



Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Global Health for students enrolled in the College of Public Health

Introduction

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 Ohio State 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/>. **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.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted at any time. Students must apply to enroll in the GISGH at the following link: https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eFiQ3FpWZzKZZf7. To apply, a student must be in good academic standing.

The online application requests the following information:

1. A one to two page personal statement that includes:

- **why interested in the Specialization**
- **Plans for the Field Experience including:**
 - 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 (can range from 1-3)

2. Submit a course plan showing how coursework will fit into degree curriculum requirements.

Any overlap with degree requirements (maximum of 6 credit hours) should be clearly indicated.

After the application has been submitted, the Office of Academic Programs and Student Services (OAPSS) will forward the application to the student's faculty advisor. The advisor will review the request and then determine whether the student's proposal is accepted, and he/she is supportive of the student's request. The application will then be reviewed by the GISGH committee. If approved, students will be notified and should complete the online GISGH application via [GradForms](#).

Course Requirements:

Public Health 6000	Introduction to Global Health	2 credits	Autumn Semester
Public Health 7000	Public Health in Developing Countries	3 credits	Spring Semester
GISGH Electives*	From pre-approved list of electives <i>*cannot be courses offered by Public Health</i>	9 credits	Any
Public Health 6189.02	Global Field Experience	1-3 credits*/8	Any

No more than 6 hours can count toward both the CPH degree program and the GISGH.

***Students overlapping the Global Field Experience and the practicum must enroll in 2 credit hours of Public Health 6189.02.*

Field Experience:

Students must complete a global health field experience. Flexibility in the experience is allowed. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the GISGH committee has provided additional options for completing the field experience. These additional options can be found in Appendix A.

Students may choose to participate in a structured research project, work for a non-profit organization, or enroll in a course in a School or College of Public Health located in another country. Each Field Experience must be approved by the CPH GISGH committee. 1 credit hour is equivalent to 45 field hours.

Students are advised to start planning their field experience their first semester of enrollment to allow enough time to complete all of the OIA paperwork, obtain a passport and visa, receive immunizations, etc.

*If the proposed Field Experience needs to be changed after the GISGH application is approved, the student must submit an updated personal statement that describes the new experience. This must be approved by the CPH GISGH committee.

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.

During the Field Experience:

Students must maintain a daily log of the activities pursued (e.g., dates, hours, setting, etc.) throughout their Field Experience. In addition to the daily log, upon completion, students are required to write a 3 page written report that includes:

1. What activities were completed
2. What skills were developed
3. What information was learned
4. Reflection on the personal significance of this experience
5. How this field experience will contribute to preparation for future career plans

Students will also prepare a 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 to OAPSS. In addition to creating a poster, each student will be required to present their poster during *at least one* annual event, such as a division poster session or a Farm to Table luncheon. The poster and written report will be evaluated using the College of Public Health capstone rubric. Two faculty representatives (student advisor and another designated one) will complete the rubric

Students Traveling Outside the U.S.

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 and/or visit: <http://oia.osu.edu/> 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. Travel Alerts are available to view at <https://oia.osu.edu/travel-alerts>.

GISGH Committee Membership

The GISGH committee is composed of the Assistant Dean for Global Public Health, a faculty representative from Division of Epidemiology and the Veterinary Public Health program, student representatives, and a staff member from OAPSS (in an ex-officio role), in addition to a faculty representative from other division or program where the application comes from. Faculty representatives will be nominated by Division/program to the Assistant Dean for Global Public Health and will serve a three year term. If a faculty member is no longer able to serve on the committee, the Division Chair will nominate another faculty member to replace that faculty member.

The Assistant Dean for Global Public Health will ask for student representatives through the Graduate Student Newsletter and through recommendations by Chairs and Program Directors. Student representatives will serve a two year term unless they graduate prior to the end of their second term. The committee will have, at a minimum, two student representatives, with a maximum of one per degree program (5 total).

FAQ's

Can I use the GISGH Field Experience as my MPH practicum experience?

Yes, as long as the practicum learning agreement is still completed, the log and the report can overlap, however students still have to complete the poster presentation for the GISGH requirements. Students should make sure to notify the MPH Practicum Coordinator (Dawn Williams) that they are planning to complete the practicum and the GISGH at the same time. 120 practicum hours are required for 2 credit hours of enrollment.

What if I am unable to travel abroad for my Field Experience? Can I complete this experience at a local level?

Refer to Appendix A regarding additional options for international field experience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What if I need to request a course waiver or substitution for the GISGH requirements?

You will need to submit a written statement and submit it to the GISGH committee for review and a decision.

I completed global health work abroad prior to declaring the GISGH specialization. Can I use that experience to fulfill my Field Experience for the GISGH?

The GISGH Committee will consider requests for prior experience on a case by case basis. The student will have to prepare a statement explaining what the field experience was and when it was completed. If approved, the student will be required to submit a daily log and 3 page report to the GISGH Committee.

Appendix A International “Field Experience” additional options in CPH during COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 global pandemic has profoundly impacted our academic programs, especially on the courses and components that emphasize “hands-on” practices, such as international capstone projects and field experience in our programs. While waiving entire “international field experience” requirement could be an option, we believe that it may not best serve our students.

Therefore, below are the modifications and suggestions regarding options for fulfilling an international field experience.

Students still must complete a global health field experience as current programs require but some flexibilities and additional options are allowed. While traveling abroad is prohibited or not an option, the students are strongly encouraged to discuss with your advisor alternative approaches to achieve the same or similar academic learning objectives. Below are just a few examples:

1. Local community instead of foreign country: Select and work with a local community with a high percentage of immigrants or global public health issues or challenges.
2. Virtual/collaboration instead of physical traveling: A project could still involve a foreign country. Instead of physically traveling to a foreign country, find some local partners and collaborators in the selected country to collaborate and work on a public health project.
3. Data analysis project: Work with a professor to conduct relevant data analysis related to a public health topic involving an international country.

Students are also encouraged to propose other possible options to appropriately fulfill the requirement to complete an international field experience project. In all cases, whichever option is chosen, it must be approved by the student’s academic advisor, and by the corresponding committee before the project is executed. Students can present their posters virtually once the projects are completed.