

Global Health Studies, B.S.

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:

- identify the core areas of global health such as infectious and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, food sovereignty, environmental health, health inequalities, and interventions;
- analyze biomedical, social, cultural, and environmental determinants of health and disease;
- draw connections between significant health problems which affect both domestic and international communities; and
- recognize the ethical 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 g.p.a. 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 9 s.h. may be double-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 international studies as long as they select a track other than the global health studies track.

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 B.S. with a major in global health studies requires the following coursework.

Code	Title	Hours
	World Language and Culture Requirement	6
	Foundation Courses	10
	Global Health Perspectives and Practices Courses	18
	Natural Sciences Courses	7-8
	Mathematics and Statistics Course	3-4
	Capstone Experience	3
	Total Hours	47-49

World Language and Culture Requirement

Students must choose option A or B below. Semester hours necessary to complete this requirement will vary.

Option A: Students may complete a minimum of two semesters of language study beyond that required by the GE CLAS Core. This additional language requirement may be met either by completing at least two semesters 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 semesters, or the equivalent, of a second world language at any level.

Option B: Students may complete this requirement by completing 6 s.h. from a list of courses approved for one of the following geographical tracks of the international studies major: 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 web page for approved courses each semester.

Foundation Courses

Code	Title	Hours
All of these:		
GHS:2000	Introduction to Global Health Studies	3
GHS:3720	Contemporary Issues in Global Health	3
GHS:3850	Promoting Health Globally	3
And one of these:		
GHS:3030	Global Health Today	1
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 which reflect the breadth of the field.

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

Students choose a minimum of 18 s.h. from these, with at least 12 s.h. numbered 3000 or above, and a minimum of 6 s.h. selected from the eight courses at the end of the list.

Code	Title	Hours
GHS:1029	First-Year Seminar	1
GHS:1100	Contraception Across Time and Cultures	3
GHS:1181	Ancient Medicine	3
GHS:1200	Disabilities and Inclusion in Writing and Film Around the World	3
GHS:1290	Native American Foods and Foodways	3

GHS:2080	The Cultural Politics of HIV-AIDS	3	GHS:3300	Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives	3
GHS:2090	Medical Spanish in Contemporary Society	4	GHS:3327	The Politics of Progress: NGOs, Development, and Sexuality	3
GHS:2110	Seven Billion and Counting: Introduction to Population Dynamics	3	GHS:3420	Health and Healing in Early Modern Europe	3
GHS:2181	The Anthropology of Aging	3	GHS:3500	Global Public Health	3
GHS:2182	Africa: Health and Society	3	GHS:3508	Disease and Health in Latin American History	3
GHS:2260	Hard Cases in Healthcare at the Beginning of Life	3	GHS:3555	Understanding Health and Disease in Africa	3
GHS:2265	Hard Cases in Healthcare at the End of Life	3	GHS:3560	Global Garbage and Global Health	3
GHS:2570	Introduction to Islamic Psychology	3	GHS:3600	Development in a Global Context I: Preparing for an Internship in Health, Gender, and Environment	1
GHS:2650	Global Reproduction	3	GHS:3700	Development in a Global Context II: Reflections on Real World Interventions	2
GHS:2674	Food, Body, and Belief: A Global Perspective	3	GHS:3720	Contemporary Issues in Global Health (topic must be different than the foundation course topic)	3
GHS:2415	Bioethics	3	GHS:3732	Global Health Nursing	3
GHS:3010	Identifying and Developing a Global Health Project	3	GHS:3760	Hazards and Society	3
GHS:3011	Global Research: Strategies and Skills	1	GHS:3780	U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context	3
GHS:3012	Community-Based Global Health Research	3	GHS:4000	Global Health Studies Service Learning: Local Health is Global Health	4
GHS:3015	Transnational Sexualities	3	GHS:4001	Social Entrepreneurship and Global Health	3
GHS:3030	Global Health Today	1	GHS:4002	Working in Global Health	3
GHS:3034	Doing Harm by Doing Good: The Ethics of Studying, Volunteering, and Working in Global Communities	1	GHS:4003	Case Studies in Global Health Inequities: Challenges and Interventions	3
GHS:3035	Engaging in Global Health	1	GHS:4100	Topics in Global Health	1-3
GHS:3036	Ethics, Politics, and Global Health	3	GHS:4140	Feminist Activism and Global Health	3
GHS:3040	Health in Mexico	3	GHS:4162	History of Global Health	3
GHS:3050	Global Aging	3	GHS:4180	Climate Change and Health	3
GHS:3070	Hungry Planet: Global Geographies of Food	3	GHS:4205	Culture, Language, and Health	3
GHS:3102	Medical Anthropology	3	GHS:4530	Global Road Safety	3
GHS:3110	Health of Indigenous Peoples	3	GHS:4600	Global Health and Human Rights	2-3
GHS:3111	Geography of Health	3	GHS:4770	Environmental Justice	3
GHS:3113	Religion and Healing	3	GHS:4990	Independent Project in Global Health	arr.
GHS:3120	Global Maternal and Child Health	3	GHS:5000	Graduate Seminar in Global Health	2
GHS:3131	Health Care and Health Reforms in Russia	3	GHS:5455	Health Insurance and Managed Care	3
GHS:3150	Media and Health	3	GHS:6550	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	3
GHS:3151	The Anthropology of the Beginnings and Ends of Life	3	GHS:6625	Seminar: Religion and Health	3
GHS:3152	Anthropology of Caregiving and Health	3			
GHS:3170	Visualizing Global Health Through Popular Fiction and Film	3			
GHS:3191	Sustainable Development: India and the Global Context	3			
GHS:3192	Environment and Health in Modern India	3			
GHS:3230	Health Experience of Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees	3			

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	2
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 health in the Global South)	3
NURS:3655	Community and Public Health Nursing Practicum (B.S.N. students only)	2
OEH:4240	Global Environmental Health	3
A minimum of 6 s.h. from these:		
GHS:2164	Culture and Healing for Future Health Professionals	3
GHS:2320	Origins of Human Infectious Disease	3
GHS:2415	Bioethics	3
GHS:3037	Technology to Improve Global Health	3
GHS:3060	Studies in Complementary and Alternative Medicine	3
GHS:3325	Global Epidemics	3
GHS:4150	Health and Environment: GIS Applications	3
GHS:4260	Global Water and Health	3

Natural Sciences Courses

The natural sciences 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.

