The human physiology major concentrates on understanding the functions of the human body from individual cells to organ systems. The program is based upon principles from chemistry, physics, mathematics, and biological sciences.

This major is particularly appropriate for students who intend to enter medical school or graduate study in any of a variety of biological, health, or biomedical sciences. The required courses form a strong core in biomedical science. Many of the required courses are identical to those required for admission to medical school. Students may tailor the overall degree program to specific needs and may choose additional science courses in preparation for medical school, other health sciences professional schools, or graduate school. Students may also take advantage of the freedom to pursue a more diverse undergraduate experience in CLA. Others may benefit from an opportunity to pursue a double major.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major
When you study Human Physiology at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts prepare students for the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.
Student Experiences

Internships: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? CLA Career Services has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Learning Abroad: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

Learn more about study abroad for Human Physiology majors.

Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

The research mission of the Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology (IBP) is dedicated to an integrative systems biology approach to biomedical discovery. We partner with colleagues across disciplines to investigate questions ranging from the gene/molecule to the whole animal, while striving for excellence in research and dissemination of new knowledge with local, national, and global impact. Current IBP research is cross-cutting and state-of-the-art in the areas of cardiovascular/muscle, metabolism/obesity and hypertension.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

- Exploring Physiology Through Education and Collaborative Training (ExPECT)
- Metabolic Physiology Club
- Undergraduate Physiology Society

Meet Our Alumni

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good
employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore

- Nursing
- Sport Management

Associated Careers

Curator, Entomologist, Laboratory Technician, Nurse, Nutritionist, Physical/Occupational Therapist, Physiologist, Research Assistant, Teacher, Toxicologist

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information
TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below:

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments