Proposal to create a cluster of undergraduate majors in the health sciences

The Department of Health Science currently offers a major in Allied Health Studies, a degree completion program for working professionals holding Associate Degrees in Allied Health fields. The program was designed to build on the general, scientific and clinical knowledge the students gained in their associate degree program and through their clinical experience in the field. By completing this course of study, students develop a broader and deeper understanding of the health field and prepare themselves for career advancement opportunities in leadership and/or management, and to work with people across a variety of healthcare settings. The major, as presently configured, requires the students to complete a set of four core courses. They take an additional six elective courses to complete a specialization in Community Health, Health Administration or Health Science.

The current proposal restructures the Allied Health Studies major into a cluster of related health majors, each individually identified. The set of shared core courses is increased to six with the addition of a communication and a legal issues course. The major in Community Health focuses on the psychological and sociological aspects of health and might be a great choice for someone interested in social work, public health, home health services or aging care. The major in Health Care Management centers on the business and management skills necessary to lead health programs, facilities and personnel. Health Science is designed to provide the health practitioner with an enhanced understanding of the physiology of health and fitness and may serve as the background needed for graduate or professional school training. Health Studies provides an integrated experience for those wishing a broad perspective of the health field and allows more choice in elective courses that focus on the biological and biochemical aspects of health and disease, and on health communication and management. This might be a good choice for someone wishing to pursue a career in health promotion or health coaching. This major could also provide the additional clinical science background needed for career advancement in medical laboratory science.

The new health majors are ones that have been designed to meet targeted workforce needs at the local, regional and statewide levels. These individual majors develop core competencies as well as specific technical knowledge and applied skills required for improved job performance and career advancement. By defining separate majors instead of specializations within a broader discipline, prospective students and their employers - who may be paying the tuition - understand more clearly what they can expect from their investment in education. The relationship of coursework, credits and time commitment toward accomplishment of learning goals is more transparent, while flexibility and options for program individualization are maintained.

Normansell Overview of the new health majors Draft 10/6/11
Proposed Majors

COMMUNITY HEALTH

A. Core Courses (18 credits)
   - HLSC 301: The American Health Care System (3)*
   - HLSC 304: Statistics for the Health Sciences (3)*
   - HLSC 307: Health Communication and Promotion (3)*
   - HLSC 406: Legal Issues in Health Care (3)*
   - HLSC 495: Seminar in Health Science (3)*
   - PHIL 305: Biomedical Ethics (3)

B. Electives (12 credits)
   Choose four of the following:
   - HLSC 312: Social Gerontology (3)*
   - HLSC 315: Public Health and Epidemiology (3)*
   - HLTH 345: Personal Health (3)
   - HLTH 365: School and Community Health (3)
   - HLTH 380: Health Issues and Programs (3)
   - PSYC 308: Adolescence and Youth (3)
   - PSYC 309: Adulthood and Aging (3)
   - SOCI 320: Racial and Cultural Minorities (3)
   - SOCI 345: Sociology of the Family (3)

HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT

A. Core Courses (18 credits)
   - HLSC 301: The American Health Care System (3)*
   - HLSC 304: Statistics for the Health Sciences (3)*
   - HLSC 307: Health Communication and Promotion (3)*
   - HLSC 406: Legal Issues in Health Care (3)*
   - HLSC 495: Seminar in Health Science (3)*
   - PHIL 305: Biomedical Ethics (3)

B. Electives (12 credits)
   Choose four of the following:
   - HLSC 322: Health Policy (3)*
   - HLSC 326: Health Care Finance (3)*
   - ACCT 201: Financial Accounting (3)
   - ACCT 202: Managerial Accounting (3)
   - BUSI 321: Organizational Management (3)
   - BUSI 341: Marketing (3)
   - BUSI 415: Human Resource Management (3)
   - BUSI 420: Management Information Systems (3)
**HEALTH SCIENCE**

A. **Core Courses** (18 credits)
   - HLSC 301: The American Health Care System (3)*
   - HLSC 304: Statistics for the Health Sciences (3)*
   - HLSC 307: Health Communication and Promotion (3)*
   - HLSC 406: Legal Issues in Health Care (3)*
   - HLSC 495: Seminar in Health Science (3)*
   - PHIL 305: Biomedical Ethics (3)

B. **Electives** (12 credits)
   - Choose four of the following:
     - HLSC 331: Nutrition and Health (3)*
     - HLSC 336: Principles of Strength and Conditioning (3)*
     - HLSC 337: Exercise Testing and Prescription (3)*
     - BIOL 305: Human Genetics (3)
     - BIOL 346: Pathophysiology (3)
     - HLTH 345: Personal Health (3)
     - PSYC 304: Learning and Memory (3)

