Health care is one of the fast growing fields in the United States. Aging baby boomers, advances in medical technology and medical sciences have created a demand for caring, committed and educated people in this field. What makes SJU’s IHS program unique, is its approach to medicine focusing on social justice; that is, the focus is placed upon disease prevention and managing health resources effectively and justly. This is in contrast to traditional medical practice that focuses on treating individuals after disease has started.

If you know that you’re interested in the medical and helping professions and are looking for your niche, be it nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, health administration or nonprofit management, the interdisciplinary health services (IHS) program is a good fit for you. The major in IHS explores a broad range of health topics including nutrition, chronic illnesses, health behaviors, alternative/complementary medicine, epidemiology, health policy, health administration, health research and legal and ethical concerns. Among the most attractive features of the IHS program is the flexibility to design an individual program based upon your interests and career goals. Students have the option to complete prerequisites needed for graduate programs in the medical fields and to minor in biology, chemistry, psychology, sociology or business. The curriculum is designed to enhance immediate and long-term opportunities in a wide range of organizations, such as hospitals, health departments, nonprofit agencies, research facilities, schools, and industry.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SERVICES MAJOR:**
- Visit the Interdisciplinary Health Services Major’s Website: [http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/cas/interdisciplinaryhealthservices/index.html](http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/cas/interdisciplinaryhealthservices/index.html)
- Visit the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Support Center, located in Barbelin 122
- Contact the Interdisciplinary Health Services Department to schedule a meeting with a faculty member by calling 610-660-1530.
- Speak with current students in the major
- Schedule an appointment with the Career Development Center at 610-660-3100

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SERVICES?**
Whatever you put your mind to! You may opt to continue your education in a clinical field, such as nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, pharmacy, medicine, dentistry or public health or you may decide to manage a nonprofit organization or employee wellness program. IHS courses will challenge you to think critically, which will set you up for success in any job. Following are descriptions of just a few of the positions you might obtain with an IHS degree:

**Health Administrator:** Directs operations in health centers, agencies, hospitals, medical practices, pharmaceutical and insurance companies. Provides leadership, manages finances, plans programs and client care, and is able to help organizations function effectively and efficiently.
Clinical Research Coordinator: Tests new pharmaceutical treatments, medical devices, health programs, or clinical practices. Recruits study participants, manages clinical trials, and ensures that participants’ rights are protected throughout the study.

Community Health Educator: Promotes, maintains, and improves individual and community health by assisting individuals and communities to adopt healthy behaviors. Collects and analyzes data to identify community needs prior to planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, policies and environments. May also serve as a resource to assist individuals, other professionals, or the community, and manages fiscal resources.

Medical Assistant: Performs administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of physician. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing, and coding for insurance purposes. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by physician.

Clinical Records Coordinator: Compiles, processes, and maintains medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements of the health care system.

Patient Care Coordinator: Helps patients and their family members navigate complex healthcare services, understand policies and make educated decisions regarding care.

HOW CAN I ENGAGE MY INTEREST IN INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SERVICES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM?
There are so many opportunities to get involved at Saint Joseph’s University and beyond – and to develop experience in your major while doing so! Here are just a few:

AcademyHealth
American Public Health Association
Calcutta House
Cristo Rey
Easter Seals
Gompers Elementary School
Inglis House
KenCrest
The Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support

The Lankenau Hospital
Mercy Ambulatory Center
Project Appalachia
Project Haiti
Project H.O.M.E.
SAFE Program
Saint Luke’s Medical Center
Shriners Hospital
Thomas Jefferson Hospital
OUTCOMES – A CLOSER LOOK AT SJU GRADUATES WITH DEGREES IN INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SERVICES:
As depicted in the chart below, the majority of new graduates have decided to pursue careers in clinical fields. Others have selected jobs in health administration, education or community service. (Data from Saint Joseph’s University Career Development Center’s Post-Graduation Survey, 2008 – 2012.)

