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MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Tomas A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: January 25, 2016

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2015-16(B) –Minor in Social Science and Medicine,
College of Arts and Sciences

The Faculty Senate, at its January 20, 2016 meeting, had no objections to the addition of a Minor in Social Science and Medicine, in the College of Arts and Sciences. The proposed Minor comes in response to a growing demand for academic programs that complement the education of pre-health students of the University. The Minor is designed for students who anticipate a career in medicine, health sciences, health care management, or in non-governmental organizations, and will better prepare them for graduate study and employment via an integrative study of the environmental, social, political, economic and cultural determinants of human health.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.


TAS/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Ira Sheskin, Professor, Geography, College of Arts and Sciences
Justin Stoler, Assistant Professor, Geography, College of Arts and Sciences

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2015-16(B) – Minor in Social Science and Medicine,
College of Arts and Sciences

PRESIDENT’S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 2/10/16
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Dean Bachas

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

PROPOSAL FOR:

A MINOR IN SOCIAL SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

Contact Person:

Dr. Ira M. Sheskin, Professor and Chair

Department of Geography

isheskin@miami.edu

1300 Campo Sano Avenue, Suite 115A

Coral Gables, FL 33146

(305) 284-6693 (office)

(954) 558-2933 (mobile)

Dr. Justin Stoler, Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies

Department of Geography

stoler@miami.edu

1300 Campo Sano Avenue, Suite 115H

Coral Gables, FL 33146

(305) 284-6692 (office)

(917) 312-7210 (mobile)

Executive Summary

Rationale for a Minor in Social Science and Medicine

In response to the growing demand for academic programs that complement the education of our pre-health students, we present a proposal for a Minor in Social Science & Medicine. The proposed minor is interdisciplinary by design, and would serve a wide undergraduate audience in the College and University. Students who anticipate a career in medicine, the health sciences, health care management, and (non-)governmental organizations will be particularly better-prepared for graduate study or employment via integrative study of the environmental, social, political, economic, and cultural determinants of human health. Social Science & Medicine majors and minors are becoming a more frequent part of undergraduate education with programs taking on various names at numerous universities.


UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
**COLLEGE of
ARTS & SCIENCES**



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TO: Tomas Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Leonidas Bachas 
Dean

SUBJECT: Proposal for a Minor in Social Science and Medicine

DATE: November 18, 2015

The proposal for a Minor in Social Science and Medicine was presented to the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty on Monday, November 16, 2015. The proposal was unanimously approved by our faculty. I am now forwarding the proposal to the Faculty Senate for action.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

LGB/rkg

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



Department of Geography
1300 Campo Sano Drive
P.O. Box 248067
Coral Gables, FL 33124

October 23, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to confirm that the Geography Department proposal for a Minor in Social Science and Medicine was duly passed by a majority vote of the faculty.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ira M. Sheskin

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Ira M. Sheskin'.



Office of Planning,
Institutional Research,
and Assessment


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Coral Gables, FL 33124-2923
Phone 305-284-3856

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Fax 305-284-4081 • pr@umiami.edu

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 27, 2015

TO: Dr. Justin Stoler, Assistant Professor
Department of Geography and Regional Studies
College of Arts and Sciences

FROM: Dr. David E. Wiles, Executive Director
Assessment and Accreditation 

SUBJECT: Minor in Social Science and Medicine

On October 26, 2015, the College of Arts and Sciences submitted a proposal notifying our office of its intent to offer a minor in Social Science and Medicine beginning in the spring of 2016.

The 15-credit minor will allow undergraduate students to fulfill the People & Society cognate requirement with courses that complement their major field of study. The primary audience will be students in pre-health tracks, ideally those with a STEM major. The minor also will have appeal to students across the arts and humanities and social sciences disciplines who did not initiate their studies on a pre-health track, but who are drawn to the medical humanities—either for their intellectual satisfaction or potential employment in the health sector.

