Writing in the Human Science Major: HSCI Integrated Writing Plan

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The Human Science core curriculum contains a sequence of required courses with integrated writing components. HSCI students begin to address writing and presentation skills in the required Interdisciplinary Freshman Year Colloquium (HEST-001) and begin to focus on scientific writing in HSCI 178, “Research Theory and Communication in Science and Healthcare.” Students gain skills in communicating behavioral science and in communicating with lay audiences in HSCI 160, “Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.” Additional scientific writing assignments are included in most required courses; e.g. laboratory notebooks and descriptive results sections for HSCI 310 “Molecular and Cellular Basis of Health and Disease” and multiple paper reports required for HSCI 350, “Physiological Adaptations.” Scientific writing in the format of a full research paper summarizing each student’s own experiment is introduced in HSCI 355, “Genetics in Health and Disease.” Scientific writing and communication is polished during HSCI 321 and HSCI 322, the Senior Internship/Capstone course that integrates extensive writing assignments, including a research proposal and a research paper, which are summarized in a scientific poster presentation.

In addition to the required courses, many of the HSCI elective courses require in-depth written projects. Students are also encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities that include the Undergraduate Research Journal and the Undergraduate Research Conference. Finally, an honors option is available for Human Science students who complete a research project and write and defend a senior thesis.