

Bachelor of Health Sciences

KU's online Bachelor of Health Sciences provides students with a broad foundation in health sciences and the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge and skills in specialty areas related to their anticipated health care profession. Bachelor of Health Sciences students can explore elective courses that help them concentrate their knowledge in nutrition, public and population health, environmental health, health policy and management, and clinical trials management. Students should be sure to discuss their long-term plans with their academic advisor for help in selecting the best courses for their desired educational pathway and career plans.

The field of health sciences covers a variety of in-demand professions, from nutritionists to public health experts and more. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects health care related careers to grow 14% by 2028. Some career pathways within health care and health sciences are projected to double or even triple this rate.

Someone with a bachelor's degree in health sciences might apply their knowledge in the following ways:

- Managing health care facilities, overseeing operations, and developing strategic plans as a health care administrator.
- Working as a public health specialist on initiatives to improve public and community health, such as disease prevention and health promotion programs.
- Developing and implementing nutrition and health education programs for various populations, including schools, workplaces, and community organizations.
- Researching and implementing public health initiatives.
- Continuing to graduate school in a variety of specialized areas in health care or medicine.
- Coordinating clinical trials for new medicines and therapies developed by scientists.
- Advising local or state governments on health policy and health care issues.

The Bachelor of Health Science follows university admission requirements for transfer students. First-year students apply for admission through the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

This program offers flexible pathways for students to complete their degree. Students can take foundational courses at community colleges or the KU Lawrence Campus, and complete upper-level coursework through the School of Professional Studies.

Upper-level courses requirements for the major are available online.

The School of Professional Studies strongly encourages students to contact an academic advisor prior to applying for admission to develop a personalized degree completion plan. To schedule an appointment, please call 913-897-8539.

Transfer students with an associate's degree or equivalent:

- Students with an associate's degree or equivalent, after meeting with an advisor and developing a degree completion plan, can typically begin taking junior and senior-level courses in their major.

Transfer students with 24-59 credit hours:

- Students with 24-59 credits, after meeting with an advisor and developing their plan, may still need to complete prerequisite and lower-level courses.
- Please note that online lower-level courses are limited, and no lower-level courses are offered at the Edwards Campus.
- Students may find more lower-level course availability in-person at the Lawrence Campus or at a community college.
- Schedule an appointment with an advisor and create a personalized plan, contact 913-897-8539.

First-year students:

Incoming first-year students wanting to pursue this major apply through the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. An academic advisor will guide you through lower-level course selections and help you declare Health Sciences as your academic major when you are ready to begin junior and senior level courses.

First-year students should select the following options on the KU admission application:

Program: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Plan: Deciding
Subplan: Health and Behavioral Sciences

The following table describes the specific courses to fulfill the Bachelor of Health Science (BHS) degree requirements.

Code	Title	Hours
Core 34 General Education		34
Foundation Science Courses		
One semester of introductory biology with lab		5
MATH 101	College Algebra: _____ (or MATH 104, 115, 125)	3
One Chemistry Course		3-5
MATH 365	Elementary Statistics	3
	or MATH 107 Introductory Statistics	
Health Sciences Core Courses		
BIOL 240	Fundamentals of Human Anatomy (5 hours if you take lab)	3
BIOL 246	Principles of Human Physiology (5 hours if you take lab)	3
BTEC 310	Scientific Communications	3
	or HMG 310 Health Communication	
HMG 320	Applied Healthcare Law and Ethics ¹	3
	or BTEC 501 Biotechnology Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research	
HSES 371	Medical Terminology for Health Professionals	3
	or HEIM 230 Medical Terminology	
BSCI 400	Microbiology	3
	or BIOL 200 Basic Microbiology	
HSCI 340	Introduction to Public Health	3
HMG 300	Introduction to Healthcare Management	3