Students must complete a minimum of one of the sequences, with at least one lab, from the following.

Code	Title	Hours
Chemistry		
CHEM:1110 & CHEM:1120	Principles of Chemistry I-II	8
Chemistry and Biology		
CHEM:1070 & BIOL:1141	General Chemistry I - Introductory Animal Biology	7
CHEM:1110 & BIOL:1141	Principles of Chemistry I - Introductory Animal Biology	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

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 also may need to complete a precalculus or statistics 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.

Students complete one of the following.

Code	Title	Hours
MATH:1380	Calculus and Matrix Algebra for Business	4
MATH:1440	Mathematics for the Biological Sciences	4
MATH:1460	Calculus for the Biological Sciences	4
MATH:1550	Engineering Mathematics I: Single Variable Calculus	4
MATH:1850	Calculus I	4
STAT:1020/ PSQF:1020	Elementary Statistics and Inference	3
Any higher-level statistics course (consult advisor)		3-4

Capstone Experience

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

Students complete 3 s.h. from the following.

Code	Title	Hours
GHS:3010	Identifying and Developing a Global Health Project	3
GHS:3012	Community-Based Global Health Research	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 g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in all work for the major;

- complete a minimum of 6 s.h. of honors or contract honors courses in their global health studies major coursework;
- 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 (0 s.h.) with the global health studies honors advisor during the semester in which GHS:4991 will be completed;
- submit an acceptable honors thesis; and
- give an oral or poster presentation of research findings at a venue approved by the Global Health Studies Program.

Students are encouraged to participate in the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) and to 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 consultants;
- 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 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.

Global Health Studies, B.S.

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		
Hours		1
First Year		
Fall		
GHS:2000	Introduction to Global Health Studies	3
RHET:1030	Rhetoric	3 - 4
	or ENGL:1200 or The Interpretation of Literature	
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		15-17
Spring		
GHS:3030	Global Health Today	1
	or GHS:3034 or Doing Harm by Doing Good: The Ethics of Studying, Volunteering, and Working in Global Communities	
	or GHS:3035 or Engaging in Global Health	
RHET:1030	Rhetoric	3 - 4
	or ENGL:1200 or The Interpretation of Literature	
Major: natural sciences course without lab ^{f, g, h}		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ⁱ		2 - 3
Hours		16-19
Second Year		
Fall		
GHS:3850	Promoting Health Globally	3
Major: global health perspectives and practices course ^j		3
Major: natural sciences course with lab ^{f, h}		4

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^e	4 - 5
Elective course ⁱ	2 - 3
Hours	16-18

Spring

GHS:3720 Contemporary Issues in Global Health	3
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GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^d	3
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Major: mathematics and statistics course ^{h, k, l}	3 - 4
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GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^e	4 - 5
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Elective course ⁱ	3
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Hours	16-18
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Third Year**Fall**

GHS:3010 or GHS:3012 Identifying and Developing a Global Health Project or Community-Based Global Health Research	3
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Major: global health perspectives and practices course numbered 3000 or above ^j	3
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Major: world language and culture requirement	3 - 5
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GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^d	3
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Elective course ⁱ	3
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Hours	15-17
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Spring

Major: global health perspectives and practices course numbered 3000 or above ^j	3
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Major: global health perspectives and practices course numbered 3000 or above ^j	3
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Major: world language and culture requirement	3 - 5
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Elective course ⁱ	3
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Elective course ⁱ	3
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Hours	15-17
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Fourth Year**Fall**

Major: global health perspectives and practices course ^j	3
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GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^d	3
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Elective course ⁱ	3
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Elective course ⁱ	3
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Elective course ⁱ	3
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Hours	15
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Spring

Major: global health perspectives and practices course numbered 3000 or above ^j	3
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GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^d	3
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Elective course ⁱ	3
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Elective course ⁱ	3
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Elective course ⁱ	3
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Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)^m

Hours	15
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Total Hours	124-137
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- 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 GHS:3035 Engaging in Global Health 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 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 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.
- f Choose from CHEM:1110 & CHEM:1120, CHEM:1070 & BIOL:1141, CHEM:1110 & BIOL:1141, CHEM:1110 & BIOL:1411, CHEM:1110 & BIOL:1412, CHEM:1070 & PHYS:1400, CHEM:1110 & PHYS:1511, PHYS:1511 & PHYS:1512.
- g Enrollment in chemistry courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- h Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- i 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.
- j Students should choose from the Global Health Studies approved B.S. course list.
- k Choose from MATH:1380, MATH:1440, MATH:1460, MATH:1550, MATH:1850, STAT:1020.
- l Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- m 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. For more information visit <http://commencement.uiowa.edu/>. If applicable search for "Early and Late Participation" to find this page (e.g. participate in graduation ceremony in May, degree conferral in August).