The minor will be housed in the Department of Geography and Regional Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and will not require the hiring of additional faculty or infrastructure resources.

Based on the details of the proposal, implementation of the minor is not considered substantive and will not require formal approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Please feel free to contact our office should you have any further questions (305) 284-9431.

cc: Faculty Senate
Dr. Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. William Scott Green, Senior Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Education
Dr. Charles Mallery, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Ira Sheskin, Chair, Department of Geography and Regional Studies

Proposal for a Minor in Social Science & Medicine
Department of Geography, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Miami
Submitted to the College Curriculum Committee September 18, 2015

Introduction

In response to the growing demand for academic programs that complement the education of our pre-health students, we present a proposal for a Minor in Social Science & Medicine. Students who wish to minor in Social Science & Medicine will complete fifteen credit hours with courses approved for the minor. Social Science & Medicine majors and minors are becoming a more frequent part of undergraduate education with programs taking on various names at numerous universities. These include (among many) a Social Science and Medicine Minor (Indiana University), the Minor Concentration in Social Studies of Medicine (McGill University), Minor in Medicine, Health, and Society (Vanderbilt University) and a Minor in Global Health, Culture, and Society (Emory University). For descriptions of those programs, see Appendix 1.

Rationale

The notion of “medical social sciences” may be phrased differently at various institutions but is broadly relevant to a large range of academic and public service disciplines. The success of the academic journal *Social Science and Medicine*—perhaps the flagship journal of the medical social sciences—highlights the importance of an interdisciplinary platform for the empirical and theoretical interaction of social scientists, health practitioners, and policy makers. Practically speaking, “Social Science & Medicine” refers to the collective perspectives and contributions to human health from a wide range of social science disciplines including anthropology, economics, epidemiology, geography, policy, psychology, and sociology. The vision for the Minor in Social Science & Medicine embodies this spirit, with even broader participation from colleagues in International Studies, Communication, and Nursing and Health Sciences. The proposed minor is, by design, interdisciplinary in nature, and would serve a wide undergraduate audience in the College and University. Students who anticipate a career in medicine, the health sciences, health care management, and (non-)governmental organizations would be well-served and well-prepared for graduate study or employment. We believe the minor would also appeal more broadly to many students across the arts and humanities and social sciences who did not initiate their studies on a pre-health track, but are drawn to the humanity, intellectual satisfaction, and employability of the health sector.

Compatibility with Existing Curricula

The Minor in Social Science & Medicine would work in tandem with the recently implemented cognate structure through which students meet their General Education requirements. Given that our primary student audience will be those on the pre-health tracks, usually with a STEM major, this minor will allow students to fulfil their People & Society requirement with courses that have bearing on their primary field of interest.

The proposed Minor in Social Science & Medicine builds from a well-enrolled cognate called *Health and Medicine in the Social Sciences* which was the first cognate to respond to student needs following the Association of American Medical Colleges decision to add a social and

behavioral sciences section to the MCAT. There are now at least five other cognates that each focus on different components of social and behavioral health. This proposal effectively expands the *Health and Medicine in the Social Sciences* cognate into a minor using the same core courses and an expanded list of electives. The cognate requires a student to complete one of three required core courses plus two electives (three courses in total), while the proposed minor would require completion of two of three required core courses plus three electives (five courses in total). The structure of the minor course requirements is deliberately parallel to that of the Minor in Medical Humanities (see Figure 1).