HMGT 305	Health Policy and Healthcare Systems	3
HSCI 315	Exploring Careers in Health Science	1
HSCI 415	Career Readiness in Health Sciences	1
Health Science Elective Courses		24
Select 24 credit hours of the courses below.		
BIOS 704	Principles of Statistics in Public Health	
EVRN 543	Natural Hazards and Environmental Risks	
EVRN 730	Environmental Toxicology	
HMGT 450	Economics and Finance of Healthcare	
HMGT 460	Healthcare Law and Regulation	
HMGT 500	Introduction to Clinical Trials Management	
HSCI 320	Principles of Nutrition	
	or HSES 330 Principles of Nutrition and Health	
HSCI 420	Nutrition Through the Life Cycle	
HSCI 421	Public Health Nutrition	
HSCI 422	Nutrition Assessment	
HSCI 440	Introduction to Epidemiology	
HSCI 441	Population Health	
HSCI 445	Introduction to Environmental Health	
HSCI 450	Epidemics, Pandemics, and Pestilence	
HSCI 499	Topics in Health Sciences: _____	
HSCI 521	Advanced Nutrition and Metabolism	
HSCI 522	Advanced Sports Nutrition	
HSCI 545	Advanced Environmental Health	
HSES 308	Drugs and Diseases in Society	
HSES 310	Research and Data Analysis in Health, Sport, and Exercise Sciences	
HSES 331	Sport and Exercise Nutrition	
HSES 489	Health and Human Sexuality	
HEIM 415	Healthcare Delivery Systems	
HEIM 420	Legal Aspects of Healthcare	
HEIM 575	Applied Statistics and Research Methods in Healthcare	
SOC 424	Sociology of Health and Medicine	
SOC 425	Sociology of Global Health	
Capstone		
HSCI 599: Health Science Capstone		3
Overall Elective Hours		14
Total Hours		118-120

While completing all required courses, students must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Total Hours: Satisfied by a minimum of 120 total hours.

Junior/Senior Hours: Satisfied by a minimum of 45 junior/senior (300+) hours.

Graduation GPA: Satisfied with a minimum 2.0 KU GPA and a minimum of a "C" in all Health Science Core, Elective and Capstone requirements.

Below is a sample 4-year plan for students pursuing the Bachelor in Health Science.

Freshman		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
MATH 101 (Core 34: Math and Statistics (SGE)*) ⁰³⁰	3 Introductory Biology Course with Lab (Core 34: Natural and Physical Sciences (SGE))* ⁰⁴⁰	5
Chemistry Course*	3-5 Core 34: English (SGE) ⁰¹⁰	3
Core 34: English (SGE) ⁰¹⁰	3 Core 34: Communications (SGE) ⁰²⁰	3
Core 34: Social and Behavioral Sciences (SGE) ⁰⁵⁰	3 Core 34: Arts and Humanities (SGE) ⁰⁶⁰	3
Elective	2	
14-16		14
Sophomore		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
BIOL 240 (5 hours if you take lab)	3 BIOL 246 (5 hours if you take lab)	3
Core 34: Social and Behavioral Sciences (SGE) ⁰⁵⁰	3 Core 34: Arts and Humanities (SGE) ⁰⁶⁰	3
Core 34: US Culture (SGE) ⁰⁷⁰	3 Core 34: Global Culture (SGE) ⁰⁷⁰	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
15		15
Junior		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
HMGT 300	3 BSCI 400	3
HSCI 315	1 HMGT 305	3
HSCI 340	3 HSES 371	3
MATH 365	3 Health Science Elective	3
Health Science Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3	
16		15
Senior		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
HMGT 310	3 HSCI 415	1
HMGT 320	3 HSCI 599 (Capstone)	3
Health Science Elective	3 Health Science Elective	3
Health Science Elective	3 Health Science Elective	3
Health Science Elective	3 Health Science Elective	3
	Elective	3
15		16

Total Hours 120-122

Notes:

* This course is a Required major course and is also part of Core 34: Systemwide General Education. If this course is not taken to fulfill the Core 34:SGE requirement, it must be taken in place of elective hours.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Applies a broad-based and integrative foundational understanding of fundamental biological, medical, and social knowledge to solve problems and issues in the health sciences.
- Masters a breadth of knowledge across multiple health sciences disciplines that includes public health, health policy, and the healthcare system.
- Explains and analyzes the socio-economic, behavioral, biological, and environmental factors that impact human health and contribute to health conditions and disparities.
- Applies professional and career skills to meet the requirements for nonclinical health professions or admission to professional programs in health fields.