

## Health Science Major Concentration in Health Professions

### Frequently Asked Questions – and the Answers!

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#### 1. Is this concentration open to students in all health career certification programs?

At this point, the concentration is limited to students in the following programs:

- Dental Hygiene
- Paramedic
- Primary Care Associate/Physician Assistant
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Therapy

#### 2. Is this concentration open to students from all community colleges?

Yes! The concentration was developed in collaboration with our partners at Foothill Community College, but it is open to eligible students from all community colleges.

#### 3. What else do I have to take at the community college besides my health career courses?

You need to complete the CSU Track Core General Education Courses (39 semester units). If this is not included in your health career certification program course of study, you'll need to add it to your community college coursework. Your program or college advisors can help you make sure you are completing the correct sequence and meet the [CSU General Education](#) requirements..

#### 4. How many units can I transfer to SJSU?

You can transfer a lot of units! You will transfer the 39 semester units of CSU Track Core General Education and 21 semester units from your health career certification program that will be applied to the Concentration. If you take the required 2 units of Physical Education at community college, you can transfer those, as well as 6 additional semester units of electives. If, instead, you meet the Physical Education requirement at SJSU, you can transfer 8 community college semester units as electives towards your bachelor's degree.

#### 5. What if my community college is on the quarter system?

No problem. Your community college advisors can help you make the conversion from quarter to semester units.

#### 6. How many units will I take at SJSU?

SJSU requires a minimum of 120 units for the Bachelor of Science degree. The university also allows you to transfer up to 70 units from community college. That means that, if you transfer 70 units (39 Core GE, 21 from your health program which will be applied to the Concentration,

and then 8-10 additional semester units as electives, depending on whether or not you take PE at your community college or SJSU), you will need to take 50 semester units at SJSU.

### **7. What exactly do I take at SJSU?**

Once you're here, you'll take courses in three areas:

- a. SJSU Studies (12 units)
- b. Health Science Option 5 Core Courses (30 units)
- c. Electives (8-10 upper division units from Health Science or related departments)

### **8. What is SJSU Studies?**

SJSU Studies in advanced general education. The university requires four courses, 12 semester units, distributed across the four areas: Area R – Earth and Environment; Area S – Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S.; Area V – Culture, Civilization, and Global Understanding; and Area Z – Written Communication II. A list of courses approved for SJSU Studies can be found in the online SJSU Schedule of Classes. Your Health Science Advisor can also recommend specific courses that fit well with the Major.

### **9. What Health Science courses do I take?**

Students in Option 5 take a common set of Health Science Core Courses. The 10 Core Courses provide the framework, foundations, and broad skills for community health practice. The Core Courses for the Health Professions Concentration are:

HS 102	Health Team Building
HS 104	Community Health Promotion
HS 135	Health in a Multicultural Society <u>OR</u>
HS 107	Aging and Society
HS 158	Health and the Internet
HS 159	Health Program Planning
HS 161	Epidemiology
HS 162	Health Care Organization
HS 164	Health Services and Social Marketing
HS 165	The Health Professional
HS 167	Biostatistics

These courses will be quite different from what you have studied in your health career certificate program. They are based on the community as the unit of interest, analysis, and intervention. They draw from social science theory, demography, statistics, and other fields to provide a social ecological context for understanding health from a systems perspective. This approach will draw upon your in-depth understanding of the biology of health and disease and your interpersonal communication skills involving health at the community level. The combination of your clinical skills with a community perspective – and a bachelor's degree – will be a strong foundation for your professional work and career development.

**10. Do I get credit for any of my health coursework from community college?**

Absolutely! That's the beauty of this concentration! All Health Science students take 10 Core Courses but then take an additional 21 units (except for those taking a Minor) of specialized coursework in either Community Health (Option 1), Gerontology (Option 3), or Health Services Administration (Option 4). Students in the Health Professions Concentration (Option 5) will not take additional courses in their specialty area at SJSU. Instead, you will be able to transfer 21 semester units (usually 32 quarter units) from your health career certificate program to meet the concentration unit requirement.

**11. Can I transfer anything else from community college?**

Yes. In addition to the 39 units of Core General Education (CSU Track) and the 21 semester units for the Health Professions Concentration, you can also transfer 6 – 8 semester units from other health-related courses and the 2 semester units of Physical Education (6 units if you take PE at your community college, 8 units if you take PE at SJSU). The university does not allow you to transfer more than 70 semester units from community college. You will be happy to know that we have waived the three normal "Preparation for the Major" courses for you: HS 1 Understanding Your Health, HS 15 Human Life Span, and HS 67 Health Statistics.

