

PROPOSAL FOR MINOR PROGRAM OF STUDY

1. **School/College:** _____ Franklin College of Arts and Sciences _____
2. **Department/Division:** _____ Communication Studies _____
3. **Minor Name:** _____ Communication in Healthcare _____
4. **Proposed Effective Date:** _____ Fall 2026 _____
5. **Which campus(es) will offer this program?** _____ Athens _____
6. **Program Description:**
Provide a brief summary of the objective of the program.

The proposed minor in Communication in Healthcare will offer students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of communication theories and practices as well as provide a much-needed opportunity for professional development. As the fields of health and medicine grow, so too does the importance of communication among specialists and non-specialists alike. The minor will be of interest to students interested in a variety of careers in health and medicine, including, but not limited to, patient care, interdisciplinary research in science and medicine, public health outreach, public advocacy for health-related research support, and health-related non-profit and private sector organizational communication.

7. **Program of Study/Requirements:**
Include prefixes, numbers, and titles of required courses, as well as total credit hours (must be 15-18 hours). Include any residency requirements or grade requirements.

15 credit hours required:

Foundational Courses (9 credits)

COMM 1110 Public Speaking for STEM
COMM 4350 Scientific Communication (no pre-req)
COMM 4610 Health Communication (no pre-req)

Communication Skills in Healthcare (3 credits)

COMM 3200 Business and Professional Communication (no pre-req)
COMM 3350 Topics in Interpersonal and Health Communication Processes (no pre-req)

COMM 3510 Nonverbal Communication in Close Relationships (no pre-req)
OR COMM 4510 Nonverbal Communication (no pre-req)
COMM 4540 Interpersonal Conflict (no pre-req)

Understanding Healthcare Communication in Society (3 credits)

SOCI 3100 Medical Sociology (pre-req SOCI 1101, offered this semester)
SOC 3110 Sociology of Healthcare (pre-req SOCI 1101)
SOCI 4000 Society, Bodies, and Health (pre-req SOCI 1101, offered this semester)
PSYC 3810 Psychology of Health (pre-req PSYC 1101)
PSYC 3260 Human Sexuality (pre-req PSYC 1101, offered this semester; LL)
ENGL 3836 Lit and the Health Humanities (pre-req ENGL 1102)
ANTH 3540 Multicultural Healthcare (no pre-req)
CMLT 4070 Science and Lit in Renaissance (no pre-req)
CMLT 4444 Lit and Medicine (no pre-req)
HIST 3433 History of Medicine (no pre-req)
HIST 4065 History of Medicine in America up to 1865 (pre-req Any HIST course or ENGL 1101 or ENGL 1101E or ENGL 1101S or ENGL 1102 or ENGL 1102E or ENGL 1102S or POLS 1101 or POLS 1101E or POLS 1101H or POLS 1101S)
HIST 4066 History of Medicine in America after 1865 (pre-req same as above; these courses are required for graduation)
HIST 3343 History of Psychiatry (no pre-req)
PHIL 3220 Biomedical Ethics (no pre-reqs, offered this semester)
PHIL 4260 Advanced Topics in Bioethics (pre-req PHIL 3220)
WMST 4120/6120 Sex, Science, Politics, and Reproduction

8. Approvals:

Belinda Stillion southard Communication Studies 1/7/2026

Department Head Department Date