

Global Health Studies, BS

The Bachelor of Science in global health studies is designed for students who desire to enter professional programs in the health sciences.

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 Science with a major in global health studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 47 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 BS 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
Natural Sciences Courses	7-8
Mathematics and Statistics Course	3-4

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:2164	Culture and Healing: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology	3
GHS:2320	Origins of Human Infectious Disease	3
GHS:2415	Bioethics	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:4150	Health and Environment: GIS Applications	3
GHS:4205	Culture, Language, and Health	3
GHS:4260	Global Water 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	Ageing 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)		

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)		

Natural Sciences Courses

The natural sciences courses taken for the major can also be used to fulfill the GE CLAS Core natural sciences requirement. Students should consult with their advisor concerning specific courses that satisfy these requirements.

Course #	Title	Hours
A minimum of one of the sequences, with at least one lab, from these:		
Chemistry		
CHEM:1110 & CHEM:1120	Principles of Chemistry I-II	8
Chemistry and Biology		
CHEM:1070 & BIOL:1141	General Chemistry I - Human Biology: Health Professions	7
CHEM:1110 & BIOL:1141	Principles of Chemistry I - Human Biology: Health Professions	8
CHEM:1110 & BIOL:1411	Principles of Chemistry I - Foundations of Biology	8

CHEM:1110 & BIOL:1412	Principles of Chemistry I - Diversity of Form and Function	8
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Chemistry and Physics

CHEM:1070 & PHYS:1400	General Chemistry I - Basic Physics	7
CHEM:1110 & PHYS:1511	Principles of Chemistry I - College Physics I	8

Health and Human Physiology

HHP:2100 & HHP:2400	Human Anatomy - Fundamentals of Human Physiology (must complete either HHP:2110 or HHP:2410 to satisfy lab requirement)	7
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Physics

PHYS:1511- PHYS:1512	College Physics I-II	8
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Mathematics and Statistics Course

Students must complete at least one calculus or statistics course. In some cases, students may also need to complete a precalculus course, depending on their math placement.

The mathematics and statistics course requirement can be used to fulfill the GE CLAS Core requirement. Students should consult with their advisor concerning specific courses that satisfy these requirements.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
MATH:1440	Mathematics for the Biological Sciences	4
MATH:1460	Calculus for the Biological Sciences	4
MATH:1550	Engineering Calculus I	4
MATH:1850	Calculus I	4
STAT:1020/ PSQF:1020	Elementary Statistics and Inference	3
Any higher-level statistics course (consult advisor)		3-4

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 have also pursued graduate and professional programs 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.

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Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
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. ^a		
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.		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^b		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
GHS:2000	Introduction to Global Health Studies	3
GHS:3034 or GHS:3035	Doing Harm by Doing Good: The Ethics of Studying, Volunteering, and Working in Global Communities ^c or Engaging in Global Health	1
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Hours		15-17
Spring		
GHS:3035 or GHS:3034	Engaging in Global Health ^f or Doing Harm by Doing Good: The Ethics of Studying, Volunteering, and Working in Global Communities	1
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
Major: natural sciences course without lab ^{g, h, i}		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^j		2 - 3
Hours		16-19
Second Year		
Fall		
GHS:2100 or GHS:3010	Foundations of Health Humanities ^c or Social Science Approaches to Global Health	3

Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course ^g	3
Major: natural sciences course with lab ^{g, h}	4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^e	4 - 5
Elective course ^j	2 - 3

Hours

16-18

Spring

GHS:2100 or GHS:3010	Foundations of Health Humanities ^f or Social Science Approaches to Global Health	3
Major: mathematics and statistics course ^{h, k, l}		3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^j		3

Hours

16-18

Third Year

Fall

Major: experiential learning course ^g	3 - 4
Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course numbered 3000 or above ^g	3
Major: world language and culture requirement ^m	3 - 5
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^d	3
Elective course ^j	3

Hours

15-18

Spring

GHS:4003	Case Studies in Global Health Inequities	3
Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course numbered 3000 or above ^g		3
Major: world language and culture requirement ^m		3 - 5
Elective course ^j		3
Elective course ^j		3

Hours

15-17

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course ^g		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^d		3
Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course numbered 3000 or above ^g		3
Elective course ^j		3
Elective course ^j		3
Elective course ^j		3

Hours

18

Spring

Major: global health perspectives and practices elective course numbered 3000 or above ^g		3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^d		3
Elective course ^j		3
Elective course ^j		3
Elective course ^j		3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline
(typically in February for spring, September for fall)

Hours	15
Total Hours	126-140

- a Students meet regularly with their academic advisor for help in identifying ethical activities which can be integrated into their individualized graduation plan.
- 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 Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- i Enrollment in chemistry courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- j 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.
- k Choose from MATH:1440, MATH:1460, MATH:1550, MATH:1850, STAT:1020.
- l Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- m See General Catalog for details.
- n 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.