Global Health Studies

Interim Director, Division of Interdisciplinary Programs
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Undergraduate major: global health studies (B.A., B.S.)
Undergraduate minor: global health studies
Undergraduate certificate: global health studies
Graduate certificate: global health studies
Faculty: https://globalhealthstudies.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://globalhealthstudies.uiowa.edu/

The Global Health Studies Program (GHS) offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the complex factors influencing health and disease locally and around the world.

The academic curriculum builds upon the humanities, social sciences, and health sciences to help students understand underlying forces—such as history, culture, gender and sexuality, economics, politics, race and ethnicity, the environment, law, and technology—which lead to health disparities worldwide. The Global Health Studies Program offers a B.A. and B.S. degree, an undergraduate minor, and an undergraduate and graduate certificate.

The Global Health Studies Program recognizes the importance of opportunities for students to be involved in ethical activities outside of the classroom which reinforce and apply knowledge and skills obtained within the classroom. These experiences help students define and achieve their post-graduation goals. The faculty and staff help connect students to local, regional, and international academic and cocurricular opportunities.

The Global Health Studies Program is one of the academic units in the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences awards the undergraduate degrees, the certificate, and the minor; the Graduate College confers the graduate certificate.

Local Health is Global Health

There are many ways for GHS students to support local and global organizations which are working for health equity. GHS students intern and volunteer with organizations, such as Proteus, Grow: Johnson County, University of Iowa Mobile Clinic, Center for Worker Justice, IC Compassion, and ImmUNITY. Additionally, as part of the GHS capstone and certificate curricula, students have collaborated with community organizations such as Community Health Initiative, Haiti, as well as the World Food Prize and the Special Olympics.

Summer Global Health Studies Internship

The Global Health Studies Program collaborates with the University of Iowa South Asian Studies Program to provide preparation and financial support for students completing virtual and on-site internships with the renowned international nongovernmental organization (NGO), the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) in Mysuru, India. Students work on a variety of health equity projects and develop global perspectives crucial for life and careers in the 21st century.

Faculty Research and Outreach

GHS faculty members conduct research at a variety of sites worldwide, including India, Haiti, the Caribbean, Germany, Russia, and Southeast Asia. Interested students work with faculty and staff to integrate international study and research opportunities into their graduation plans. As experts in their field, GHS faculty are often asked to be part of public programming activities. Recent examples include a CLAS Theme Year Event, "Barriers to Health Equity in Iowa City: Centering Diverse Community Voices," an Obermann Center for Advanced Studies Pandemic Insights discussion, "Effects of COVID-19 on Food Systems," and an Iowa City Foreign Relations Council presentation on global garbage and global health.