Health Sciences

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 a specific area of the health sciences may choose to take one (or more) of six 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.

This program offers students access to courses that will prepare them for admission to a wide variety of health professional programs such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, and rehabilitation therapy. These 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 Bachelor of Health Sciences curriculum, enabling our graduates to provide evidence of their achievements as leaders, communicators, professionals, scholars, collaborators, content experts, and advocates, providing them with the language to communicate their skills gained throughout their undergraduate degree in their applications and interviews to these programs. Students interested in taking the health sciences program may also find careers 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 students come to class to interact with faculty members and peers in order to connect and apply concepts learned in class 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. Option and elective courses are available either on-campus or online for our on-campus students, to offer schedule flexibility.

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:

- 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) or 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.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
bhsc.queensu.ca
**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

1ST YEAR
- Take PHGY 170, ANAT 100, PHAR 100, BIOL243/STAT2000, GLPH 171, and BMED 173. Also take 6.0 units of optional courses and 6.0 units of electives (which can include optional courses).
- If you are planning on completing one (or more) of the six optional learning tracks, declare it with your Academic Advisor at the end of first year (bhscadvisor@queensu.ca).

2ND YEAR
- Take PHGY 215/216, BMED 270, GLPH 271, BCHM 270, and one of MCR 270 or 271. Also take an additional 6.0 units of optional courses and 6.0 units of electives (which can include optional courses).
- If you have declared one or more learning tracks, make sure that you are enrolled in the courses required to complete it. Review the courses available for each one on the BHSc website and register for them accordingly.

3RD YEAR
- Take BMED 370, REPD 372, BMED 373, PATH 310, and PHAR 270. Also take an additional 9.0 units of optional courses and 6.0 units of electives (which can include optional courses).
- If you're planning to graduate after third year, switch into the General degree. Be aware that 4th year courses can be elective courses. If you have declared a learning track and are graduating with a general degree, make sure that you have completed the required courses for that track.
- Apply to graduate on SOLUS.

4TH YEAR (HONOURS)
- Take GLPH 471 and REPD 473. Also take an additional 18.0 units of optional courses and 6.0 units of electives (which can include option courses).
- If you have declared a learning track, make sure that required courses to complete your track(s) are taken.
- Apply to graduate on SOLUS.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

In Kingston, see the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for ideas to get involved.

Other ways to become involved include volunteering for after-school children's programs, volunteering in retirement residences, aiding the integration of recent immigrants to Canada, or volunteering at veterinary clinics or a local animal shelter.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**

Volunteer with various community organizations, such as local charities, local organizations that cater to a specific at-risk population, hospitals, public health units, or larger, national or global organizations such as Canadian Blood Services, the Canadian Red Cross, Medicins Sans Frontieres, Right to Play or Me to We.

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 THINKING GLOBALLY**

Think about international affairs and global health issues and how you would like to incorporate these areas into your degree.

Bilingualism opens up many job opportunities in Canada. Consider increasing your proficiency in French through Queen's courses or language clubs, city-run programs, or through apps such as Duolingo, Rosetta Stone, or Babbel.

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 BHSc partner institutions, or volunteer/work abroad.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**

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

Need career advice? You can book an in-person, phone, or Skype appointment with a career counsellor through MyCareer or call the Career Services reception at 613.533.2992.

Grappling with program decisions? Talk to one of the BHSc Academic Advisors by emailing bhscadvisor@queensu.ca.

Look for opportunities to get hands-on experience in your field by becoming an intern at dental or veterinary clinics, in hospitals, or by looking for summer work opportunities in government/private laboratories.

Start focusing on areas of interest and research which educational requirements are needed; the Program website can help you start. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the MCAT or DAT) and research possible scholarships/bursary opportunities in your desired field.

Connect with Queen's alumni on LinkedIn.

**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**
- **Pharmacists**
- **Health administration and public health**
- **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 selections fulfill the required pre-requisites. Career paths are suggestions only.*

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps for the online version with links!

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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.

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

Distinguishing HEALTH SCIENCES
Health Sciences (BHSc) is one of four health-focused programs at Queen's, which also include Life Sciences (BSc), Biochemistry (BSc), and Health Studies (BA). Health Sciences provides 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. It is also the only direct-entry program out of the four, meaning that beginning in year 1, you would be diving into health sciences-specific courses!

Online HEALTH SCIENCES
Our online BHSc program, with its inaugural students being accepted in 2016, 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.