

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 the historical evolution of the field, global actors and activities, 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 also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core requirements.

A total of three courses may be counted from other majors, minors, or certificates toward the global health studies major, excluding courses taken to satisfy GE CLAS Core requirements.

Students who earn the major in global health studies may not earn the certificate or the minor in global health studies.

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	10
Global Health Perspectives and Practices Courses	18
World Language and Culture Requirement	6
Capstone Experience	3

Foundation Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
GHS:2000	Introduction to Global Health Studies	3
GHS:3720	Contemporary Issues in Global Health	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 Courses

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 lists below 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 requirement.

Core Electives

Course #	Title	Hours
A minimum of 6 s.h. from these:		
GHS:1200	Disabilities and Inclusion in Writing and Film Around the World	3
GHS:2100	Foundations of Health Humanities	3
GHS:3015	Transnational Sexualities	3
GHS:3036	Ethics, Politics, and Global Health	3
GHS:3045	Spanish Health Narratives	3
GHS:3070	Hungry Planet: Global Geographies of Food	3
GHS:3105	Contraception Across Time and Cultures	3
GHS:3120	Global Maternal and Child Health	3
GHS:3300	Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives	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:4205	Culture, Language, and Health	3

Additional Electives

Course #	Title	Hours
A minimum of 12 s.h. from these:		
GHS:1029	First-Year Seminar	1
GHS:1181	Ancient Medicine	3
GHS:1290	Native American Foods and Foodways	3
GHS:2080	The Cultural Politics of HIV-AIDS	3
GHS:2090	Medical Spanish in Contemporary Society	4
GHS:2110	Eight Billion and Counting: Introduction to Population Dynamics	3
GHS:2160	Culture, Health, and Wellness: Southeast Asia in Focus	3
GHS:2164	Culture and Healing: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology	3
GHS:2181	The Anthropology of Aging	3
GHS:2182	Africa: Health and Society	3
GHS:2260	Hard Cases in Healthcare at the Beginning of Life	3
GHS:2265	Hard Cases in Healthcare at the End of Life	3
GHS:2320	Origins of Human Infectious Disease	3
GHS:2415	Bioethics	3
GHS:2650	Global Reproduction	3
GHS:2674	Food, Body, and Belief: A Global Perspective	3
GHS:2770	Black and White Community Politics	3
GHS:3010	Identifying and Developing a Global Health Project (if not taken to satisfy the Capstone Experience requirement)	3
GHS:3011	Global Research: Strategies and Skills	1
GHS:3012	Community-Based Global Health Research (if not taken to satisfy the Capstone Experience requirement)	3
GHS:3021	Mental Health in the Ancient World	3
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
GHS:3037	Technology to Improve Global Health	3
GHS:3045	Spanish Health Narratives	3
GHS:3050	Global Aging	3
GHS:3060	Studies in Complementary and Alternative Medicine	3
GHS:3070	Hungry Planet: Global Geographies of Food	3

GHS:3110	Colonialism and Indigenous Health Equity	3
GHS:3111	Geography of Health	3
GHS:3113	Religion and Healing	3
GHS:3150	Media and Health	3
GHS:3151	The Anthropology of the Beginnings and Ends of Life	3
GHS:3152	Anthropology of Caregiving and Health	3
GHS:3162	History of Global Health	3
GHS:3199	Anthropology and Global Health Policy	3
GHS:3300	Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives	3
GHS:3327	The Politics of Progress: NGOs, Development, and Sexuality	3
GHS:3420	Health and Healing in Early Modern Europe	3
GHS:3500	Global Public Health	3
GHS:3508	Disease and Health in Latin American History	3
GHS:3555	Understanding Health and Disease in Africa	3
GHS:3570	Poverty Policy	3
GHS:3600	Development in a Global Context I: Preparing for an Internship in Health, Gender, and Environment	2
GHS:3700	Development in a Global Context II: Reflections on Real World Interventions	1
GHS:3720	Contemporary Issues in Global Health (topic must be different than the Foundation Course topic)	3
GHS:3732	Global Health Nursing	3
GHS:3760	Hazards and Society	3
GHS:3780	U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context	3
GHS:3850	Promoting Health Globally	3
GHS:4000	Global Health Studies Service Learning: Local Health is Global Health (if not taken to satisfy the Capstone Experience requirement)	4
GHS:4001	Social Entrepreneurship and Global Health (if not taken to satisfy the Capstone Experience requirement)	3
GHS:4002	Working in Global Health (if not taken to satisfy the Capstone Experience requirement)	3
GHS:4100	Topics in Global Health	1-3
GHS:4140	Feminist Activism and 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
GHS:4530	Global Road Safety	3
GHS:4770	Environmental Justice	3
GHS:4990	Independent Project in Global Health	arr.
GHS:5000	Graduate Seminar in Global Health	2
GHS:5455	Health Insurance and Managed Care	3
GHS:6550	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	3
ASP:1800/ CSD:1800/ NURS:1800/ SSW:1800/TR:1800	Aging Matters: Introduction to Gerontology	3
CPH:2200	Climate Change: 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/ GEOG:3210	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 (B.S.N. students only)	2
OEH:4240	Global Environmental Health	3

