

MD with Distinction in Medical Humanities *Commonly Asked Questions*

- How can the 40 hours of service be fulfilled for the CSL track, and what can be done for the rest of the 140 hours that are part of the core requirement?

The 40 hours of service have to be related to the applicant's Core Project. Elective class hours that are beyond the minimum can be counted. The student's mentor would assist the candidate.

- Is there any way current MSII's could apply for the distinction during their MSIII year?

Yes, MSIII and IV's will complete the Retrospective Application Requirements.

- Are cross-enrolled students eligible to apply?

No, the School of Medicine does not award degrees to students in other schools.

- Is the application specific to a certain class year? Is there a better year than another to apply for the distinction?

Students are not encouraged to apply during their MSI year. During the spring of the MSI year, and prior to finals, the application process may begin and be submitted after finals and the beginning of the MSII year (submission deadline August 1st). If not submitted by the fall of the MSII year, work on designating a mentor and submit the application after the Winter Break (deadline February 15th).

- I am in the MD/PhD program. Can I apply for the program after I have completed my PhD?

The Humanities Distinction Program was not developed with the MD/PhD candidate in mind. The development of the distinction proposal is accomplished during the research years of medical school.

- Are there any restrictions on whether or not someone can get a distinction simultaneously with a dual degree?

It would be difficult to track the hours (MD or MPH) and apply them to the MD Distinction program.

- I am currently in the process of a CSL mid-grant where I have created a 13-week program to teach nutrition to a 4th grade class. I am interested in applying for a distinction, but I am confused on as to which one to apply to since I am already in the process of a project. Would I have to repeat the project in my MSIV year in order to get the distinction, or would this count as a Capstone Project since I have already received a mid-grant and am currently in the middle of the program?

Make an appointment to discuss this matter with the CSL Discipline Coordinator, Melanie Stone.

- How do I pick a project mentor?

The Humanities Distinction Committee will be reaching out to various faculty members to see if they are interested in being mentors for the Distinction Program.

The key project mentor must be a faculty member at UTHSA and work in the related field of the project concentration.

- May I count the hours spent on a Global Health trip toward the required volunteer hours?

The hours spent on your Global Health trip to Ethiopia cannot be counted toward the required 40+ hours of volunteer service. The GH trip is a requirement of the Foundations in GH course, and the hours spent in fulfilling the general curriculum of the course may not be counted toward volunteer service. In other words, no “double dipping”.

You may count the hours tracked in the preparation of the GH trip, such as: determining medications needed, quantities, etc., (2) design of the GH project (participating in the Big Decisions training or other preparatory activities like designing your education materials, (3) fundraising activities

These hours may not include required team meetings (with Mr. Rosenfeld or Dr. Berggren), social team meetings or otherwise. The hours must be a good faith best estimate, unless you tracked them in detail, and must be signed off by the Team Leader.

- May I apply even if I don't have a 3.25 GPA?

The Humanities Distinction Committee will take those cases under consideration. If your application is accepted with less than a 3.25 GPA, you will be required to monitor your GPA and bring it up to the 3.25 GPA by your MSIII year.

- What are the deadlines for submitting the initial application?

Prospective Application - Initial Application Deadline:

- *MSI's (completed) – August 1st (11:59 PM)*
- *MSII's – February 15th (11:59 PM)*

Retrospective Application – Initial Application Deadline:

- *MSIII's – September 1 of the semester before your anticipated graduation date.*