Health Studies

Health Studies strives to understand the complex factors that influence physical, mental, and social health and overall well-being. Drawing largely from social science disciplines, our courses explore the social determinants of health, approaches to health promotion, health policy, health behaviour change, epidemiology, and program planning and evaluation. You’ll be expected to challenge yourself and to think critically about health in relation to social justice, politics, and culture. And you will gain the skills you need to do that.

Alumni Story

“The Health Studies program challenged me to think about health as more than just a physical condition, using the social determinants of health to better understand the complex factors that contribute to one’s wellbeing. I have grown both academically and personally from my time in the program as a result of the accomplished faculty members, experiential learning opportunities, and environment that fosters a successful culture of learning.”

- Sophie Leadbetter, HLTH ’21


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.

What will I learn?

A degree in Health Studies can equip you with:

- Knowledge of health promotion, population health, public health, health equity, health policy, and a wide range of other health-related topics
- In-depth understanding of the physical, social, psychological, and cultural factors influencing health and well-being
- Ability to collaborate with peers, policymakers, practitioners, and community members
- Research skills, evaluation, and critical thinking skills
- Oral and written communication
- Planning and time management

Where can I go?

A degree in Health Studies can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master’s. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Complementary medicine
- Education
- Global health
- Health and public administration
- Health promotion
- International development
- Law
- Occupational health and safety
- Occupational therapy
- Public health
- Rehabilitation therapy
- Social work
- Urban Planning

Taking time to explore career pathways, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
Why study in Kingston?

For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen’s has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen’s has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.

We’re closer than you think.