

Social Sciences for Health Professionals

Degree Type

Concentration

This concentration helps prepare students for health-care related careers in medicine, nursing, physician assistant, physical therapy, occupational therapy and others. Understanding the complexities of human behavior, development and identity is crucial to a successful career as a health professional. In addition, communication skills are critical for effective provider-patient relationships.

Concentration Requirements

Consists of 18 credits including the following courses:

Required Courses

Course Code	Title	Credits
PSY-101	General Psychology	3
SOC-101	Sociological Imagination	3

Four courses (at least one from each category) from the following topics list:

Note that no discipline prefix may be used more than three times. For example, after completing **PSY-101** and **SOC-101**, only two more courses in the concentration may be chosen from the PSY or SOC prefixed courses.

Topics in Behavior and Cognition

Course Code	Title	Credits
PSY-240	Behavioral Psychology	3
PSY-310	Psychopathology	3
PSY-317 / BIOL-317	Cognitive Neuroscience	3
PSY-330	Memory and Cognition	3
PSY-390	Sensation and Perception	3

Topics in Life Span and Development

Course Code	Title	Credits
FCS-312X	Adult Development and Aging	3
PSY-370	Developmental Psychology	3
SOC-366E	Sociology of Birth and Death	3

Topics in Diversity and Identity

Course Code	Title	Credits
BIOL-215	Biology of Human Diversity & Pseudoscience of Racism	3
SOC-368W / FCS-368W	Sociology of the Family	3
FCS-319	Families and Individuals in Societal Contexts	3
FCS-408X	Parent and Child Relations	3
PSCI-205 / SOC-205	Global Identities	3
PSY-350	Social Psychology	3
PSY-380	Human Sexuality	3
SOC-203	Social Problems	3
SOC-333	Racial and Ethnic Studies	3
SOC-334	Gender and Sexuality Studies	3

Topics in Communication and Health Fields

Course Code	Title	Credits
COMM-230	Communication Technologies: History, Culture, and Society	3
COMM-240	Contemporary Media Industries	3
COMM-327	Interpersonal Communication	3
COMM-334	Intercultural Communication	3
COMM-335	Communicating Sex and Gender	3
COMM-340	Representations of Gender, Race & Class	3
COMM-447	Science, Environment, and Health Communication	3
ES-300X	Personal and Community Health	3
ES-357X	Global Healthcare and Sport	3
ES-427	Health Promotion and Wellness	3
ES-456	Management Concepts in Health Care	3
ES-467	Health & Exercise Psychology	3
ES-470	Cultural Competence & Ethics Healthcare	3
PSY-340	Public Mental Health	3
SOC-451	Counseling and Personal Development	3
	Total Credits	18

Clinical Laboratory Sciences

This program allows qualified students to seek early admission to the Sentara RMH School of Medical Laboratory Science or the Augusta Health School of Clinical Laboratory Science. If granted admission, it is the responsibility of the student to complete the following prior to entering this program:

- The courses required for the Biology major with a minimum GPA of 2.0, including prerequisite courses for the Laboratory Science Program
- The general education program requirements, including FILA-450
- A minimum of 91 credit hours towards graduation, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0

Upon completing this 12-month professional program with minimum grades of C in each course, the College will transfer 32 semester hours of credit to the student's record to complete requirements for earning a bachelor's degree from the College.

The Smithsonian-Mason Semester for Conservation Studies

Bridgewater College is a member institution of the Smithsonian-Mason Semester which is run by George Mason University out of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal, Va. In this program, students live on the SCBI campus (a world-class conservation research facility) and learn about the theory and application of conservation biology (including the social, political and economic dimensions). Students participate in one of two 16 credit hour

programs: Wildlife Ecology and Conservation or Conservation, Biodiversity and Society (for any student interested in conservation). Interested students should visit the program's website (smconservation.gmu.edu/programs/undergraduate) and contact the Department of Biology and Environmental Science.

Both programs are appropriate for juniors and seniors. There are no specific prerequisite classes for Conservation, Biodiversity and Society. That program is open to all majors. The Wildlife Ecology and Conservation semester has Ecology (BIOL-350) as a prerequisite.

Dual Degree Programs

The department has pursued dual degree programs with other institutions. These include physical therapy with Shenandoah University, veterinary medicine with Virginia Tech and clinical laboratory sciences with Sentara RMH and Augusta Health.

Qualified students may apply for early admission to the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech or another accredited veterinary program. If accepted, the student may earn the bachelor's degree in biology from Bridgewater College by fulfilling the following requirements:

- Complete all courses required for the biology major with a cumulative major GPA of at least 2.0;
- Complete all courses required for the general education program, including FILA 450, with an overall GPA of at least 2.0;
- Complete any remaining credits required for graduation from Bridgewater College with a grade of "C" or better while enrolled in an accredited veterinary medicine program.