The Minor would be co-promoted with the Minor in Medical Humanities and potentially with the new Minor in Health Communication offered jointly by the School of Communication and School of Nursing and Health Sciences. These programs would ideally be integrated into an umbrella marketing effort to comprehensively advertise all pre-health major and minor offerings to students through the Office of Pre-Health Advising and Mentoring. To facilitate cooperative marketing of both the Minors in Medical Humanities and Social Science & Medicine within the College of Arts & Sciences, we have an agreement in place in principle with the Department of Religious Studies (the academic custodians of the Minor in Medical Humanities) which would allow a student pursuing either minor to receive credit for a maximum of one course from the other minor's elective list (i.e. a Medical Humanities Minor could receive credit for one Social Science & Medicine elective, and vice versa). This would allow students to explore at least one course from each minor without feeling locked into either minor after just one course. Students wishing to pursue both of the Minors in Medical Humanities and Social Science & Medicine would be subject to the College of Arts & Sciences standard of no more than six credits double counting between the minors, which implies completing eight total courses for the two minors. Students interested in both programs may also take advantage of the Independent Major program to craft a custom "Health and Society"-type major that integrates themes from both the Medical Humanities and Social Sciences.

Effects on Current Programs, Staffing, and Resources

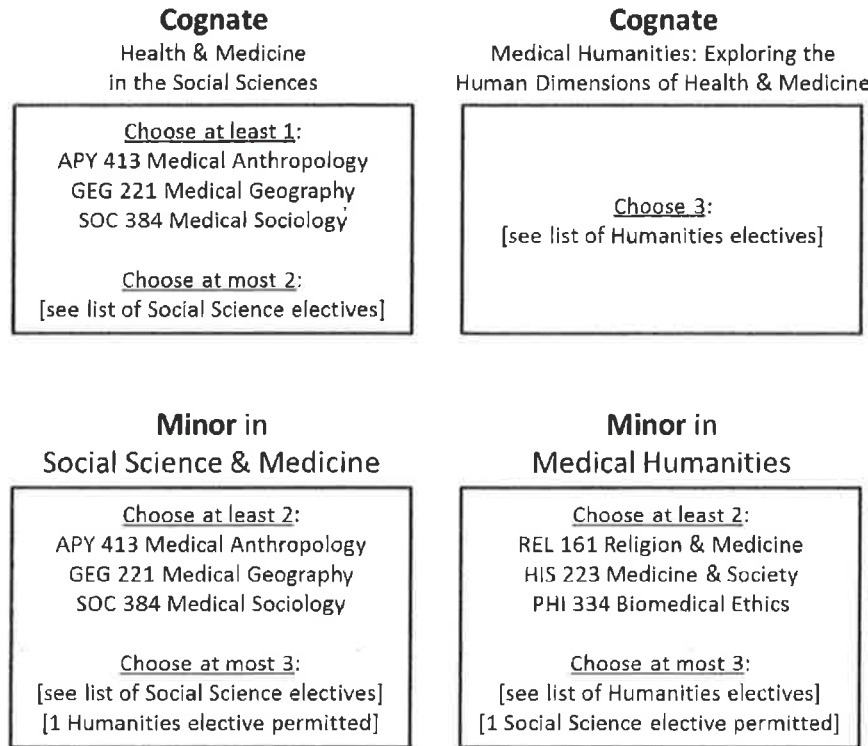
No new resources are required. Existing courses in the College of Arts & Sciences, supplemented by additional elective courses from other schools, provide a broad set of options for interested students. This minor will be sustained by core courses which all are taught annually by tenured or tenure-track faculty. We anticipate that 6-12 elective options will continue be offered each semester, which is more than adequate to sustain interest and student choice within the minor.

This minor has particular support from a group of ten Assistant Professors from A&S and Communication, all hired between 2012 and 2015, who teach many of the core and elective courses listed in this proposal.

Oversight and Administration

The Social Science & Medicine minor will be administered by a steering committee of three members appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and housed for administrative purposes in Geography and Regional Studies.

Figure 1. Proposed organization of the Minor in Social Science & Medicine and proposed revised Minor in Medical Humanities, with affiliated cognates.



