University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry
Health Humanities Pathway Information and Components

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Pathway Description:

The Health Humanities Pathway program provides medical students with an enriched educational experience in the humanities throughout their four years of medical school. The Pathway reinforces the biopsychosocial approach to patient-centered, humanistic practices and provides students with the opportunity to develop a project that applies methods and perspectives from the humanities to their medical education. Students participate in a variety of activities, including ethics, humanities, and arts-based courses; clinical bioethics and research activities, as well as special events and competitive awards.

Pathway Components:

Pathway Mentor
Each Pathway student works with a faculty advisor/mentor who oversees their Pathway progress and advises them on their final Pathway project.

Supervised Project
Students are required to complete a Pathway project of their choosing. Pathway projects may focus on visual arts, literature, narrative, film, music, gender and women's studies, cultural studies, religious studies, philosophy, history or theatre. In Phase 1 and 2, students must meet with their advisor to identify areas of interest, learning goals and appropriate activities, while researching and developing a project. In Phase 3 and Phase 4, students must meet with their mentor to review progress on their Project.

Phase 1 and 2
- In Phase 1, attend MHBE Pathway Meetings & one Health Humanities Pathway Selective course in the Spring Semester. Read assigned book & participate in book discussion. Attend 4 events or activities and submit written reflections to WordPress site.
- In Phase 2, attend MHBE Pathway Meetings & two Health Humanities Pathway Selective courses in the Fall Semester. Read assigned book & participate in book discussion. Attend 4 events or activities and submit written reflections to WordPress site.
- Students must meet with their advisor to identify areas of interest, learning goals and appropriate activities; identify, research and develop a project.

Phase 3 and 4
- Continue working on and developing Pathway Project together with mentor.
- May take up to four weeks of elective MHU615 – Independent Creative/Research Projects in Health Humanities and Bioethics to work on Pathway Project.
- Attend 4 events or activities and submit written reflection to WordPress site.

Health Humanities Events or Community Engagement Activities
Must attend or participate in at least four (4) events or community engagement activities each year in Phase 1, 2 and 3/4 (in person or virtual online format), for example:

- **Health Humanities Interest Group –** Regular attendance and active participation in the Health Humanities Interest Group is expected. Each meeting attended counts toward the required 4 annual activities. (This group is under development. Information will be disseminated in the coming months.)

- **Noon Conferences**
  - Interdisciplinary Clinical Ethics Noon Conference (1st Wed of each month at noon)
  - Health Humanities Noon Conference (2nd Fri of each month at noon)
  - Schwartz Center Conference (3rd Wed of each month at noon)
  - Palliative Care Grand Rounds (4th Wed of each month at noon)
  - Spiritual Reflection Rounds (5th Wed of each month at noon)

- **Potential Community Engagement Activities** (sign-up required)
  - Art & Observation Program
  - Alzheimer's disease related programs at the Memorial Art Gallery
  - Vision loss related programs at the Memorial Art Gallery
  - Opportunities for arts and humanities-based community activities through The Center for Advocacy, Community Health, Education and Diversity (CACHED)

- **Special Interest Groups**
  - Corner Society for the History of Medicine
  - *murmur,* a literary and arts journal published annually and led by medical students
  - Progress Notes, a reflective writing group led by medical students

- **Events in Rochester that integrate health humanities and healthcare**
  - Films, musical presentations, theatrical productions, readings, lectures
  - Other groups or activities identified by student's mentor

Submit Summary of Events and Activities
After attending events or activities, submit to the Pathways WordPress Website a brief reflection on the event or activity attended (200 word minimum).

Portfolio / Forms
To track activities and create a portfolio of work, each Pathway student completes a checklist of requirements and activities in Phase 1, 2 and 3/4. The student's mentor and Advisory Dean signs the form, and the check sheet is submitted to the Pathway Coordinator who will obtain the Pathway Director's signature.

Deadlines

<u>Phase 1</u>
Nov 16 – Pathway application due
Prior to April 1 - Pathway interest & preliminary project plans reviewed with mentor
July 30 – Phase 1 Check Sheet due

<u>Phase 2</u>
Jan 1 – Complete Phase 2 Pathway Project Progress Check Sheet due
Prior to June 1 – Meet at least twice with mentor to discuss project plans & proposal
July 30 – Phase 2 Check Sheet & completed Pathway Project Proposal due

<u>Phase 3</u>
May 31 – Meet at least once with mentor to discuss developing project & reflect on its relationship to clinical work in Phase 3

Phase 4
Oct 15 – Pathway Project progress report due
March 1 – Phase 3/4 check sheet & Completed pathway project due

NOTE: Failure to meet Pathway deadlines will result in the student being withdrawn from the Pathway.

Certificate and Dean's Letter
Students who complete all Pathway requirements will receive a Certificate in the Pathway Program at graduation and a notation about their Pathway work in their Dean's letter to residency programs.

For more information regarding the Health Humanities and Bioethics Pathway, visit
https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/medical-humanities/bioethics.aspx