Multidisciplinary Academic Programs

Multidisciplinary Academic Programs provide opportunities for Yale College students to examine pressing social challenges from a variety of disciplinary perspectives among a community of students and faculty who have shared interests. Students from any major can apply to these programs, and faculty from across the University participate in them. Each program focuses centrally on a distinct and different set of issues, but they all share common features, including a core curriculum—beginning with a gateway course and culminating in a senior capstone project—and opportunities for practical experience that allow students to combine theory and practice, applying what they have learned in the classroom and in their research.

Education Studies

The Education Studies program comprises an interdisciplinary cohort of scholars who are interested in education practice, policy, and/or research. Each scholar completes electives within the Education Studies curriculum, a summer or academic-year field experience, and a senior capstone seminar and thesis-equivalent project. Education Studies Scholars also explore educational topics through symposia led by Yale faculty and advising relationships with mentors. Students may apply to the Education Studies Undergraduate Scholars program in their sophomore year. The prerequisite for applying is EDST 110. For more information, see the program’s website.

Energy Studies

The Energy Studies multidisciplinary academic program is designed to provide select undergraduates with the broad knowledge and skills needed for advanced studies, leadership, and success in energy-related fields, at a time when the world faces enormous challenges in moving its energy systems toward greener, more sustainable sources, while eliminating energy poverty around the world. The curriculum is divided in three tracks, Energy Science and Technology, Energy and the Environment, and Energy and Society, and requires the completion of six graded term courses plus a senior capstone project. Admission to the Energy Studies Undergraduate Scholars program is by application in the fall term of sophomore year. Accepted students are normally required to enroll in the program’s gateway course, APHY 100. For more information, see the program’s website.

Global Health Studies

The Global Health Studies program is designed for students interested in understanding and addressing pressing global health challenges. Although courses in global health are open to all undergraduates, students desiring greater depth in the field are encouraged to apply to become a Global Health Scholar. Scholars are typically selected in the fall of their sophomore year although, in exceptional cases, juniors may also be accepted. Students in the program complete an interdisciplinary course of study that includes required and elective courses and fieldwork (e.g., internships with NGOs, or field-based research either with faculty or independently with faculty guidance). In the summer after junior year, Global Health Scholars conduct their own independent global health fieldwork, for which they receive support in the form of designated funding and mentorship from an assigned global health faculty adviser. During their senior year, students in the program are expected to incorporate their fieldwork and classroom experiences into their senior requirement and to develop a publication-worthy written product. For more information, see the program’s website.

Human Rights Studies

The Human Rights Studies program seeks to equip students with an academic foundation from which to engage meaningfully with human rights scholarship and practice. The program is based on an understanding that human rights constitutes a rich and interdisciplinary field of study, drawing on bodies of work in history, literature, economics, political science, philosophy, anthropology, law, and area studies. The program provides students with relevant analytical, conceptual, and practical skills; connects students to affiliated faculty and peers; supports student research projects and internship opportunities; and offers career guidance in the field. Students interested in admission to the Human Rights Studies program must apply in the fall semester of their sophomore year. For more information, see the program’s website.