Course Requirements

The proposed minor in Social Science & Medicine would consist of at least fifteen (15) credits in courses designated as eligible for the minor with a grade of C or higher in each course. To receive the minor, a student must sustain a combined GPA of at least 2.5 in courses in Social Science & Medicine. A student must complete two core courses as described below, with the remaining course work drawn from the courses designated as "Social Science & Medicine," and no more than six credits taken in any one department or program. This six-credit limit per department is intended to foster interdisciplinarity; if a student wishes to take nine or more credits from a single department, the student should explore major/minor options in that department. (This guideline, as it refers to "program," effectively distinguishes this minor from the Minor in Public Health and the Minor in Health Communication.) The Steering Committee or Advisor for the Minor in Social Science & Medicine may approve special topics or other infrequently offered courses as electives only, not in lieu of core courses. Per the College of Arts & Sciences policy, up to six credits from a student's A&S major may also be counted toward the Minor in Social Science & Medicine. For non-A&S majors, up to three credits may be double-counted toward the Minor in Social Science & Medicine. A student may apply three credits of

appropriate Directed Readings/Independent Study toward the minor with the consent of the minor advisor and the relevant instructor.

The proposed Minor in Social Science & Medicine would require:

- A. Completion of at least two of the following core courses:
- APY 413 Medical Anthropology, 3 credits, fall
 - GEG 221 Health and Medical Geography, 3 credits, spring
 - SOC 384 Medical Sociology, 3 credits, spring
- B. Completion of up to three approved electives, with no more than six credits from the same department counting toward completion of the minor:
- See Appendix 2 for list of electives.

All core courses are described in Appendix 2. All of these courses are taught annually by tenured or tenure-track faculty, with at least one core course offered every semester.

Appendix 3 contains letters of support from the three core social science departments and other academic units and/or offices supporting this proposal.

Appendix 1: Links to Comparison Programs

Minor in Social Science and Medicine (Indiana University)

<http://bulletins.iu.edu/iub/college/2010-2011/departments/sociology/minor-medicine.shtml>

Minor in Medicine, Health, and Society (Vanderbilt University)

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/mhs/undergraduate/>

Minor in Global Health (Duke University)

<http://globalhealth.duke.edu/education-and-training/undergraduate/minor#requirements>

Minor in Global Health, Culture, and Society (Emory University)

http://catalog.college.emory.edu/department-program/minor/global_health.html

Minor in Science, Technology, and Society (University of California San Diego)

<https://sciencestudies.ucsd.edu/minor/courses.html>

Minor in Science and Society (New York University)

<http://www.nyu.edu/students/undergraduates/academic-services/undergraduate-advisement/unique-academic-opportunities/cross-school-minors/cross-school-minors-alphabetically/minor-in-science-and-society.html>

Minor in Social Sciences of Health (University of Ottawa)

<http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/info/regist/calendars/programs/1331.html>

Minor Concentration in Social Studies of Medicine (McGill University)

<http://www.mcgill.ca/ssom/minor>

Minor in Health & Society (Rutgers University)

<http://sociology.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/program-information/health-society-minor>

Minor in Health, Medicine, and Society (Lehigh University)

<http://hms.cas2.lehigh.edu/>

History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine (University of Chicago)

<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/scienceandmedicinehips/>

Appendix 2: Social Science & Medicine Core Course Descriptions and Electives

Core Courses

APY 413 Medical Anthropology, 3 credits, fall

Cross-cultural and historical perspectives on health and illness in human evolution. Effects of heredity, environment, and culture upon human disease ecology. Biological and behavioral adaptations to disease.

GEG 221 Health and Medical Geography, 3 credits, spring

Medical geography is explored across three major themes: disease ecology (relationship between disease and the natural/human environments), social approaches (including political economy and socio-behavioral approaches), and the spatial approach (using maps and spatial statistics to identify patterns in health outcomes and health services).

SOC 384 Medical Sociology, 3 credits, spring

Sociological aspects of health care, patient behavior, medical institutions.