World Language and Culture Requirement

Students must choose option A or B below. 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 of fifth-semester-level study or higher in the same language used to fulfill the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement or by completing two courses, or the equivalent, of a second world language at any level.

Option B

Students may complete 6 s.h. related to one of the following area studies: African studies; Caribbean studies; East Asian studies; Islamic and Middle Eastern studies; Latin American studies; Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies; or

South Asian studies. See the International Studies Course Database website for approved courses each semester.

Capstone Experience

The capstone experience 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:		
GHS:3010	Identifying and Developing a Global Health Project (if not taken to satisfy the Global Health Perspectives and Practices Courses requirement)	3
GHS:3012	Community-Based Global Health Research (if not taken to satisfy the Global Health Perspectives and Practices Courses requirement)	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

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:3010 Identifying and Developing a Global Health Project followed by GHS:4991 Honors Thesis in Global Health Studies as their capstone experience;
- 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 which place a priority on 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 do 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
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
The Global Health Studies Program connects students to ethical experiential learning opportunities. ^a		
GHS:3035	Engaging in Global Health ^b	1

Honors: thesis^c

GE CLAS Core: Sustainability^d

Hours		1
First Year		
Fall		
GHS:2000	Introduction to Global Health Studies	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		15-17
Spring		
GHS:3035 or GHS:3034	Engaging in Global Health 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	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
Elective course ^g		2 - 3
Hours		16-19
Second Year		
Fall		
GHS:3720	Contemporary Issues in Global Health	3
Major: global health perspectives and practices course		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
Elective course ^g		3
Hours		16-17
Spring		
Major: global health perspectives and practices course numbered 3000 or above		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
Elective course ^g		3
Hours		16-17
Third Year		
Fall		
Major: global health perspectives and practices course numbered 3000 or above		3
Major: world language and culture requirement		3 - 5
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^e		4
Elective course ^g		2 - 3
Hours		15-18

Spring

GHS:4003	Case Studies in Global Health Inequities	3
Major: global health perspectives and practices course numbered 3000 or above		3
Major: world language and culture requirement		3 - 5
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		3
Hours		15-17

Fourth Year**Fall**

Major: global health perspectives and practices course		3
Major: global health perspectives and practices course numbered 3000 or above		3
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		3
Hours		15

Spring

Major: global health capstone course		3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^e		3
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		2 - 3

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

Hours		14-16
Total Hours		123-137

g 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.

h 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 Graduation Services.

- a The Global Health Studies Program connects students to experiential learning opportunities such as study abroad, internships, research, service learning, and capstone courses through which students develop real world skills related to major global health issues. Students meet regularly with their academic advisor for help in identifying ethical activities which can be integrated into their individualized graduation plan.
- b Global Health Studies students are encouraged to enroll in this course to explore how professionals and volunteers work in a broad variety of global health settings. This course counts toward Global Health Perspectives and Practices.
- c Students completing Honors in the Global Health Studies major work with a faculty mentor to produce an honors thesis, and then present their research at a venue approved by the Global Health Studies Program.
- d 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 Culture.
- e 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.
- f Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.