

Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Global Health

College of Public Health Internal Procedures

Introduction

The Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Global Health (GISGH) is a program that the Colleges of Dentistry, Nursing, Optometry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Veterinary Medicine and the School of Health and Rehabilitation Science at Ohio State have developed to provide training for graduate and professional students. The goal of GISGH is to prepare students to be actively engaged in the field of global health through academic training, service-learning, and research. Students who complete the GISGH will receive an acknowledgement on their transcript.

The GISGH has been approved by the OSU Graduate School and the Office of Academic Affairs. General guidelines specific to the specialization have been established and may be found at <http://globalhealth.osu.edu/gisgh/guidelines-and-requirements.html>. **In addition to these general guidelines, each participating academic unit has its own set of internal procedures.** This document contains the procedures for students enrolled in the College of Public Health.

CPH Specific Requirements

Enrollment: All students must be currently enrolled in a CPH graduate program and they must be admitted to the GISGH (see **application process** below).

Required Coursework: In addition to the course PUBHLTH 6000, students in the CPH must complete PUBHLTH 7000 *Public Health in Developing Countries*, which is a 3-credit hour course offered Spring Semester. As stated above, students choose their remaining 9 credit hours courses from a list of approved GISGH electives. **No more than 6 hours can count toward both your degree program and the GISGH.**

Field Experience: Students must locate and complete a global health field experience in a developing country (defined according to the World Bank categorization). Flexibility in the experience will be allowed. For example, students may choose to participate in a structured research project, work for a non-profit organization, or enroll in a course in a School of Public Health located in a developing country. Each Field Experience must be approved by the CPH GISGH committee. Students may enroll in 1-3 credit hours for the global health field experience. Note: 1 credit hour is equivalent to 30 field hours. ***It is important to note that the process of finding a global health field experience, receiving approval, finding funding, and making travel arrangements may require months of groundwork and preparation, and that application deadlines for many international programs are early in the academic year.***

In addition to Field Experience procedures outlined by the CPH and GISGH, an international placement requires involvement with the Office of International Affairs (OIA). OIA will ensure that students meet all OSU requirements (proper registration, supplemental health insurance, registering with the appropriate embassy, etc). Students who travel abroad must meet with OIA staff to ensure they meet all OSU regulations and submit all required paperwork. Additionally, students need to plan well in advance of the travel date for passport and visa applications, as well as immunizations that are often required when traveling to developing countries.

Students must maintain a log of the activities pursued (e.g., dates, hours, setting, etc.) throughout their Field Experience. Upon Field Experience completion, students will be required to create a written report and professional poster that will present a detailed picture of the student's experiences and how the completed Field Experience is important to the field of global health. An electronic copy of the final poster will be due at the end of the following term in which they return and it must be submitted to the advisor and the Office of Academic Programs and Student Services (OAPSS) in the College Public Health. In addition to creating a poster, each student will be required to present their poster during *at least one* annual event: OSU Global Health Day or a CPH Open House (held usually twice per year).

Application Process

Applications will be accepted at any time. Students must apply to enroll in the GISGH through the Office of Academic Programs and Student Services in the College of Public Health. To apply, a student must be in good academic standing and do the following:

- **Complete the application form and have it signed by the faculty advisor.**
- **Obtain a letter of support from the faculty advisor.**
- **Submit a personal statement that indicates:**
 - **why he/she is interested in the Specialization**
 - **whether he/she can adapt to environments in developing nations**
 - **what he/she plans to do for the Field Experience (a student may choose a different option after starting the Specialization; the committee wants to be sure that the applicant thinks about a potential project before applying).**

The original application packet should be submitted to OAPSS for processing. OAPSS will forward the application to the College Public Health GISGH review committee. The committee will determine whether the student is eligible to complete the specialization through the CPH. OAPSS will send admitted students' information to the Health Sciences Center for Global

Health, who will then notify students of acceptance into the GISGH. All admitted students will be required to adhere to the curriculum for the GISGH.

Students must also submit a 1-2 page proposal for the GISGH Field Experience that consists of the following:

- site information
- preceptor
- rationale for the project in terms of the skills the student will develop and why they are important for the student's career goals
- what exactly the student will do
- number of credit hours the student is requesting

It is recommended that students submit the proposal well in advance of the quarter in which the Experience will be completed. Typically, students should begin the process two semesters in advance. This is so that the student will have enough time to complete all of the OIA paperwork, obtain a passport and visa, receive immunizations, etc. Proposals must be submitted to the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee.

Students Traveling Abroad

All students will be required to work with the Office of International Affairs prior to any international experience to make certain all OSU international travel requirements are met. Students should contact OIA at 614-292-6101 to find out about requirements for international study. OIA's Student Health and Safety points include but are not limited to: student supplemental health insurance, ensuring appropriate vaccinations, U.S. Embassy registration, and an International Travel Appointment.

Miscellaneous

Committee-CPH

The representatives of the GISGH committee for the College of Public Health will be composed of the Graduate Studies Chair, faculty representatives, and student representatives. The Graduate Studies Chair will serve as the liaison between the CPH and the GISGH.

Expectations of Faculty Advisor

The faculty advisor will assist the student in determining how best to incorporate the GISGH into the program of study, and together must compose a tentative plan of study for the student.

Table 1. Combinations for CPH Students to obtain the GISGH

	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3
Core Course (PUBHLTH 6000)	2 hrs.	2 hrs.	2 hrs.
Electives Courses[†]	9 hrs.	9 hrs.	9 hrs.
Field Experience (PUBHLTH 6189.02)	1 hr.	2 hrs.	3 hrs.
Discipline Courses (PUBHLTH 7000)	3 hrs.	3 hrs.	3 hrs.
Total Hours	15 hrs.	16 hrs.	17 hrs.

[†]Outside discipline