

# Global Health Studies, BA

The Bachelor of Arts in global health studies prepares students for careers in local and international global health organizations, and for graduate and professional work in fields such as public health, law, planning and public affairs, social work, international development, sustainable agriculture, public policy, and more.

## Learning Outcomes

The Global Health Studies Program equips its students to:

- apply interdisciplinary perspectives drawn from the social sciences and humanities to local and global health issues;
- understand core areas of global health such as infectious and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, food sovereignty, environmental health, disability studies, and health disparities;
- analyze health and disease from biomedical, sociocultural, and environmental perspectives;
- understand how health issues affect domestic and international communities;
- recognize the ethical and practical challenges involved in interventions designed to improve health and health equity across cultural and geographical boundaries.

## Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in global health studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 37 s.h. of coursework for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. A minimum of 18 s.h. of major coursework must be earned at the University of Iowa. A maximum of 6 s.h. in GHS:4990 Independent Project in Global Health may be used toward the major. Students must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core requirements.

Students who earn the major in global health studies may earn the major in interdepartmental studies as long as they select an emphasis other than the global health emphasis in the health science track.

The BA with a major in global health studies requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Foundation Courses	7
Global Health Perspectives and Practices Electives	18
World Language and Culture Requirement	6
Inquiry Course	3
Experiential Learning Course	3

## Foundation Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
GHS:2000	Introduction to Global Health Studies	3
GHS:4003	Case Studies in Global Health Inequities	3

And one of these:

GHS:3034	Doing Harm by Doing Good: The Ethics of Studying, Volunteering, and Working in Global Communities	1
GHS:3035	Engaging in Global Health	1

## Global Health Perspectives and Practices Electives

To provide an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of global health studies, students choose from a wide range of courses on topics that reflect the breadth of the field. Students must take a minimum of 18 s.h. of courses from the following lists to fulfill the global health perspectives and practices requirement, with at least 12 s.h. from courses numbered 3000 or above.

Courses taken to complete another area of the major cannot be used toward the global health perspectives and practices elective requirement.

## Core Electives

Course #	Title	Hours
A minimum of 6 s.h. from these (if not taken to satisfy one of the other major requirements):		
GHS:1200	Disabilities and Inclusion in Writing and Film Around the World	3
GHS:2100	Foundations of Health Humanities	3
GHS:3010	Social Science Approaches to Global Health	3
GHS:3015	Transnational Sexualities	3
GHS:3036	Ethics, Policy, and Global Health	3
GHS:3037	Technology to Improve Global Health	3
GHS:3045	Spanish Health Narratives	3
GHS:3060	Studies in Complementary and Alternative Medicine	3
GHS:3105	Contraception Across Time and Cultures	3
GHS:3120	Global Maternal and Child Health	3
GHS:3230	Health Experience of Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees	3
GHS:3325	Global Epidemics	3
GHS:3520	Latinx Oral Histories of Health Care	3
GHS:3560	Global Garbage and Global Health	3
GHS:3720	Contemporary Issues in Global Health	3
GHS:3850	Promoting Health Globally	3
GHS:4002	Working in Global Health	3
GHS:4205	Culture, Language, and Health	3

## Additional Electives

Course #	Title	Hours
A minimum of 12 s.h. from these (if not taken to satisfy one of the other major requirements):		

Global health studies courses (prefix GHS) numbered 1000-4990, not including GHS:2000 or GHS:4003

ASP:1800/ CSD:1800/ NURS:1800/ SSW:1800/TR:1800	Aging Matters: Introduction to Gerontology	3
CPH:2200	Climageddon: Understanding Climate Change and Associated Impacts on Health	3
CPH:2230	Finding Patient Zero: The Exploration of Infectious Disease Transmission and Pandemic Threats	3
CPH:2400	The U.S. Health System in a Global Context	3
CPH:3400/ SEES:3250	Health, Work, and the Environment	3
CPH:4200	Agriculture, Food Systems, and Sustainability	3
ENGL:2560	Topics in Culture and Identity (when topic is stories about HIV/AIDS)	3
HIST:1016	The History That Made Our World (when topic is related to global health; consult advisor)	3
NURS:3655	Community and Public Health Nursing Practicum (BSN students only)	2
OEH:4240	Global Environmental Health	3

## World Language and Culture Requirement

Students must choose one of the following options: option A or B. The semester hours necessary to complete this requirement will vary.

### Option A

Students may complete a minimum of two world language courses beyond that required by the GE CLAS Core. This additional language requirement may be met either by completing at least two courses at a higher level in a language used to fulfill the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement or by completing two courses, or the equivalent, of an additional world language at any level.

### Option B

Students may complete 6 s.h. of World Culture coursework selected from the international studies Global Perspectives or World Cultures and Societies course tables; see Requirements in the BA in international studies section of the catalog. Courses taken to complete another area of the major cannot be used toward the World Culture requirement.

## Inquiry Course

Students must take a minimum of 3 s.h. of courses from this list or from an approved study abroad course.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these (if not taken to satisfy one of the other major requirements):		

GHS:2100	Foundations of Health Humanities	3
GHS:3010	Social Science Approaches to Global Health	3
In certain circumstances, an approved study abroad course (consult global health studies advisor)		3

## Experiential Learning Course

The experiential learning requirement provides an opportunity for students to apply the knowledge and skills they learned in the classroom.

