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## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Health: science, society and policy (HSSP) is an interdisciplinary major that focuses on health, health care and health policy. Courses include social science perspectives on health and illness, health policy issues, and scientific aspects of disease and treatment. The emphasis is on perspectives on health and health care through a multidisciplinary lens. Each student will engage in a hands-on experience in a health-related setting, typically through an internship or study abroad. Many HSSP graduates go on to graduate school and careers in the health fields, including medicine, public health, nursing, health administration and health law.

### What makes the program distinctive?

HSSP draws from three of the university's major strengths: the social sciences of health; the life sciences; and the Heller School, Brandeis' graduate school in social

policy and management. In addition, the required hands-on practice component enables students to gain firsthand experience in a health care setting or with a health organization.

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## FAST FACTS

**Current number of majors and minors:** 180

**Number of faculty:** 23

**Can you minor in this program?** Yes

**Emphasis within the major:** an interdisciplinary education in health and health care

**Popular second majors:** anthropology, biology, psychology, sociology

**Website:** [brandeis.edu/programs/hssp](http://brandeis.edu/programs/hssp)

## ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

### Diverse faculty interests

Reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the program, the faculty has a diverse range of interests. HSSP science faculty members engage in research ranging from neuroscience to genetics to infectious disease. Sociologists, anthropologists and psychologists conduct research on aging, medicalization, managing illness, and impacts of stress on disease. Heller School policy faculty members are deeply involved in current health reform, development of new drug policies and evaluating quality of medical care.

### A range of course offerings

Recent courses include "American Health Care," "Innovations in Health Technology," "Medicine, Body and Culture," "Behavioral Health," "Managing Medicine," "Health Psychology," "Inequalities in Health Care," "Global Perspectives on Health," "Health Economics" and "Sociology of Disability." There is also a prehealth option for students preparing for medical school and other professional schools.

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### Real internships

In recent years, HSSP students interned at sites including the American Cancer Society, the Clinton Foundation, Planned Parenthood, Our Bodies/Ourselfs, the Boston Public Health Commission, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the National Institutes of Health.

### Study abroad

More than a quarter of HSSP students travel abroad to study in settings that have included South Africa, Kenya, Chile, Brazil, China, the United Kingdom, Denmark and the World Health Organization in Geneva.

### Student research

**Eric Goodman '07** wrote his senior thesis on a hospital-based approach to preventing hospital-acquired infections, for which he co-authored a publication in a medical journal. **Mariah Rich '10** did an internship on the exposure of nail salon workers to toxic chemicals and later developed her findings into a senior honors thesis on the health risks of unregulated chemicals in cosmetics and other commonly used household products, examining strategies for prevention.

### Social justice at work

**Brooke Rosenbauer '09** combined her passions for HSSP and soccer to help develop a program in Africa that uses soccer as a method for combining community engagement and HIV prevention. **Shaina Gilbert '10** lived out her beliefs in social justice by starting and raising funds for a summer camp for children in Haiti that helps youth develop academic skills and teaches them about health and hygiene.

## AFTER BRANDEIS

### Kalina Ehrenreich-Piot '08

Ehrenreich-Piot entered HealthCorps after graduation. Assigned to the Institute for Family Health in the South Bronx, she works mostly in Spanish, assisting with community outreach for diabetes prevention and treatment. In fall 2010, she began medical school.

### Aliza Liebman '06

After graduating, Liebman worked at Massachusetts General Hospital as a research coordinator on a clinical drug trial testing a new smoking cessation product. Liebman is now pursuing a master's in public health and a Ph.D. in epidemiology at the University of North Carolina.

### Graduate study

After graduating from Brandeis, Loretta Stein '06 went to Oxford University to obtain an M.A. in international health policy. She is now completing her final year at Tufts Medical School. Many recent graduates are working toward the master's degree in public health, while others pursue M.S. degrees at top-rated nursing programs and master's degrees in health administration.

*"[My work is] a really wonderful experience. ... I speak with and help educate patients. ... Thanks to the internship I did for HSSP, I was able to land this transforming job."*

*Dominique Dupont-Dubois '07 on her position at Planned Parenthood as a clinic assistant in gynecological services*

