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

Foundation Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GHS:2000</td>
<td>Introduction to Global Health Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:4003</td>
<td>Case Studies in Global Health Inequities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3034</td>
<td>Doing Harm by Doing Good: The Ethics of Studying, Volunteering, and Working in Global Communities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3035</td>
<td>Engaging in Global Health</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GHS:1200</td>
<td>Disabilities and Inclusion in Writing and Film Around the World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:2100</td>
<td>Foundations of Health Humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:2164</td>
<td>Culture and Healing: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:2320</td>
<td>Origins of Human Infectious Disease</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:2415</td>
<td>Bioethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3010</td>
<td>Identifying and Developing a Global Health Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3015</td>
<td>Transnational Sexualities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3036</td>
<td>Ethics, Politics, and Global Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3037</td>
<td>Technology to Improve Global Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3045</td>
<td>Spanish Health Narratives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3060</td>
<td>Studies in Complementary and Alternative Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3105</td>
<td>Contraception Across Time and Cultures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3120</td>
<td>Global Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3230</td>
<td>Health Experience of Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHS:3325</td>
<td>Global Epidemics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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
- 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: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 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.

NATURAL SCIENCES COURSES

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

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:1100 & HHP:1300  
Human Anatomy - Fundamentals of Human Physiology (must complete either HHP:1110 or HHP:1310 to satisfy lab requirement)  
7

Physics

PHYS:1511-1512  
College Physics I-II  
8

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 fulfilled through the GE CLAS Core requirement. Students should consult with their advisor concerning specific courses that satisfy these requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1440</td>
<td>Mathematics for the Biological Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1460</td>
<td>Calculus for the Biological Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1550</td>
<td>Engineering Mathematics I - Single Variable Calculus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1850</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:1020/PSQF:1020</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics and Inference</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any higher-level statistics course (consult advisor)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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 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, BS

This sample plan is being reviewed and will be added at a later date.