

1. BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION AND REGULATIONS, FMS, UWI, CAVE HILL

OVERVIEW

The Bachelor of Health Sciences programme trains and develops professionals, excluding physicians, to establish careers in health education, provision and administration. These professionals may occupy roles in the management of healthcare facilities using science and technology to aid in diagnosis, education, forensics and treatment of persons. The following concentration areas are currently offered in the programme:

- Community Health
- Biomedicine, Ethics, Humanities & Society
- Healthcare Administration & Management
- Nutrition and Society
- Environmental Health
- Health Informatics

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Potential employers are insurance companies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, public health agencies, outpatient facilities (polyclinics), medical doctors' offices and health related NGOs.

The programme is developed around an integrated core of biomedical disciplines: From these core subjects, students would learn the fundamental concepts of the basic medical sciences and their applications to the health sciences, for a better understanding of the scientific basis of health related problems. Students will also be able to use the knowledge gained from the core subjects as foundation for more detailed study of each concentration.

Throughout the degree programme, **the materials in the core subjects and concentrations will be offered as courses with specific credit values.** The courses are offered on a semester basis except in the case of the research project and other six-credit courses which will extend over two semesters. The biomedical core courses are compulsory for all students and most of these will be taken in the **first to the second year of the programme.** Also, during the second year of the programme, students would be introduced to research by completing the Health Science Research course. The programme gives students the flexibility to focus on a specific concentration in the health sciences by selecting courses in level two and three from other faculties along with electives. In addition to the flexible concentration courses and the core courses, each student is required to do **three Faculty-assigned foundation courses (value 9 credits).** But in any one semester, each student must register for a **minimum of 9 and a maximum of 21 credit courses.**

N.B. Each credit earned is equal to successful completion by examination of course materials covered over a period of 13 hours in one semester.

COURSE DELIVERY

Presentation of the core and major course will be done by one or a combination of the following:

1. Lectures
2. Laboratory exercises
3. Tutorials
4. Seminars
5. Research projects

RATE OF PROGRESS

By the end of the third year, each full-time student is expected to successfully complete at least **96 credits, of which a minimum of 51 credits must be in a given concentration. Candidates who satisfy these requirements will be eligible for the award of the degree.**

Time limits for completion and enforced withdrawals

1. A candidate taking examinations in either the core or concentration courses will normally:
 - a) Not be allowed to re-sit any examination or re-attempt a course more than twice (not including any supplemental examination);
 - b) Be required to withdraw from the programme, if the candidate is carrying a GPA below 2.0 for two consecutive semesters.
2. Candidates shall complete the degree (including the foundation courses) in a minimum of six (6) or a maximum of fourteen (14) semesters.
3. Candidates who do not satisfy the credit requirements for the degree within the maximum time will normally be required to withdraw from the programme. However, if the candidate has exhausted the maximum time limit with a deficit of no more than 6 credits for completion of the degree requirement, the Dean may recommend to Academic Board (after consultation with the Programme Director) an extension of the period of study by one or two semesters.
4. The pass mark for all courses is 50 % and the programme will be delivered under the University's current GPA system implemented August 2014.

Re-admission to the programme after enforced withdrawal

Candidates, who have had to withdraw from the programme because of poor academic performance, may re-apply for admission after one year of separation.

N.B. Transfers from this degree programme to the MB BS programme will not be considered.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To provide a pool of graduates that is suitable to undertake research in the cross disciplinary health science fields.
- To provide the graduate with the foundation for further training in research targeted at applied and cross disciplinary health related niche specialties
- To provide the graduate with the appropriate level of knowledge and expertise to deliver services for health and relevant cross disciplinary investigations.
- To equip graduates to perform quality control services for health related industries.
- To train graduates who can function as scientific officers in health and environmental related agencies.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONCENTRATIONS

Community Health

The concentration is a discipline of Public Health which addresses the study and improvement of the health characteristics of biological communities. The community health concentration introduces the student to concepts of health in the geographical setting by emphasising the social, psychological, physical, mental, environmental and ethical components of health among inhabitants of communities.

Biomedicine, Ethics, Humanities & Society

The concentration introduces students to the ethical and philosophical views of health in today's society. It starts with a foundation in understanding the history of biomedicine in our society and the ethical issues that can arise in biomedical settings. It will also provide an opportunity for students to reflect on how societal developments have led to specific kinds of ethical concerns, and how different groups in society have been, and continue to be affected by differential treatment in science and medicine.

Healthcare Administration & Management

This concentration provides students with important aspects of the health sciences which would develop their ability to function as effective managers of health care facilities. The core health related courses are complemented by courses in cost and management accounting, microeconomics, human resource management, business law, organisational behaviour and management information systems.