Here is a sampling of positions Interdisciplinary Health Services graduates have accepted:

- Administration Coordinator Internal Medicine
- Residency Program
- Brain Injury Specialist
- Cardiology Consultant
- Clinical Records Coordinator
- Clinical Research Coordinator
- Graduate Assistant
- Instructional Assistant
- Intensive Care Unit
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Scribe
- Paramedic
- Patient Service Representative
- Pharmaceutical Sales Representative
- Physical Therapy Aide
- Service Representative
- Staffing Coordinator
- Unit Secretary/ Patient Care Technician

Organizations that have hired Interdisciplinary Health Services graduates include:

- Albert Einstein Medical Center
- Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School
- Brick Township Board of Education
- Bryn Mawr Hospital
- Care Alternatives
- Chatham School District
- CIGNA
- Discovery Charter School
- Drexel University
- Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
- Franklin Towne Charter High School
- Gwynedd Mercy College
- Hillsborough county schools
- Kutztown Family Medicine
- Main Line Health- Bryn Mawr Hospital
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Pelham School District
- Pharm Force
Average Starting Salary – Interdisciplinary Health Services Majors – Classes of 2008 – 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation Year</th>
<th># of Respondents</th>
<th>Average Total Salary</th>
<th>Average Bonus</th>
<th># of Bonuses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$30,300</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interdisciplinary Health Services graduates typically continue their education, in clinical and graduate programs at:

- Arcadia University
- Creighton University
- Drexel University
- New York University
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Sacred Heart University
- St. Paul’s School of Nursing
- University of Scranton
- New York University
- Thomas Jefferson University
- Lock Haven University
- Hofstra University
- Long Island University at Riverhead
- University of Melbourne, Australia
- University of Maryland
- Villanova
- West Chester University
- Widener University

FURTHER ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR MAJOR AND CAREER OPTIONS

The Career Development Center can help you with the process of choosing a major and exploring your career options. For assistance, please call 610-660-3100 to schedule an appointment to meet with a Career Counselor.
GETTING THE JOB – SAMPLE INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SERVICES MAJOR RESUME-below:

Megan Moore

Email: mmoore@sju.edu

123 Joseph St. 
Philadelphia, PA 19131

Home Phone: 215-555-1234
Work Phone: 610-555-5678

Education

Saint Joseph’s University. Bachelor of Science, 2014
Major: Interdisciplinary Health Services

- Current G.P.A: 3.11
- Honors/Awards:
  - Presidential Scholarship from Fall 2011 - present
  - Dean’s List Honor for Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013

Relevant Experience

Kinney Center SCHOLAR. September 2012 – Present
SJU Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support, Philadelphia, PA

- Work directly with over thirty individuals with autism to support, plan, and implement appropriate lessons
- Monitor participants' progress, record and study data
- Assist with social, behavioral and educational assessments
- Supervise and provide direct physical care for program participants

Philadelphia Medical Care Group, Huntingdon Valley, PA

- Recorded patients' medical history, vital statistics, or information such as test results in medical records
- Entered data, such as demographic characteristics, history and extent of disease, diagnostic procedures, or treatment into computer
- Compiled and maintained patients' medical records to document condition and treatment and to provide data for research or cost control and care improvement efforts

Executive Board Member. May 2012- May 2013
Saint Joseph’s University, Hand in Hand, Philadelphia, PA

- Worked with executive board members to plan carnival for individuals with special needs,
- Managed community relations committee of 20 people,
- Recruited and handled information sessions for approximately four hundred Saint Joseph’s University and high school volunteers

Autism Speaks U Member. September 2012- May 2013
Saint Joseph’s University, Official Chapter, Philadelphia, PA

- Raised awareness and funds for Autism Speaks, while serving as voices of hope, inspiration, and support for the autism community

Saunders House (Senior Housing Services) Volunteer. September 2012- December 2012
Saint Joseph’s University, Service Learning Program, Philadelphia, PA

- Transported residents to programs
- Visited with residents one-on-one and assisting with small group activities

Professional Organizations

Student Associate, 2012-Present
American College of Healthcare Executives