

# **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 Allied Medical Professions at OSU 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://medicine.osu.edu/orgs/globalhealth/gisgh>. **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 PUB-HLTH 600, students in the CPH must complete PUB-HLTH 700 *Public Health in Developing Countries*, which is a 4-credit hour course offered winter quarter. Students choose their remaining 12 credit hours from a list of approved GISGH electives. The electives must be courses from departments outside of the CPH and the student's major degree program.

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.***

The CPH has funds to support up to four students to travel abroad for the Field Experience. These funds will be distributed on a competitive basis. Details will be given to students enrolled in the GISGH during autumn or winter quarter.

In addition to Field Experience procedures outlined by the CPH and GISGH, an international placement requires involvement with the Health Sciences Center for Global Health (HSCGH), located in Suite 165 in the Prior Health Sciences Library. HSCGH will ensure that students meet all OSU requirements (proper registration, supplemental health insurance, registering with the appropriate embassy, etc). Students who travel abroad will meet with HSCGH 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. For more information about HSCGH, visit their website at:

<http://globalhealth.osu.edu/GISGH.html>.

Students who have completed a global health experience within the last 5 years may petition to have this experience applied toward the required Field Experience component of the GISGH. Examples of such previous Field Experiences include Peace Corps activities, Military work abroad, or performance of public health, nursing or medical activities. Students must fill out and submit the “Petition for Previous Field Experience Application” form, signed by both the student and faculty advisor in order to receive credit.

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 report and poster will be due at the end of the following quarter in which they return and it must be submitted to the advisor and the Office of Academic Programs (OAP) 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, such as OSU Global Health Day or a CPH Open House (held usually twice per year).

Application deadline: Students must 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, and 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 three quarters in advance. This is so the student will have enough time to complete all of the paperwork, such as obtaining a passport and visa, receiving immunizations, etc. Proposals must be submitted to the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee.

### **Application Process**

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

1. Complete the application form and have it signed by the faculty advisor.
2. Obtain a letter of support from the faculty advisor.
3. Submit a personal statement that indicates why he/she is interested in the Specialization, whether he/she can adapt to environments in developing nations, and 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 OAP for processing. OAP 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. OAP 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 Traveling Abroad**

*All* students will be required to work with the Health Sciences Center for Global Health (HSCGH) prior to any international experience to make certain all OSU international travel requirements are met. HSCGH information for students completing international experiences can be found at <http://globalhealth.osu.edu/GISGH.html>. HSCGH'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**

	<b>Ex. 1</b>	<b>Ex. 2</b>	<b>Ex. 3</b>
<b>Core Course</b>	2 hrs.	2 hrs.	2 hrs.
<b>Electives Courses<sup>†</sup></b>	12 hrs.	12 hrs.	12 hrs.
<b>Field Experience</b>	1 hr.	2 hrs.	3 hrs.
<b>Discipline Courses</b>	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	4 hrs.
<b>Total Hours</b>	19 hrs.	20 hrs.	21 hrs.
<b><sup>†</sup>Outside discipline</b>			