Get to know HEALTH SCIENCES

The Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) program is a direct-entry program designed for students interested in human health. Human health can be studied from the perspectives of biomedical and social science, and the BHSc program aims to address both perspectives. Students who develop a particular interest in an area of the health sciences may choose to take one (or more) specially-designed learning tracks. These provide a more specialized focus within a particular field, ranging from Infection, Immunity, and Inflammation to Global and Population Health.

Professions in the health sciences are varied and Queen's BHSc will introduce you to the depth and breadth of careers in this expansive field. In addition, many post-graduate health professional programs are increasingly competency-based, meaning that their graduates must achieve and demonstrate competency in specific health-related roles. This concept has been built into the BHSc curriculum, enabling our graduates to provide evidence of their achievements as leaders, communicators, professionals, scholars, collaborators, content experts, and advocates. This provides BHSc students with the language to communicate these gained skills in applications or interviews to professional programs or job positions, including those in research, government, or non-government organizations, or health administration.

Queen's BHSc is offered both on-campus and online, using interactive, engaging modules to deliver course content. The core courses in the on-campus program are offered in a blended format. This means that after completing weekly course modules, students come to class and interact with faculty members and peers to connect and apply learned concepts to problem solving scenarios, such as case studies, interpretation of scientific data, or mock conference presentations. The online program is designed to ensure our students interact with their faculty members and peers as well, via discussion boards and video software.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours)  
4 Years, 120 credits

Bachelor of Health Sciences (General)  
3 Years, 90 credits

Course HIGHLIGHTS

The Bachelor of Health Sciences program has been purpose-built to expose learners to a wide range of knowledge in the field of health sciences. Innovative courses have been developed such as:

- Biohacking and Gerontechnology
- Developmental Origins of Health and Disease
- Health Ethics, Law, and Policy
- Evolutionary Biology of Cancer

In addition to these courses, the curriculum highlights a number of traditional fields within the health sciences, including Physiology, Pharmacology, and Anatomy, while also incorporating important topics such as Global and Population Health and Social and Physical Determinants of Health and Disease. Faculty members within the Health Sciences range from academics to practicing physicians, providing Queen's BHSc students with a unique perspective on undergraduate education.

Queen’s ADMISSIONS

Applicants who have, or will successfully complete, a diploma from a Canadian or International high school will be considered through the traditional admission stream. Candidates can apply through OUAC (Code QH (on-campus), QIH (Bader College), QHO (online), or through Queen's webapp (online). Applicants are required to have an 80% in 4U (or equivalent) English, 4U biology, 4U chemistry, and any 4U math, along with two additional 4U or 4M courses. Check online for courses required for students outside of Ontario. If you are applying to an on campus program (QH or QIH) you are also required to complete a supplementary essay.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all. To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

2023-2024
Health Sciences PROGRAM MAP

BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCES | BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCES (HONOURS)

1ST YEAR
GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Take PHGY 170, ANAT 100, PHAR 100, HSCI 190, GLPH 171, and IDS 173. Also take 6.0 units of option courses and 6.0 units of electives (which can include option courses).

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer with various community organizations, such as local charities, local organizations that cater to a specific at-risk population, population, hospitals, public health units, or larger, national or global organizations such as Canadian Blood Services, the Canadian Red Cross, Canada Service Corps, Right to Life, Canadian Blood Services, the Canadian Red Cross, or Babble.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Think about incorporating topics like international affairs and global health issues into your degree.

BHS/Sc students can study at Bader College in Kingston or Babble.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

How you can get a job

Explore the BHS/Sc program website to see how it can act as a stepping stone to a new healthcare career.

Need career advice? You can book an appointment with a career educator and coach through MyCareers or call the Career Services reception at 613.533.2992.

Grappling with program decisions? Talk to one of the BHS/Sc Academic Advisors by emailing bhscadvisor@queensu.ca. Look for opportunities to get hands-on experience in your field by completing an internship through Queen’s resources, volunteering in hospitals, veterinarian or dental clinics, or through summer work opportunities at Queen’s through SWEP or outside of Queen’s through government/private laboratories.

2ND YEAR
GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Take PHGY 215/216, HSCI 270, GLPH 271, BCHM 270, and one of MICR 270 or 271. Also take an additional 6.0 units of option courses and 6.0 units of electives (which can include option courses).

