

# Thinking about pursuing a career in the health professions-- medicine, dentistry, nursing, veterinary sciences, physical therapy or public health?

## The EBHS program may be a good fit for your interests



### What is EBHS?

EBHS—Evolutionary Biology of the Human Species provides students with a foundation in the interrelated spheres of morphology, evolution, behavior, variation, ecology, patterns of growth and adaptation. Using the framework of evolution and with attention to the interplay between biology and culture, research in these areas is applied to our own species and to our closest relatives to understand who we are and where we came from. This integrated biological study of the humans and non-human primates is also known as biological anthropology. As an interdisciplinary major students are encouraged to draw on courses in related fields including biology, anthropology, psychology, and geology as part of their studies. This program is one of two majors within the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology--E3B

### What kinds of relevant courses might I take within Dept. E3B?

*Anatomy & Skeletal Biology:* Forensic Osteology, Explorations in Primate Anatomy, Human Skeletal Biology I (skull), Human Skeletal Biology II (postcranial bones)

*Variation/Growth/Development:* Evolution of Human Growth and Development, Biological Basis of Human Variation, Human Adaptation, Race: The Tangled History of a Biological Concept

*Organismal Biology:* Environmental Biology I: Molecules to Cells, Environmental Biology II: Organisms to Ecosystems, Natural History of the Mammals

*Disease, Humans & the Environment:* Disease Ecology, Ethnobotany: The Study of People and Plants, Human Identity Seminar

*Behavior:* Behavioral Biology of Living Primates, Current Controversies in Primate Behavior, Primate Sexuality

### What courses outside of E3B might count toward the major/concentration?

Depending on their interests, student can draw from a broad range of fields as they design their program within EBHS—among the areas: Anthropology, Biology, Psychology, Public Health & Stats  
Some examples:

*Anthropology:* Corpse Life, The Body and Society, Mortuary Archaeology, Trauma, Zooarchaeology Method & Theory

*Biology:* Molecular and Mendelian Genetics, Vertebrate Biology, Development, Genetics, General Physiology, Animal Physiology, Evolution in the Age of Genomics,

*Dance:* Biomechanics for the Dancer, Applied Anatomy for Human Movement

*Human Rights:* Human Rights & Public Health

*Physics:* Physics of the Human Body

*Psychology:* Behavioral Neuroscience, Canine Cognition, Animal Behavior, Behavioral Neuroscience, The Developing Brain

*Public Health:* Social History of American Public Health, Fundamentals of Global Health

*Science and Public Policy:* Genetics, Biodiversity & Society,

*Sociology:* Sociology of the Body



## What kind of research do students conduct?

Our students have volunteered and/or conducted research at EcoHealth Alliance, American Museum of Natural History, and the CU Dental School. Majors who conduct mentored primary research for their senior thesis are eligible for \$3,000 of funding through Dept. E3B.

Some titles of health-related senior theses:

*Bat-Borne Emerging Infectious Diseases: A Case Studies Analysis of Host Ecology and Anthropogenic Drivers*

*Robust Bodies and Resilient Spirits: An Anthropometric Assessment of Nutritional Status in the New York African Burial Ground Population*

*No More Monkeys Jumping on the Bed: Understanding Variation in Rates of Injury and Poor Health in Wild Blue Monkeys*

*A Synthetic Approach to Vitamin D Deficiency in the Past and Present*

*The Evolution of the Shoulder and Its Relation to Modern Human Shoulder Injuries*

*The Precarious Search for Caries: Progression of Oral Health at the Medieval site of La Granède, France*

*A Spoonful of Sugar. Understanding the Complexities of HIV-medication Adherence within the Medical, Political, and Cultural Sphere of Botswana*

*Putting the Science Back into Forensics: A Closer Look into Biological Developments in Forensic Science and Their Future Impact in the Field*

*The Changing Views of Body and Illness in Chinese Medicine from Shang to Zhou Dynasty*

*Zoonotic Disease Transmission Potential between Chimpanzees and Diamond Miners in the Northern Democratic Republic of Congo*

*The Physiology and Psychology of Stress in the Context of Human Evolution*

*Biocultural Narratives, Race, and Birth in the 19th and 20th*

*Obesity and Exercise and Their Effects on the Developing Skeleton.*

## Can I study abroad with this program?

Definitely. You can spend a semester or more studying abroad studying at either traditional universities or in field programs. Speak with the Office of Global Programs and with the Major Advisor for details.

Our students have studied in the UK, New Zealand, Kenya, South Africa, Germany, Sweden, Israel, Ecuador, France, & Madagascar.

## Are there any student groups/activities?

In addition to department-wide events, EBHSers attend off-campus events/exhibitions/lectures, hold pizza and bad-movie nights each term, participate in the Crypts bone-lab group, and they also have an on-line bioanthropology journal –*Sapient* <https://www.sapientjournal.com/journal>

## How many points is the major/concentration?

The major is 36 points, the concentration is 20. Students must take a minimum of 20 points from EEEEB or ANTH biological anthropology courses. Other points may be taken either within or outside of E3B with advisor approval.

## Can I count any of my prehealth core to the major?

Yes, 6 points from the prehealth core of bio/chem/physics/calc in any combination can be applied to the major (3 to the concentration). In addition, statistics counts for both the major and concentration.

**For more information about this major/concentration contact:**

**Prof. Jill Shapiro, 854-5819, [jss19@columbia.edu](mailto:jss19@columbia.edu).**

**1011 Schermerhorn Hall Extension**

