

Admission to the Major Requirements

Effective Date: Fall 2016

Current Catalog Copy (2015-16 Undergraduate Catalog):

Department of Health Studies

Department Faculty

Misty Rhoads, *Chairperson*

Cavanaugh, R.; Cotner, M.; DeRuiter-Willems, L.; Dietz, J.; Hillier, N.; McCausland, J.; Phillips, K.; Rhoads, M.; Sego, A.; Simons, S.; Sullivan, M.

Department Telephone: 217.581.5761

New Catalog copy: (change highlighted in yellow)

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Criteria for Admission to the Department of Health Studies Major:

- Completion of 15 semester hours of work taken at EIU or at another institution of higher education.
- Minimum of 2.0 cumulative grade point average.

Rationale:

In tracking our students' paths to degree completion, it has become apparent that **students who enter the major with a cumulative GPA below 2.00 are less likely to graduate, less likely to graduate on time, and more likely to need to repeat numerous core courses.** These outcomes are particularly true of students with a cumulative GPA below 2.00 who are changing their major in their junior or senior year.

On average, **students with a cumulative GPA below 2.00 when entering the major have to repeat at least 25% of the the required core coursework at least once in order to earn the required minimum grade of "C"**. They also struggle to meet the graduation requirement of a major GPA of 2.50 or better. Students who have a cumulative GPA below 2.00 are less likely to successfully complete coursework which is deeply writing intensive and analysis-centric. All of the required upper division coursework in the Health Studies major is writing intensive, and requires strong analytical processing skills.

Since our primary mission is helping students successfully matriculate from our program and from EIU, it seems disingenuous to accept a student into the major who is highly unlikely to be successful, especially if that student is an upper classman.

In Fall 2014, the site team visited as part of the SABPAC (SOPHE-AAHE Baccalaureate Program Approval Committee) re-approval process for our major. The site team's final report included the recommendation that we add admission standards.

Furthermore, a new interdisciplinary major in Health Communication is being co-sponsored by the Departments of Health Studies and Communication Studies. That major will have admission standards, including a 2.00 CGPA. Maintaining consistency across all options and majors affiliated with the Department is crucial to avoid confusion for academic advisors and students.

Approved by DCC: 8/28/2015

Approved by HST Faculty: 8/30/2015

Approved by CEPS College Curriculum:

Approved by CAA: