

## **What Is the Medical Humanities Track?**

The Medical Humanities Track is one of the “special program tracks” or areas of scholarly concentration offered by the UTMB School of Medicine, designed to allow students to gain special, concentrated exposure to a specific topic (in this case, medical humanities) within the existing 4-year curriculum.

## **What Is Medical Humanities?**

Scholars in Medical Humanities are committed to moral inquiry, research, teaching, and professional service in medicine and health care. In today's often bewildering world of scientific, technological, cultural, and political changes, medicine faces human problems and possibilities that transcend traditional academic disciplines. Scholars engage in research on ethical and legal problems in clinical practice and biomedical research; and on philosophical, historical, visual, literary, and religious dimensions of medicine and health care. This broad-gauged inquiry provides the foundation for medical and graduate teaching, clinical ethics consultation, and health policy analysis locally and in state, national, and international academic and public forums.

## **Which Students Should Consider The Medical Humanities Track?**

- Students generally interested in medical humanities or one field within medical humanities (such as bioethics, history of medicine, literature/narrative and medicine, religion and health, law and public policy, visual arts and medicine, or social medicine) who wish to devote more time during medical school to studying this area
- Students who had undergraduate majors in a humanities-related field and who want to maintain this interest while in medical school
- Students considering adding a further degree (MA, PhD) in humanities to their medical study but unsure if they wish to commit to the extra time

## **What Does the Track Require?**

Successful completion of the Medical Humanities Track requires:

1. Earning a passing grade in all required curricular activities in the School of Medicine related to ethics, humanities, and professionalism (e.g., components of POM-1 and 2).
2. Completion of an elective or selective experience that involves provision of care to an underserved population. The Ambulatory Community Selective, FAMU-4022, Frontera de Salud, or a global health experience are particularly recommended.
3. Completion of elective, IMHU 4033, Introduction to Medical Humanities. (*Note: This elective was developed specifically to serve as a keystone experience for the proposed Track, but enrollment is not limited to students in the Track.*)
4. Completion of at least two Electives and/or Basic Science or Humanities Selectives (BSHS) from among those offered by the Institute for the Medical Humanities.
5. Attendance of at least 2/3 of the meetings of a monthly Medical Humanities Student Journal Club during Years 1-4 of the medical curriculum (with exceptions being made for time periods during which the student is located away from the UTMB campus).

6. Completion of a scholarly research project under the guidance of a faculty member of the Institute for the Medical Humanities, during Year 4, with presentation at a public gathering. Students should enroll in BSHS IMHU 4034 for faculty supervision.

**When Can These Requirements Be Met?**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Course # if any</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Contact Hrs</b>
Underserved/global care experience	Various	Between Years 1 and 2, Year 3, Year 4	Various
Introduction to Medical Humanities	IMHU 4033 <i>or</i> Preclinical Preceptorship	Between Years 1 and 2, Year 3, Year 4	24
Other Medical Humanities elective/selective (2 required)	Various	Year 3, Year 4	Various
Student Research Project	IMHU 4034	Year 4	Various
Journal Club (Monthly, 90 min meetings)	None	Years 1-4	48 required

**What Does the Student Receive upon Completing the Track?**

Besides the benefit of the knowledge and experience gained, students will have “Scholar in Medical Humanities” designated on the SOM transcript and in the Commencement program. Participation in the Track will be mentioned in the Dean’s Letter and a certificate of completion will be awarded at graduation.

**Is There Any Penalty for Withdrawing from the Track Without Completing It?**

No. A student can enroll in the track and later change his/her mind without penalty.

**What Kind of Research Project Is Required for Completion?**

Through the Introduction to the Medical Humanities elective and the two other required electives, students will have met a number of faculty in the Institute for the Medical Humanities (IMH) and have an overview of the different sorts of research/scholarly projects these faculty engage in. Students may choose an IMH faculty member to serve as mentor for the final research project. The student may enroll in the BSHS IMHU 4034 for one or more 4-week blocks (depending on how many blocks the student may have available) to work under that faculty member’s direction to complete the research project. The student will be expected to produce a 10-20 page research paper and to present the research findings before an audience of IMH faculty and other students enrolled in the Track.