



# Conceptual Foundations of Medicine Certificate

[www.HPS.Pitt.edu](http://www.HPS.Pitt.edu)

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## Overview

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science's undergraduate certificate program in the Conceptual Foundations of Medicine offers a group of related courses in medical ethics, in the nature of explanation and evidence in the biomedical sciences, and in social problems such as assessments of alternative forms of healthcare delivery. The program is likely to be of particular interest to premedical students and others interested in health-related professions, but it is intended to appeal to all students interested in social and philosophical problems in the biomedical sciences. Completion of the certificate program fulfills the Dietrich School requirement for a related area, although students should check with their major department. Students who complete the program receive a Certificate in Conceptual Foundations of Medicine, which is printed on the transcript.

Students interested in obtaining the undergraduate certificate should apply as early in their course work as possible. Satisfactory completion of one of the core courses is required for admission into the certificate program.

## Requirements

This certificate requires completion of at least 18 credits. Students enrolled in the program are expected to achieve at least a letter grade of C in each required course.

### Core courses

HPS 0612 Mind and Medicine  
HPS 0613 Morality and Medicine

These two courses focus on questions concerning the aims of medicine, its scientific status, and its relation to the natural sciences (HPS 0612); and on the ethical, legal, and social problems that are part of the modern practice of medicine (HPS 0613). The focus throughout will be on the role of moral values in medical treatment.

### Two Biological Sciences courses

A two-term, college level course sequence in biology, such as BIOSC 0150 Foundations of Biology 1 and BIOSC 0160 Foundations of Biology 2 are required for this certificate.

### Two additional courses

Two additional approved courses in two different departments dealing with social and conceptual issues in the biomedical sciences are required for this certificate. A list of such approved courses is available in the Department of History of Philosophy and Science prior to each term. Courses are approved on a term-by-term basis.

## Grade Requirements

Students are expected to achieve a minimum grade of C in each course required for this certificate. A minimum overall GPA of 2.25 is required in courses required for this certificate.

## Satisfactory/No Credit Option

No course that fulfills a requirement for this certificate may be taken on an S/NC basis.

Students interested in the certificate can find more information and the certificate application online at [www.HPS.Pitt.edu/Undergraduate/Certificate.php](http://www.HPS.Pitt.edu/Undergraduate/Certificate.php).