested in the field of human wellness to complete a degree program that allows them the flexibility of developing competence in a broad array of wellness related sub-fields. The student would be assigned a faculty advisor and required to develop an individual program of study following the guidelines described under "content."

Students must apply to the program for admission, and admission will be judged based on the development of a comprehensive proposal for the degree program. The application will be submitted to the coordinator of the program who will initially be housed in the College of Education and Health Professions Dean's Office. This coordinator will have a directory of participating faculty, and depending upon the student's interest and plan, recommendations will be made to place the student with a faculty member. This will similarly encourage a faculty-student mentoring relationship. Advising will initially be the responsibility of the program coordinator, but faculty advising will occur after an acceptable faculty mentor is identified and consents to working with the student.

Admission to the program will be continuous throughout the year but is only available to students with junior class standing.

Need and Uniqueness

This program is designed to primary be a degree-completion program, meaning that the primary audience will be students choosing later in their academic careers a non-licensure or pre-licensure program. The program will be open to students entering as freshmen and will be advised initially by the Program Coordinator until their junior year, and then will be advised by a

faculty advisor. For students transferring into the major, they will be expected to meet with the Program Coordinator to review degree program requirements, and will then be assigned to an advisor with similar academic and/or professional interests.

There is a demonstrated need for this academic major, both for students seeking to continue in their higher education career and in the workplace. A survey of 75 health-related employers in Northwest and Central Arkansas identified the following: nearly 90% (n=66; 88%) indicated that they believed there was a strong need for a program of this nature and 82% (n=62) indicated that they would be willing to hire a graduate of this program. Of those who indicated that they would hire a graduate of this program, they estimated a starting salary of between \$35,000-\$40,000.

Similarly, students currently enrolled at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, identify the need for the program. Of 150 students who had undeclared majors in COEHP, 73(48%) indicated that they would consider the Human Wellness Studies program as an academic major. Of 150 students majoring in one of COEHP's health fields, 93 (62%) indicated that they would consider enrolling in this major if they could not continue in their current field of study.

Public Repetition of Program

There are no programs similar to this offered by a public university in the State of Arkansas. Some universities do offer general programs that allow students to design their own majors and are offered under headings such as "University Studies," but they do not provide the depth of understanding in health as a professional field, nor do they provide an applied experience of this nature.

Additional Resources Required

One clinical faculty member will be hired and shared between the Educational Studies major and the Human Wellness Studies major. This faculty member will work with existing COEHP faculty to serve as advisors for students, and two distinct listings of faculty willing to work with these students will be developed. The clinical faculty member will also provide support for new student and underclass advising. The student will have initial contact with the clinical faculty member, and upon admission to the major, will have the responsibility of selecting an advisor and developing an appropriate program of study.

The program, in addition to this proposal moving forward for approval, will concurrently seek the approval of the following classes: EDHP 3023 Introduction to Human Wellness Studies, EDHP 4003 Inquiry in Education and Wellness, EDHP xxx3 Internship in Education and Wellness, and EDHP xxx3 Capstone in Education and Wellness.

State and University Core: 35 semester credit hours

Foundational Courses: 15 semester credit hours

EDHP 3023	Introduction to Human Wellness Studies	3 hours*
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Varies	Diversity	3 hours**
CHLP 1103	Personal Health and Safety	3 hours
PEAC 1621	Fitness Concepts	1 hour
CHLP 2622	Terminology for Health Professions	2 hours
RESM 2853	Leisure and Society	3 hours

Application Courses: 12 semester credit hours

EDHP 4003	Inquiry in Education and Wellness	3 hours*
EDHP 3033	Internship in Educ and Wellness	3 hours*
EDHP 3033	Internship in Educ and Wellness	3 hours*
EDHP 3033	Internship in Educ and Wellness	3 hours*
EDHP 4013	Capstone in Education and Wellness	3 hours*

Advisor-approved

Electives 55 semester credit hours (these must include at least 30 hours of upper division coursework)

*New course to be developed

**Students have a selection of courses, including: PLSC 3523 Politics of the Middle East; SCWK 3193; SOCI 3193 Race, Class, and Gender in Society; AAST 3243 African American History Since 1877; EUST 2013 Introduction to Europe; ANTH 3253 Cultures of the South; or advisor approved; or students may substitute an advisor approved study abroad experience to fulfill this requirement.