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Develop greater connections with the organizations that you volunteer for, taking on responsibilities or special projects that help the organization in a tangible manner. Get involved with the BHS/Sc community by running for a position with the Health Sciences Society, becoming a QForce, or volunteering as a QSucces mentor to first-year students.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

If you’re looking to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience, start brainstorming about what kind of experience you would like to have.

Consider going on exchange to one of the BHS/Sc partner institutions, or volunteer/work abroad.

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3RD YEAR
GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Look into attending, in person or by webinar, high profile Queen’s conferences such as the Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Healthcare, TEDxQueen’s, or Queen’s Healthcare and Business Conference. To gain hands on lab experience consider taking PHGY 290 or MICR 290.

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4TH YEAR (HONOURS)

BEGIN (OR CONTINUE) TO ENGAGE WITH A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION TO READY YOURSELF FOR GLPH 471. IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR HANDS-ON LAB EXPERIENCE, START THINKING ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH INTERESTS AND TALK TO AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR ABOUT HOW TO SECURE A SUPervisor FOR THE HSCI 591/592/598 AND HSCI 593/594/595/599.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Investigate full-time jobs or further education related to careers of interest.

Ensure your LinkedIn profile is ready to be viewed by recruiters and potential employers; use Queen’s Career Services resources to improve your profile.

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or your topics of interest in Health Sciences.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Consider joining professional associations or scientific societies in your field of interest. Some of these associations have their own internal field-specific job boards or resources that are useful to you. Strengthen your ability to respond to community health needs and gain practical experience by taking GLPH 493.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Consider a 12-16 month quip internship.

Check Queen’s University International Centre (QUIC) resources for ideas to work/inter, or volunteer abroad.

Prepare for work or studies in a multicultural environment by taking QUIC’s online Intercultural Modules.

Confirm requirements for full-time jobs or professional program applications or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions.

Employability skills

Your time at Queen’s will give you valuable skills to boost your employability, including:

• Knowledge of cellular structures, organic systems, organic chemistry, and the functions of the human body

• Understanding of statistical research methods, the scientific method, and experimental design

• An appreciation for the social and scientific aspects that contribute to health and healthcare

• Research skills – ability to draw relevant information out of a large amount of data

• Attention to detail – analyze and interpret scientific data

• Problem solving – adopt a systematic approach to problems

• Oral and written communication – produce laboratory reports and present a report to a group

• Resource and time management

• Advocacy on behalf of different stakeholders/populations with the ability to craft messages based on the audience

• Collaborating with peers to achieve common goals

Where could I go after graduation?

• Biotechnology

• Dentistry

• Drug development

• Environmental management

• Forensics

• Health administration and public policy

• Medical and clinical research

• Medicine

• Microbiology

• Neuroscience

• Occupational health and safety

• Optometry

• Toxicology

• Veterinary medicine

*Some careers may require additional training and you may need to ensure your BHSc course requirements fulfill the required pre-requisites. Career paths are suggestions only.

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Health Sciences

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Distinguishing HEALTH SCIENCES

Of the health-focused programs at Queen’s, Health Sciences provides a balance between the biomedical side of health, a focus of the Life Sciences and Biochemistry programs, and the social sciences side of health, a focus of the Health Studies program. Queen’s Health Sciences has an emphasis on skill (competency) building by ensuring students have the opportunity to practice these skills in their course assessments.

Online HEALTH SCIENCES

Our online BHSc program offers maximal flexibility for our students. Students can complete courses on a timetable that best suits their lifestyle. The degree may be completed on either a full-time or part-time basis, there are different entry points throughout the year, and students can choose from a General or Honours degree.

Admission requirements for direct entry are the same as the on-campus program, however for students who lack the traditional requirements, there is an alternate route of admission to the online program. Applicants would apply as a non-degree student initially, and work towards progressing into the degree program by taking three specified first year courses and attaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in those courses. Ask an advisor (bhscadvisor@queensu.ca) for more details on this admission route. Finally, the online courses offered by the BHSc program are highly interactive, providing content through a variety of multimedia, along with the opportunity for reflection and self-assessment along the way.