

THE FACULTY

All of the Health and Human Services courses are taught by experienced professors with diverse backgrounds who stress critical thinking and a liberal arts perspective. Classes are small and emphasize discussion, enabling students to really get to know their professors, who will work with students to develop a plan of liberal arts courses to help them reach their goals.

Sharon L. Payne, LCSW CSAC

Teaching interests: human service methods, women and gender issues, homelessness, politics and ethics

Benjamin D. Dobrin, MSW, Ph.D.

Program Coordinator

Teaching interests: aging, men's issues, health and fitness, smoking, Alzheimer's, research methodology and public health

Bill Brown, LCSW (part time)

Teaching interests: substance abuse



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Armed with the skills acquired from a rigorous academic experience and a demanding internship, Health and Human Services graduates are well equipped to take a number of paths upon graduation, including licensing/certification, graduate studies or work in the field. Licenses or certifications available to a student with a degree in Health and Human Services include Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, Certified Substance Abuse Counselor and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.

Health and Human Services graduates often seek degrees such as:

- Master of Social Work
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Counseling
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Gerontology
- Master of Divinity
- Juris Doctorate

THE COLLEGE

Virginia Wesleyan College is a small, four-year liberal arts institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Home to only 1,400 students, both resident and commuter, the 300-acre campus rests on the border of Norfolk and Virginia Beach in the heart of the historic Hampton Roads area.

Virginia Wesleyan provides a prime opportunity for students to learn both in and out of the classroom, offering more than 30 majors and more than 50 clubs and organizations. Additionally, the College boasts 17 intercollegiate sports and competes in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and NCAA Division III.

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

(757) 455-3200

www.vwc.edu

ADMISSIONS

(757) 455-3208

(800) 737-8684

admissions@vwc.edu

Sharon L. Payne, LCSW CSAC

(757) 455-3413

spayne@vwc.edu

Benjamin D. Dobrin, MSW, Ph.D.

(757) 455-3412

bdobrin@vwc.edu

Bill Brown, LCSW

(757) 455-5730

bbrown@vwc.edu

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Division of Social Sciences



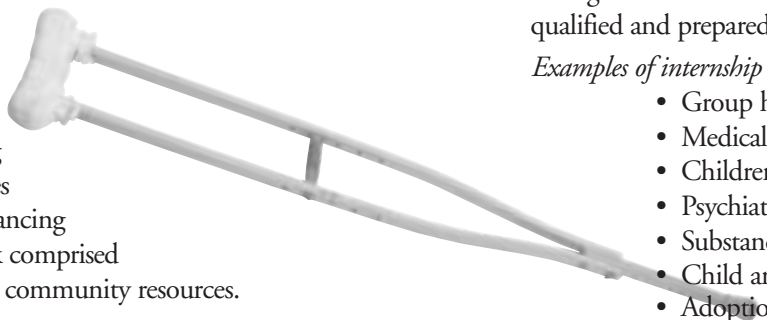
THE FIELD

A person working in the Health and Human Services field is equipped with the competence to develop, administer and deliver services to strengthen and empower individuals, families, communities and groups. Areas of interest within the field may include aging, child welfare, domestic violence, family service, physical health and mental health, hospice, mental retardation, substance abuse, probation and parole, health maintenance or disease prevention.



THE PROGRAM

A very natural extension of liberal arts studies, the Health and Human Services program at Virginia Wesleyan offers a broad understanding of the world from a variety of viewpoints. A student majoring in Health and Human Services learns to help people who are at very difficult times in their lives. The flexible and interdisciplinary nature of the program enables students to explore their own areas of interest through four main areas of concentration: direct service, community action, legislative concentration and administrative concentration. In addition to classroom learning, students are engaged in developing their professional selves and building and enhancing a professional network comprised of fellow students and community resources.



THE MAJOR

The opportunities for a Health and Human Services major are as limitless as they are varied. Students majoring in the field may select an area of specialization from the four available concentrations. A student majoring in Health and Human Services at Virginia Wesleyan College is required to complete a minimum of 34 credit hours in specified coursework in addition to fulfillment of general studies requirements. The student is to work with an adviser to develop a plan of liberal arts courses, which will develop consciousness, sensitivity, knowledge and competencies appropriate for liberally educated and emotionally prepared persons. In selecting one of the four areas of concentration, the student and adviser create an individualized academic plan of coursework.

“The structure of the internship program is its strength. It provides students an intensive on-the-job, well-supervised training experience that is priceless.”

– Mary Pat Liggio, Internship Supervisor

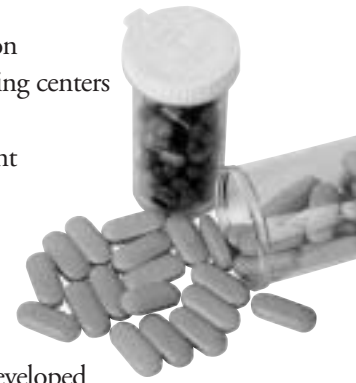
THE INTERNSHIP

Through one of the most highly structured and supervised internship programs available at Virginia Wesleyan, Health and Human Services students will gain the vital real-world experience to complement their liberal arts education and theories of helping. The Department will develop individualized internships based on student interest. Upon completion of the rigorous semester-long internship, students will be qualified and prepared to enter the field.

Examples of internship sites include the following:

- Group homes
- Medical and surgical hospitals
- Children’s hospitals
- Psychiatric treatment centers
- Substance abuse treatment programs
- Child and adult protective services
- Adoption and foster care service

- Juvenile and adult probation
- Nursing homes/assisted living centers
- Hospice programs
- Housing and redevelopment
- City, state and federal government programs
- Family services
- Agencies on aging
- Health departments
- Other internships will be developed based on student interest.



“This program really changed the way I look at life. It challenged me to identify myself and my beliefs. I have integrated so many of its principles not only in the profession, but also in my personal life.”

– Donna McElveen '00

THE COURSES

With a 13:1 student-faculty ratio, the classes at Virginia Wesleyan are small and interactive. Courses within the Health and Human Services program include the following:

- Introduction to Health and Human Services
- Public Administration
- Advanced Developmental Psychology
- Direct Service Interventions
- Public Health
- Human Sexuality
- Death, Dying, Loss and Grief
- Adult Development
- Gerontological Services
- Aging in America
- Drugs of Abuse
- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Grief - Childhood and Adolescence
- Women on the Brink
- Chronic Diseases
- Research Methods