**HEALTH STUDIES**

A. **Core Courses** (18 credits)
   - HLSC 301: The American Health Care System (3)*
   - HLSC 304: Statistics for the Health Sciences (3)*
   - HLSC 307: Health Communication and Promotion (3)*
   - HLSC 406: Legal Issues in Health Care (3)*
   - HLSC 495: Seminar in Health Science (3)*
   - PHIL 305: Biomedical Ethics (3)

B. **Electives** (12 credits)
   - Choose four of the following:
     - HLSC 341: Applied Clinical Biochemistry I (3)*
     - HLSC 342: Applied Clinical Biochemistry II (3)*
     - BIOL 305: Human Genetics (3)
     - BIOL 346: Pathophysiology (3)
     - BUSI 321: Organizational Management (3)
     - BUSI 341: Marketing (3)
     - COMM 312: Electronic Media Structure and Content (3)
     - COMM 355: Organizational Communication (3)
     - ENGL 316: Public Relations Writing (3)
**New Courses**

**Core courses in all four new majors**

HLSC 301: The American Health Care System (name change from AHS 301: Topics in American Health Care; catalog description is unchanged)
HLSC 301: The American Health Care System (3) explores the major themes and issues of health care in the US including health care policy, finance, risk management and quality improvement, government regulations, and the insurance industry.

HLSC 304: Statistics for the Health Sciences (3) is designed to provide the foundations of statistics with special application for students in the health sciences. Topics include both descriptive and inferential statistics, probability theory and research design. Emphasis is placed on understanding how statistics are used by health practitioners and interpreting the results.

HLSC 307: Health Communication and Promotion (3) provides a basic overview of the role communication plays in shaping health promotion and disease prevention messages to individuals, groups and the general public. The role of mass media in health communication and promotion will be explored. Goals and strategies of health promotion will be reviewed along with evaluation activities. Students will be expected to identify a specific population and develop a health promotion project for that group.

HLSC 406: Legal Issues in Health Care (3) provides a basic understanding of healthcare law. Essential components of healthcare law will be addressed in accordance with how the law impacts the health system from a strategic and operational perspective. Students will have the opportunity to analyze and discuss specific cases that pertain to the topics covered. Best practice strategies for the prevention and management of legal claims will be provided.

HLSC 495: Seminar in Health Science (name change from AHS 495: Seminar in Allied Health Studies; catalog description has minor revision)
HLSC 495: Seminar in Health Science (3) is a capstone course for students completing any of the Health Science majors. The student will engage in an in-depth research study or practicum that links together their general course work, their specialized training and their clinical experience. The topic will be selected in consultation with the supervising faculty member. Prerequisite: permission of department chair.

**Community Health**

HLSC 312: Social Gerontology (3) provides an overview of the processes of aging. Emphasis is placed on 'typical' aspects of aging from three perspectives: the aging individual, social context of aging, and societal responses to an aging population.
HLSC 315: Public Health and Epidemiology (3) provides an overview of the basic principles of public health and their application to the development of activities that benefit the health status of populations. Concepts of epidemiology, biostatistics, and health care planning, policy development and assessment are also examined.

Health Care Management
HLSC 322: Health Policy (3) provides a comprehensive review of the health policymaking process and current debates. A historical perspective of health policy will be reviewed. Students will be introduced to the process of health policy development and implementation and will have the opportunity to analyze a current policy and its effects on a health care organization or special interest group in their local community.

HLSC 326: Health Care Finance (3) provides a general overview of how the healthcare finance system works in the United States. Essential components of healthcare finance will be explored. Students will have an opportunity to analyze financial data, systems and processes and identify performance improvement opportunities for enhancing revenue growth and expense reduction.

Health Science
HLSC 331: Nutrition and Health (3) provides a basic overview of the role nutrition and diet play in health. Fundamental aspects of nutrients and digestive processes will be examined. Nutrition and its implications for disease will also be addressed.

HLSC 336: Principles of Strength and Conditioning (3) provides a basic understanding of the physiological mechanisms and adaptations facilitating optimal sport and exercise performance.

HLSC 337: Exercise Testing and Prescription (3) is designed to familiarize students with the hands-on training and theoretical background needed to competently assess levels of wellness/fitness within low risk adult populations. The topics and skills addressed will include health screening protocols and measurement protocols for the health-related components of fitness (i.e., cardiorespiratory fitness, muscular fitness, flexibility, body composition).

Health Studies
HLSC 341: Applied Clinical Biochemistry I (3) focuses on the theory and principles of clinical chemistry, and associated application and instrumentation especially as it pertains to disease states. Focus is on carbohydrate metabolism, protein function, endocrinology and tumor markers. This course is primarily designed for Medical Laboratory Technicians.
HLSC 342: Applied Clinical Biochemistry II (3) focuses on the theory and principles of clinical chemistry, and associated application and instrumentation especially as it pertains to disease states. Focus is on acid base, electrolytes, heme derivatives, lipids, therapeutic drug monitoring, drugs of abuse and toxicology. This course is primarily designed for Medical Laboratory Technicians.