Elective Courses

College of Arts & Sciences:

Social Sciences

APY 105 HIV: Sex, Science, and Society
APY 205 Medicine, Health Care in Society
[APY 413 Medical Anthropology]
APY 416 Bioarchaeology: Peopling the Past
APY 423 Paleopathology: Health & Disease in Ancient Peoples
APY 512 Advanced Medical Anthropology
[GEG 221 Medical Geography]
GEG 301 GIS for Public Health
GEG 311 Drinking Water: Past, Present, and Future
GEG 341 Population, Health, and Environment
GEG 346 Immigrant & Refugee Health
INS 509 International Migration and the Health Care System
INS 570 Globalization and Health
INS 571 International Development and Human Welfare
INS 572 Global Health Policy and Ethics
INS 573 Disasters, Terrorism, and Global Public Health
SOC 320 Social Epidemiology: Illness & Death in Society
SOC 321 Applied Health Policy
SOC 368 Violence in America
SOC 375 Sociology of Mental Health and Illness
SOC 377 Sociology of Drug Abuse
SOC 381 Aging in Society
[SOC 384 Medical Sociology]
SOC 480 Health Disparities in the U.S.
PSY 411 Relationships and Health
PSY 426 Health Psychology

College of Arts & Sciences:

Medical Humanities (1 elective maximum)

CLA 222 Sexuality and Gender in the Ancient World
CLA 225 Ancient Magic
CLA 231 Sciences in Ancient Greece and Rome
CLA 233 Ancient Medicine
HIS 223 Medicine and Society
HIS 330 Scientific Revolution
HIS 351 Science and Society
PHI 334 Biomedical Ethics
PHI 546 Evidence and Knowledge in Medicine
REL 161 Religion and Medicine
REL 252 Religion and Human Sexuality
REL 351 Religious Issues in Death and Dying
REL 352 Religion and Science
REL 360 Religion and Bioethics
REL 451 Ethics and Genetics
THA 108 Intro to Standardized Patient Simulation
WGS 315 Gender, Race, and Class
WGS 420 Interpreting Bodies

School of Nursing and Health Sciences

BPH 206 Introduction to Public Health
BPH 208 Introductory Epidemiology
BPH 301 Human Sexuality & Vulnerable Populations
BPH 305 Issues in Health Disparities
BPH 309 Health & Environment
BPH 310 Global Health
BPH 317 Theories in Growth and Development
BPH 321 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
BPH 322 Introduction to Health Policy

School of Communication

CIM 471 Social Impact Games
COS 324 Health Communication
COS 325 Communication in Health Organizations
COS 426 Patient-Provider Communication
COS 427 Health Behavior and Risk

Appendix 3: University of Miami Letters of Support

See attached letters of support from:

1. Dr. Ira Sheskin, Chair, Department of Geography and Regional Studies
2. Dr. Roger Dunham, Chair, Department of Sociology
3. Dr. Traci Ardren, Chair, Department of Anthropology
4. Dr. David Kling, Chair, Department of Religious Studies
5. Dr. Michael Gaines, Director, Office of Pre-Health Advising and Mentoring

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Department of Geography and Regional Studies
1300 Campo Sano Avenue
P.O. Box 248067
Coral Gables, FL 33146-4401

September 15, 2015

To: College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee
From: Ira Sheskin, Chair, Department of Geography and Regional Studies
RE: Proposal for a Minor in Social Science & Medicine

To the College Curriculum Committee:

The Department of Geography and Regional Studies strongly supports the proposed Minor in Social Science & Medicine. This minor should be a promising and attractive interdisciplinary offering for our undergraduates, and it provides needed structure around the significant number of health-related courses already offered in the College of Arts & Sciences.

The Department of Geography and Regional Studies also offers to house the proposed Minor in Social Science & Medicine for administrative purposes. We look forward to actively co-promoting the new minor with colleagues in Sociology and Anthropology, Religious Studies (custodians of the Medical Humanities Minor), and the Office of Pre-Health Advising.

