

# Health Interpreting and Health Applied Linguistics Concentration (HIHAL)

## Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

[www.hsc.unt.edu/education/sph/](http://www.hsc.unt.edu/education/sph/)



The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences includes faculty with expertise in community health, health education and health promotion, ethnicity and culture, health communication, health interpreting and linguistics, and Hispanic/Latino health. The department administers two M.P.H. concentrations: 1) Community Health and 2) Health Interpreting and Health Applied Linguistics. It also offers a Doctor of Public Health degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences

### Health Interpreting and Health Applied Linguistics Concentration (HIHAL) for Spanish/English Bilinguals

The HIHAL concentration is the only program in the United States to prepare students from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and interests-including language and linguistics (e.g., translation and interpretation studies; applied linguistics; language studies), and health sciences (e.g., public health, medicine, nursing, etc.)-to assume positions as professional health interpreters, linguistic researchers and leaders in the field of health applied linguistics. The mission of HIHAL is to prepare professionals who will serve at the national level to promote rigorous, science-based standards for linguistic competence in health settings. HIHAL students will explore the interrelationship between language and health, and will delve into the complex relationship that exists between language and disease. They will develop competencies in conducting language research in health settings, and will receive extensive training as health interpreters, and, in some cases, as health writers and translators. Due to the support of collaborating healthcare providers in Tarrant County, the program provides a rich environment for interpreter training and research, and opportunities for thesis topics that are not readily available in other linguistics programs. **Currently, the languages covered in the program are limited to English and Spanish.**

### CURRICULUM

The HIHAL program includes required, selective, and elective courses in the following areas\*:

- Introduction to Health Applied Linguistics
- Language and Literacy in Latino Health
- Sociolinguistics for Interpreting in the Health Fields
- Cross-Cultural Communication and Mental Health
- Interpreting and Gender
- Text Linguistics and Translation
- Research Methods in Health Settings
- Health Writing and the Development of Health Messages
- Advanced Health Interpreter Training (including rotations at sites in Tarrant County)
- Thesis (The thesis is a requirement for all HIHAL students)

\*For core courses required by the School of Public Health for all M.P.H. students, please refer to the *UNTHSC School of Public Health at Fort Worth 2003-2004 Catalog*, available on-line at: [www.hsc.unt.edu](http://www.hsc.unt.edu).

***The first cohort of HIHAL students will begin HIHAL concentration coursework in Summer or Fall 2004***

## Admissions Requirements

The application process for HIIHAL students is two-tiered:

**1) M.P.H. Application**-Applicants must prepare and submit the M.P.H. Program materials indicated in the UNTHSC at Fort Worth School of Public Health 2003-2004 Catalog (p.12).

**2) HIIHAL Application**-In addition to the materials required for the general M.P.H. application, HIIHAL applicants are required to prepare and submit the following materials:

- Two letters of recommendation. In addition to the two letters of recommendation submitted for the M.P.H. application, HIIHAL applicants are required to provide two *additional* letters from previous employers or professors who are in a position to comment on the applicant's potential as a student in **health interpreting and health applied linguistics in particular**. (Please do NOT submit letters of recommendation from UNTHSC faculty or staff).
- 2-3 page essay in Spanish, discussing your past experiences and background, and how they relate to your interest in pursuing the HIIHAL concentration.
- 2-3 page essay in English discussing language barriers in healthcare in the United States, and your own views on developing a solution to the problem.

*Potential HIIHAL students will also be required to participate in language-proficiency testing in English and Spanish.*

## SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Please submit **ALL** materials (M.P.H. and HIIHAL) to:

Holly E. Jacobson, PhD  
HIIHAL Admissions  
UNTHSC School of Public Health  
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, EAD-711  
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd.  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

To be considered for scholarships and assistantships for Summer or Fall 2004, please submit application materials by June 30, 2004.

For more information about HIIHAL or the admissions process, contact Dr. Jacobson at the above address, by phone (817-735-2365), or e-mail ([hables@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:hables@hsc.unt.edu))

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