

Pathways in the HSOC Major and Minor (Starting Fall 2025)

Health and Society (HSOC) is an interdisciplinary cross-college major and minor that focuses on social science and humanities approaches to analyzing the relationship between societies' social structures and cultural practices and human health, illness, healing practices, and healthcare. Housed in CAS, the program promotes critical understanding of social, cultural, economic, geographic, political, psychological, and environmental contexts that shape varied human experiences of health.

The HSOC major and minor at UVM offer much flexibility and many choices. Having choices can be both exciting and challenging to navigate. To help students to find their way, we have laid out some pathways showing students how to get to intermediate and advanced courses.

All HSOC majors need to take **these three introductory courses**: ANTH 1190/HSOC 1700: Global Health, Development and Diversity, SOC 1300/HSOC 1600: Health Care in America, and HSCI 1100: Introduction to Public Health. Majors then forge **at least two pathways to intermediate and advanced** HSOC courses, making sure to take the prerequisites required to get from introductory to intermediate to advanced courses in the major.

All HSOC minors need to take **two of these three introductory courses**: ANTH 1190/HSOC 1700, SOC 1300/HSOC 1600, and/or HSCI 1100, and they take **at least nine HSOC credits at the intermediate level or above**, making sure to take the prerequisites required for intermediate and/or advanced courses.

Pathways to Advanced HSOC Courses in CAS

Pathways to advanced HSOC courses in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) are offered in the departments of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. These HSOC courses are in biological, medical, and psychological anthropology, health economics, health geography, health policy and politics, health psychology, and sociology of health and illness.

Anthropology:

- ANTH 1190: Global Health, Development and Diversity (3 credits, required introductory course)
- ANTH 2170: Culture, Health & Healing, or ANTH 2181: Aging in Cross-Cultural Persp, or ANTH 2191: Foundations of Global Health, or ANTH 2410: Topics in Biological Anthropology, or ANTH 2205: Gender, Sex, Race & Body (3 credits, intermediate core course)
- ANTH 3192: Anth Research in Global Health, or ANTH 3475: Research in Human Biological Diversity, or ANTH 3560: Human Osteology (Anth 3475 and Anth 3560 need Anth 1400 prereq), or ANTH 3789: Culture, Mind, Body (3 credits, advanced core course)

Economics:

- HSOC 1600: Health Care in America (3 credits, required introductory course)
- MATH 1212: Calculus, or MATH 1234: Calculus (3 credits, prerequisite course, economics prereq, HSOC ancillary)
- ECON 1450: Microeconomics (3 credits, prerequisite course, economics prereq, HSOC ancillary)
- ECON 2450: Microeconomic Theory (3 credits, prerequisite course, economics prereq, HSOC ancillary)
- ECON 2850: Health Economics (3 credits, core intermediate course)
- ECON 3850/4850: Topics in: Health Economics (3 credits, advanced core course)

**Prerequisites for ECON 2850, 3850, and 4850 for HSOC majors and minors (as above) involve fewer ECON courses than for ECON majors and minors.*

Geography:

- ANTH 1190: Global Health, Development and Diversity (3 credits, required introductory course)
- GEOG 1760: Global Environments & Cultures, or GEOG 1770: Geography of Race/Ethnicity in the US, or GEOG 1780: Society, Place, and Power (HSOC ancillary course)
- GEOG 2782: Health Geography (3 credits, intermediate core course)
- GEOG 3782: Topics in Geography and Health (3 credits, advanced core course)

Political Science:

- HSOC 1600: Health Care in America (3 credits, required introductory course)
- POLS 1300: US Political System (3 credits, prerequisite course, political science prereq, HSOC ancillary)
- POLS 2####: Health Policy and Politics (3 credits, to be #2490, intermediate core course)
- POLS 3490: Research in Health Politics and Policy, or POLS 3492: State Politics and Policy Research (with health focus), or POLS 4310: VT Legislative Research Srvc (with health focus) (3 credits, advanced core course)

Psychology:

- HSOC 1600: Health Care in America (3 credits, required introductory course)
- PSYS 1400: Intro to Psychological Sciences (3 credits, prerequisite course, PSYS prereq)
- PSYS 2500: Psychopathology (3 credits, intermediate core course)
- PSYS 3510: Health Psychology (3 credits, advanced core course, make sure to take your intro methods in STAT first)

**Prerequisites for PSYS 3510 for HSOC majors and minors (as above) involve fewer PSYS courses than for PSYS majors and minors.*

Sociology:

- HSOC 1600: Health Care in America (3 credits, required introductory course)
- SOC 1500: Intro to Sociology (3 credits, prerequisite course, soc prereq, HSOC ancillary)
- SOC 2300: Population Health Research, or SOC 2335: Gender Sexualities and Med, or SOC 2260: Crim Justice & Public Health (not offered in future), or SOC 2320: Sociology of Death & Dying (not offering in future) (3 credits, intermediate core course)
- SOC 3300: Health: Race, Class, Gender, or SOC 3335: Soc of Reproduction (not offered in future), or SOC 3####: Soc of Health and Illness (3 credits, advanced core course)

Pathways to Intermediate-Only HSOC Courses in CAS

Pathways to the intermediate level only in CAS are offered in English, Philosophy, and Religion. Here is what we anticipate the CAS HSOC pathways to intermediate only courses to be:

English:

- ENGL 1260: Topics in Literature and Health
- ENGL 2####: Drugs and Addiction in Film and Literature

Philosophy:

- PHIL 1675: Death and Dying
- PHIL 2670: Medical Ethics

Religion:

- REL 1650: Religion, Health, and Healing
- REL 2652: Mystics, Mediums, and Shamans

Additional Pathways For Previous Catalog Years

Beyond this, HSOC students following catalog years prior to 2025-2026 may be able to also take a pathway to relevant intermediate or advanced courses offered in other non-CAS colleges at UVM. Non-CAS advanced courses that can count toward HSOC include courses like HSCI 3100, HSCI 3300, STAT 3000, CSD 3200, NFS 4245, and NR 3360. Students interested in taking a pathway to those courses need to make sure to find and take the necessary prerequisites. See this [URL](#) for pathways that students can historically choose to take within the HSOC major and minor. For students following later catalog years, these non-CAS courses are electives.