Sincerely,

Ira Sheskin, Ph.D., Chair
Department of Geography and Regional Studies

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



Department of Sociology
P.O. Box 284162
Coral Gables, FL 33124-2030
Phone: 305.284.6762
FAX: 305.284.5310

September 15, 2015

To: College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee

From: Roger Dunham, Chair, Sociology Department

RE: Proposal for a Minor in Social Science & Medicine

To the College Curriculum Committee:

I am writing to affirm our department's support for the proposed Minor in Social Science & Medicine. This minor increases the curricular options available to our undergraduate student body without duplicating academic programs in other departments or colleges. It offers students structure for pursuing an interdisciplinary array of popular courses in the social sciences that focus on medicine and medical issues. Further, the minor will draw attention to and highlight the growing curricula in this important area of study. I look forward to helping in the promotion of this new minor.

Sincerely,

Roger Dunham, Ph.D., Chair,
Department of Sociology

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



Department of Anthropology Ph: 305-284-2535
P.O. Box 248106 305-284-2380
Coral Gables, Florida 33124-2005 Fax: 305-284-2110

Date: 5 October 2015

To: College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee

From: Traci Ardren, Chair, Department of Anthropology

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Traci Ardren', written over the 'From:' line.

RE: Proposal for a Minor in Social Science & Medicine

To the College Curriculum Committee:

This memo serves to demonstrate the support of the Department of Anthropology for the proposed Minor in Social Science & Medicine. This minor increases the curricular options available to our undergraduate student body without duplicating academic programs in other departments or colleges. It offers students structure for pursuing popular, interdisciplinary courses in the medical social sciences, and highlights the growing curricula in this area. I look forward to co-promoting the new minor within our Department and to our minors. Student interest in areas such as medical anthropology and related social sciences is growing and this minor is an excellent response to the need for great interdisciplinary offerings for our students.

UNIVERSITY
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COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES



Department of Religious Studies Ph: 305-284-4733
P.O. Box 248264 Fax: 305-284-2772
Coral Gables, Florida 33124-4651 umrelstud@miami.edu

September 15, 2015

To: College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee

From: David W. Kling *DWK*
Professor and Chair, Dept. of Religious Studies

Subject: Proposal for a Minor in Social Science & Medicine

To the College Curriculum Committee:

I write to strongly endorse the proposed Minor in Social Science & Medicine. This minor increases the curricular options available to our undergraduate student body without duplicating academic programs in other departments or colleges. It offers students structure for pursuing popular, interdisciplinary courses in the medical social sciences, and it highlights the growing curricula in this area.

Moreover, as Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, I support the alignment of this proposal with the Minor in Medical Humanities (currently administered in the Department of Religious Studies), the commitment to modifying the Minor in Medical Humanities to permit one reciprocal elective, and the joint marketing of the two minors.

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September 16, 2015

To: College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee
From: Office of Pre-Health Advising and Mentoring
Re: Proposal for a Minor in Social Science & Medicine

Dear College Curriculum Committee,

This letter affirms the Office of Pre-Health Advising and Mentoring's support for the proposed Minor in Social Science & Medicine at the University of Miami.

With the addition of the Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior Section on the Medical College Admissions Test in 2015, an understanding of and competency in the social sciences is more relevant than ever to the success of our pre-health undergraduate students. Proficient health professionals need to have a solid training in the social and behavioral sciences so that they can effectively communicate and interact with patients, staff, and administrators.

The offering of this minor will give our students new options when developing their curriculum. And the course content will help them understand how cultural and social differences influence well-being, as well as how social and behavioral processes can be used to predict and influence health outcomes or risk factors.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Gaines, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Pre-Health Advising and Mentoring
Assistant Provost and Professor of Biology

Office of Pre-Health Advising and Mentoring
103 Ungar Building
Coral Gables, Florida 33146
Phone: 305-284-5176
Email: prehealth@miami.edu