



Health Equity

Designed for students who plan to enter health science careers, as well as those primarily interested in social justice/ social change, the Health Equity minor provides a strong foundation for understanding how cultural and structural forces impact the health and care of communities, influence individuals' choices and relationship to information, and shape the processes and implications of health science. With a heavy emphasis on social sciences, humanities, and experiential learning, the Health Equity minor cultivates an understanding of the inextricable relationship between human health, social justice, and ethics in research and treatment.

THE PROGRAM

Central to the Jesuit, Catholic, and humanistic mission of Gonzaga University is a deep-seated commitment to issues and practices of social justice and becoming persons for others. The field of health equity involves discussion and scholarship around issues of health disparities and healthcare inequalities that disproportionately affect traditionally oppressed and vulnerable populations. The Health Equity minor affords students the opportunity to explore these topics through a uniquely Ignatian lens and cultivates students' critical thinking skills and their ability to engage with the local community, while developing evidence-based solutions to health disparities. This minor is open to all undergraduate students, regardless of major or year.

OUTCOMES

The minor in Health Equity employs a multidisciplinary academic approach to explore social determinants of health, healthcare inequities, and the social construction of scientific knowledge. Upon graduation, students will be able to:

- Articulate how social forces impact communities and influence individuals' choices, relationship to information, and life chances.
- Analyze how power structures cause disparities in health/health care and influence health science.
- Assess primary theories of health in the United States and the solutions that each proposes through a social justice lens.
- Reflect on ethical principles, identify social determinants, and employ cultural competency in a health-related experiential learning environment.

CURRICULUM

The minor consists of 18 credits, including 9 required and 9 elective credits. Required courses will provide students with a general introduction to social structures and inequalities, an overview of how social forces influence health, health care, and health science, and the opportunity to engage experiential learning. Electives cover a variety of topics relevant to issues of health equity.

Examples of Health Equity courses include:

- Indigenous Science
- Sociology of Health & Medicine
- Feminism and Science
- Christian Sexual Ethics
- Environmental Sociology
- Health Care Ethics
- Medical Spanish & Cultural Competency
- Health Economics
- Sociology of Reproduction
- Ethics of Eating
- Organizing for Health Equity
- Science and Society

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
gonzaga.edu/college-or-arts-sciences/departments/health-equity