Course #	Title	Hours
A minimum of 3 s.h. from these (if not taken to satisfy one of the other major requirements):		
GHS:3012	Community-Based Global Health Research	3
GHS:3092	Spanish in the Community	3
GHS:3520	Latinx Oral Histories of Health Care	3
GHS:3660	Social Environmental Health Risks and Community Engagement	3
GHS:4000	Global Health Studies Service Learning: Local Health is Global Health	4
GHS:4001	Social Entrepreneurship and Global Health	3
GHS:4002	Working in Global Health	3
Approved study abroad coursework (consult global health studies advisor)		3

## Honors

### Honors in the Major

Students majoring in global health studies have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Students who choose to graduate with honors in the major must satisfy these requirements:

- maintain a cumulative University of Iowa grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 and a GPA of at least 3.33 in all work for the major;
- complete GHS:4991 Honors Thesis in Global Health Studies;
- enroll in GHS:4992 Global Health Studies Honors Cohort with the global health studies honors advisor during the semester in which GHS:4991 will be completed; and
- submit an acceptable honors thesis.

Students are also encouraged, but not required, to give an oral or poster presentation of research findings, participate in the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR), and/or apply for research scholarships.

## University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the global health studies major.

## Career Advancement

The Global Health Studies Program engages students and faculty in real-world health problems and challenges students to embark on global health careers that prioritize improving health and achieving equity in health for people worldwide.

Graduates find opportunities in a range of global health job sectors such as:

- in-country field consulting;
- disaster relief organizations;
- immigrant/refugee health organizations;
- research and academic institutions;
- international agencies;
- other nongovernmental agencies (NGOs);
- lending agencies that work in developing countries;
- multilateral agencies (such as the World Health Organization); and
- governmental agencies (United States Agency for International Development, Center for Disease Control, in-country ministries of health, etc.).

Global health studies graduates also have pursued graduate and professional degrees in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, public health, law, nonprofit management, urban and regional planning, sustainable agriculture, international development, and public administration.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

## Academic Plans

### Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

**Before the fifth semester begins:** at least six courses in the major.

**Before the seventh semester begins:** at least 12 courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

**Before the eighth semester begins:** at least two additional courses in the major.

**During the eighth semester:** enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

### Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

## Global Health Studies, BA

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Academic Career</b>		
<b>Any Semester</b>		
The global health studies program connects students to experiential learning opportunities such as study abroad, internships, research, and service learning courses through which students develop real world skills related to major global health issues. <sup>a</sup>		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability <sup>b</sup>		
Students completing honors in the global health studies major work with a faculty mentor to produce an honors thesis, and then present their research during the final year at a venue approved by the global health studies program.		
<b>Hours</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
GHS:2000	Introduction to Global Health Studies	3
GHS:3035 or GHS:3034	Engaging in Global Health <sup>c</sup> or Doing Harm by Doing Good: The Ethics of Studying, Volunteering, and Working in Global Communities	1
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives <sup>d</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>e</sup>		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15-17</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
GHS:3035 or GHS:3034	Engaging in Global Health <sup>f</sup> or Doing Harm by Doing Good: The Ethics of Studying, Volunteering, and Working in Global Communities	1
Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course <sup>g</sup>		3
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences <sup>d</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>e</sup>		4 - 5
Elective course <sup>h</sup>		2 - 3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16-19</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
GHS:2100 or GHS:3010	Foundations of Health Humanities <sup>c</sup> or Social Science Approaches to Global Health	3
Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course <sup>g</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab <sup>d</sup>		3

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>e</sup>	4 - 5
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>Spring</b>	
GHS:3010 Social Science Approaches to Global Health <sup>f</sup> or GHS:2100 Foundations of Health Humanities	3
Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course numbered 3000 or above <sup>g</sup>	3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts <sup>d</sup>	3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning <sup>d</sup>	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>e</sup>	4 - 5
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	1 - 2
<b>Hours</b>	<b>17-19</b>
<b>Third Year</b>	
<b>Fall</b>	
Major: experiential learning course <sup>g</sup>	3 - 4
Major: world language and culture requirement <sup>i</sup>	3 - 5
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives <sup>d</sup>	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab <sup>d</sup>	4
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	2 - 3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15-19</b>
<b>Spring</b>	
GHS:4003 Case Studies in Global Health Inequities	3
Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course numbered 3000 or above <sup>g</sup>	3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society <sup>d</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Fourth Year</b>	
<b>Fall</b>	
Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course numbered 3000 or above <sup>g</sup>	3
Major: world language and culture requirement <sup>i</sup>	3 - 5
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15-17</b>
<b>Spring</b>	
Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course numbered 3000 or above <sup>g</sup>	3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues <sup>d</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>h</sup>	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) <sup>j</sup>	
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>124-138</b>

b Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

c Typically this course is offered in fall semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.

d GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

e Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

f Typically this course is offered in spring semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.

g See General Catalog for list of approved courses.

h Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

i See General Catalog for details.

j Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.

a Students meet regularly with their academic advisor for help in identifying ethical activities which can be integrated into their individualized graduation plan.