



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA®
Honors College

September 2026

Dear Prospective Medical Humanities Scholar:

Thank you for your interest in the Medical Humanities Scholars Program (MHSP), now in its twenty-fifth year. The program is one of the few 7- or 8-year BA-MD programs that emphasizes preparation for a medical career through study in the basic sciences, humanities, arts, social sciences, and the study of western and non-western healing traditions. Our graduates are doctors and clinical scholars across the country in primary practice, specialties, and sub-specialties. Some are the first in their families to attend college, let alone medical school. They are an extraordinary group who are provisionally accepted at the OU College of Medicine when admitted to the MHSP.

The MHSP gives students great flexibility. You can major in any area at the university: anthropology, biology, Chinese, community health, English, history, music, sociology, etc.. All these disciplines are open to you. You will also complete a Medical Humanities Minor that you design according to your interests. Some of our students focus on cross-cultural perspectives on health and disease; others focus on history of medicine, on bioethics, on spirituality and medicine, or on health disparities. The focus is up to you! There are also abundant research opportunities in biomedicine, life science, social science, and the humanities, and study abroad opportunities abound for MH Scholars and all OU honors students.

Our online application is available in the fall of each year. Typically, we receive 250 applications from around the United States, and we review them holistically. Here's what we look for: bright, talented high school seniors with outstanding academic records and strong test scores; people who have genuine interests in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and the social determinants of health; people who want to make the world a better place. Our applicants have diverse extracurricular experiences: some play sports, others play instruments, sing, or dance; some are junior EMTs or have volunteered in memory care facilities or for hospice. Some have conducted biomedical research, and some have published poems, short-stories, or scientific articles. Each applicant is different; we embrace this diversity. Most applicants are aware of some of the challenges facing clinical medicine and population health today.

Because our medical school is a state-funded institution, we must take people who are U.S. citizens or resident aliens (green card holders).

Students must complete the OU and Honors College applications and be accepted into the Honors College before we can consider their MHSP application. So, APPLY EARLY! There is a link in the online Honors application to the MHSP application. We do not consider late applications.

There is no secret to success in applying to our program. If you have a desire to be a physician and obtain a well-rounded liberal arts education that helps you to understand the human side of medicine as well as the scientific side, we think the Medical Humanities Scholars Program is a great program for you to consider. We also have a Medical Humanities Minor for those not accepted into our BA-MD program.

I wish you the best of luck wherever your college and medical school experiences take you!

Sincerely,

Sarah W. Tracy, Ph.D., Director, Medical Humanities Program