Nutrition and Society

This concentration will appeal to persons who are interested in specialising in nutrition at the graduate level. The nutrition component compliments the core health science related courses and provides students with the basics of human nutrition, nutrition and the life cycle, nutrition education, nutrition and metabolism and nutrition in the treatment and prevention of disease. This concentration also has an infusion of sociology and psychology courses which will provide the important knowledge based aspects of nutrition and its role in modern society.

Environmental Health

This concentration explores environmental issues and its association with and impact on health. The environment and people within that space are mutually connected. Alongside the core health related courses, you will learn about environmental determinants of disease and factors (natural and man-made) which may affect the environment. The concentration will also discuss the modalities for the monitoring and surveillance of environmental hazards.

Health Informatics

This concentration offers the opportunity to undertake a learning experience geared toward the use of health care. The concentration compliments the core health disciplines with courses covering relevant areas in computer science, information science, social sciences and management sciences. It deals with the resources, devices, and methods required to optimise the acquisition, storage, retrieval and use of information in health. These individuals can move on to specialize at the graduate level in Health Information Technology and related areas.

CAREER PATHS AND OPTIONS

Overall, graduates with this degree will have several career options in industry, Government and academia.

Community Health

Bachelor of Health Sciences graduates who specialise in Community Health may move on to careers including health promotion, research and also careers addressing health policy implementation in government ministries. These individuals can also specialise at the graduate level in Public Health.

Biomedicine, Ethics, Humanities & Society

Bachelor of Health Sciences graduates who specialise in Biomedicine, Ethics, Humanities and Society may move on to careers including positions in institutional review boards or may pursue careers in health policy; health administration and biomedical research. These individuals can go on to specialise in biomedical ethics at the graduate level.

Healthcare Administration & Management

Bachelor of Health Sciences graduates who specialise in Healthcare Administration & Management may move on to careers managing healthcare facilities such as hospitals, polyclinics and private healthcare institutions. These individuals can also specialise at the graduate level in Business Administration.

Nutrition & Society

Bachelor of Health Sciences graduates who specialise in Nutrition may move on to careers in health promotion and also work along with dietitians and nutritionists in establishing nutrition interventions for managing diseases and for preventative measures. These individuals can also specialise at the graduate level in Nutrition.

Environmental Health

Bachelor of Health Sciences graduates who specialise in Environmental Health can work as environmental officers in government and NGO entities. After the programme individuals can specialise in Public Health and/or Environmental Risk Management.

Health Informatics

Bachelor of Health Science graduates who specialise in Health Informatics can move on to specialize at the graduate level in Health Information Technology and related areas. These persons may consider working in healthcare institutions to establish and maintain information technology systems within the organization to facilitate in patient care

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Three (3) years of full-time study. Seven (7) years of part-time study.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION

Students seeking admission to the degree programme must fulfill the following normal matriculation requirements:

a) CXC Certificates, General Certificates of Education (GCE)

Holders of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) Certificates and/or Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC), General Certificates of Education (GCE) , Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) (or the approved equivalents in Matriculation Regulation)

- CSEC subjects/ GCE O' level
 - Mathematics, English Language, Biology, Chemistry & Physics
- CAPE/ GCE A' Level
 - Biology/Zoology& Chemistry and a non-science subject

- Associate degree, diploma(s) and certificate(s) from other health science programmes at a reputable institution will be also be considered for entry.
 - Exemptions with credits may be granted.
 - Relevant work experience may be considered for matriculation.

FOR students writing CAPE, candidates who have passed two 2-unit courses in a particular subject area fall within the two (2) A Level matriculation standing. Six (6) Caribbean Advanced Proficiency examinations (CAPE) Units, including the two single-unit courses - Caribbean Studies and Communication Studies are required normal matriculation;

Faculty Requirements:

Candidates must also satisfy ONE (1) of the following requirements (**A, B or C**):

- A. i) GCE O'levels (grades A to C)/CXC/CSEC General Proficiency level (grades 1 & 2 pre 1998; grades 1 to 3 from 1998) in English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- ii) GCE A'Levels / CAPE (2 units per subject): a minimum of two Subjects chosen from Chemistry, Biology / Zoology and a non-science subject

OR

UWI, Preliminary Pure & Applied Science Course (N1): Chemistry, Life Sciences

- B. Equivalent qualifications (as determined from transcripts) to those above.
- C. Mature students (≥ 21 years) with Associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in health related sciences inclusive of the GCE O'Level/CXC/CSEC requirements stated above at **A** (i) and relevant work experience in a research/medical setting.