

Health & Society Major Application Overview and Admissions Considerations

Admissions Overview

Reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the Health and Society major, we believe that students' experiences in the major are enriched when they engage with other students with diverse ranges of life experiences, points of view and career objectives. We seek cohorts that consist of excellent, engaged and dedicated students who collectively have broad experiences and perspectives. These various factors are considered during the admissions process.

The application deadline is September 15th and February 15th each year. If you are unsuccessful in gaining admission to the Health and Society major on the first attempt, you may apply a second time. Since you may apply for admission only twice, you are strongly encouraged to thoroughly review the *application requirements* and *admissions considerations* (see details below) and to apply when you believe you are a strong candidate.

Application Requirements:

- Statement of Interest – up to two pages single spaced
- Interest Form – detailing course work completed
- Degree Progress Report, not more than 30 days old – both summary and detail sections
- Successful completion of your freshman year
- Successful completion of the lab science requirement specific to your track

Admissions Considerations:

Statement of Interest - Your statement of interest should demonstrate genuine personal connection to the major, such as experiences and interests in, and/or future career goals related to health or factors that impact health such as culture, diversity, human rights, communication, artistic expression, behavior, economics, disparities, communities, health management and policy, public health and global health, among others. In particular, include personal life or educational experiences that have influenced your decision to apply for the Health and Society major. When relevant, you may wish to show how these experiences link with some of the particular courses of study within the major.

We seek majors who will create careers or lives in general where the knowledge and perspectives gained in the Health and Society Program at SMU will help them to make significant contributions to society in a variety of ways.

Factors that might explain previous academic difficulties and support future success within the Major should be noted. While the quality of your writing is considered, the ideas expressed by your letter of interest are of primary importance.

Grades – Your cumulative GPA, semester over semester grade improvement and your performance in courses already completed in the major are considered but, alone, do not determine your application's acceptance or rejection.

Time to Graduation – You may apply to the major after the successful completion of your freshman year. Time to graduation may be taken into consideration, with students graduating sooner given priority. However, time to graduation alone does not determine your application's acceptance or rejection from the major.

Revised: March 13, 2023