

Medical Decision Making, Minor

The Minor in Medical Decision Making

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<https://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/sds/undergraduate/index.html> (<https://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/sds/undergraduate/>)

Overview

Some of the most difficult decisions people ever face involve their health. Imagine being asked to choose between treatments that could extend your life, carry serious side effects, or fail altogether. Patients and healthcare professionals routinely face choices involving uncertainty, competing risks, incomplete information, and deeply personal values. The Medical Decision Making minor explores how people make these decisions and how better evidence, communication, and decision support can improve health outcomes.

Students examine topics including medical decision making, health behavior, risk communication, healthcare policy, and the organization of healthcare systems. They learn how patients understand risk, how clinicians make diagnostic and treatment decisions, how health policies influence behavior, and how behavioral science can improve medical care. The minor provides an excellent foundation for students interested in medicine, nursing, public health, healthcare administration, biomedical research, health policy, and many other health-related professions.

Double Counting

Students may double-count two courses with another major or minor.

Curriculum

Minor in Medical Decision Making		54 units
Foundation Courses		45 units
Required		Units
88-130	Behavioral Economics for Life	9
or 88-140	Introduction to Sociology	
or 85-100	Introduction to Psychology	
or 85-150	Social Psychology	
88-120	Reason, Passion and Cognition	9
88-261	Health Policy and Decision Making	9
88-262	Rationality and Irrationality in Medicine	9
88-302	Behavioral Decision Making	9
Electives (choose one)		9 units
88-365	Behavioral Economics and Public Policy	9
73-328	Health Economics	12
80-245	Medical Ethics	9
85-108	Mind and Body: Pathways to Health	9
85-409	Crosscultural	9
85-454	Health Psychology	9