What would a biology major do with a master's degree in Health Communication?

..let's ask Sarah Gunn, MS'13

I've always been interested in health and medicine and considered a clinical career, but I was also interested in publishing and communications. I worked in the health care field while completing my undergraduate studies, which allowed me to see holes in the health care system that could only be fixed with effective communication. The Master's in Health Communication (MS-HCOM) degree was the perfect package for my interests and skills.

The best thing a biology major can do with the MS-HCOM degree is make their knowledge of complex scientific and medical information useful to others. This can be done in so many ways; conducting, analyzing, and discussing clinical research, serving as a health educator, writing health policies and programs, improving communication processes for patients and medical professionals, creating educational and informational materials, etc. The ultimate goal of being a health communicator is to encourage positive action and behavior or policy change.

If you're looking for a very dynamic education and career, health communication encompasses many professional fields and is practiced along a wide spectrum of employment settings. My position entails research, program evaluation and design, survey methodology, writing for health and science, health literacy, and interpreting medical literature. The well-rounded nature of the MS-HCOM program gave me the knowledge and skills to work in each of these disciplines.

Tufts University's Health Communication Program

You can find information on all of our educational offerings, which include a certificate program and professional development courses, on the website of Tufts' Health Communication Program, Or contact Susan S. Gallagher, MPH, Director of the MS-HCOM Program at sue.gallagher@tufts.edu, or by phone at 617.636.3539 with any questions.