**12. I understand that passing the state or national exam in my field is a requirement of the Health Science degree. How does that work?**

Passing your state or national board exam is a requirement of the Health Professions Concentration. As soon as you have passed the exam, bring documentation to your advisor so that it can be noted in your record that you have met this requirement.

**13. Do I have to take and pass the exam before starting the Health Science degree program at SJSU?**

No. You just need to have evidence that you have passed the exam before your final SJSU semester.

**14. What if I don't take or don't pass the exam before the beginning of my final semester at SJSU? Or what if I've taken it but the results have not been announced? Can I still graduate?**

Yes, you can still graduate, but not with the Health Professions Concentration. Instead, your units will be counted towards the Health Science Option 1 (Community Health). This requires filing paperwork with the department and the university, so you need to communicate with your HS Advisor and make the change prior to the beginning of your final semester.

**15. What is the Option 5 Transfer Packet? How do I get that?**

The Option 5 Transfer Packet is a set of forms and materials that you need to bring with you to your first meeting with your Health Science Advisor (early in your first SJSU semester). You can get the packet from our website ([www.sjsu.edu](http://www.sjsu.edu)), from our Department Office (MH 407, SJSU), or

from your Community College Health Program Advisor. The packet must be signed off by your Community College Advisor before you begin the Health Science degree program.

**16. When are Health Science courses offered?**

We try very hard to accommodate working professionals in the timing and sequencing of our courses. All of the HS Core Courses are offered between 1:30 and 9:00 p.m. Some meet twice a week for 75 minutes, others meet once a week for 3 hours. Our statistics course meets for a large group lecture and then smaller group lab sessions, offered at various times throughout the week.

**17. Are all courses offered each semester?**

No. Some are, but others are offered only once per year.

<b>Course</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
HS 102 Health Team Building	X	X
HS 104 Community Health Promotion	X	
HS 135 Health in Multicultural Society <u>OR</u> HS 107 Aging and Society	X X	X X
HS 158 Health and the Internet		X
HS 159 Health Program Planning (104 first)	X	X
HS 161 Epidemiology	X	
HS 162 Health Care Organization	X	X
HS 164 Health Services & Social Marketing		X
HS 165 The Health Professional (last semester)	X	X
HS 167 Biostatistics	X	

**18. How many courses should I take each semester?**

You can set your own pace through the SJSU part of your degree. Some students go full-time (15 units) and get finished in 2 years. Others take it more slowly to accommodate personal or professional responsibilities or opportunities. You make the call – we support whatever decision you make. However, we strongly recommend that you not take more than 15 units per

semester. We find that students who take excess units are not able to excel or focus the way they could if they took five or fewer courses in a semester.

**19. What courses should I start with?**

Several Health Science Core Courses are good ones for the first semester. Whether you plan on taking one or five courses that semester, any of these are good to start with:

HS 102 Health Team Building (Fall M 3:00 – 5:45; Spring W 1800-2045)

This will build on your skills and experience on health teams – but add the public health component to the team and its goals. It’s also a great course in which to meet and start working with other Health Science students.

HS 104 Community Health Promotion (Fall only, MW 1330-1445)

This is the course that introduces the community-based approach to all Health Science students. It’s only offered in the Fall and is prerequisite to HS 159 Health Program Planning, so plan to take it as early as you can. It’s fun, intense, and always interesting!

HS 162 Health Care Organization (Fall and Spring, W 1500-1745)

This course provides a broad overview of the health care system. Students in the Health Professions Concentration will have a lot to add to the discussions!

HPROF 100W Writing Workshop (SJSU Studies Area Z - many sections offered)

This course is important to take in your first or second SJSU semester as it is required for all other SJSU Studies courses. Several sections are offered and the students come from the Health Professions Division of our College: Health Science, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, and Nutrition and Food Science. You’ll meet students from similar backgrounds and enjoy the small class size (classes are limited to 24).

HS 107 Aging and Society (Fall and Spring, Mondays 1800-1745 and TR 1200-1315)

This is an important and interesting course of relevance to both individual and community health. One of the highlights of the course is service learning activities that apply key concepts in the community (Dr. Hikoyeda, the course instructor, was the recipient of the Provost’s 2006 Award for Service Learning Excellence – Outstanding Lecturer). HS 107 is a Core Course for Option 5, but since it is also a SJSU Studies Area S course, you must have passed or be concurrently enrolled in HPROF 100W to take it.

**20. Can I get this all done in 2 years?**

Yes! But you need to see a Health Science Advisor to map out your options. For advising schedules and locations, visit our website ([www.sjsu.edu/hs](http://www.sjsu.edu/hs)) or pick up the Advising Schedule handout in the Department Office, MacQuarrie Hall 407.

*Welcome to the Health Science Department!*