Global Health (Culture and Health), PhD

ASU is not currently accepting applications for this program.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Global Health (Culture and Health)

The PhD program in global health draws on the premise that sustainable and satisfying solutions to the most pressing global health challenges require a sophisticated understanding of how cultural context, social and ecological processes, and disease are really related.

The transdisciplinary graduate program trains students broadly in cutting-edge health social science research theory and methods. While it leverages the strength in medical anthropology at ASU (including the 15 medical anthropologists on campus), it also takes advantage of a much wider set of skills offered by such fields as medical sociology, demography, human geography and epidemiology. It is designed to train those who anticipate working in transdisciplinary academic settings, medical schools or nonacademic health settings, such as the commercial sector, government agencies or nongovernmental organizations.

Some particular thematic foci of the program are:

- biocultural approaches to human coping
- computer-based complexity modeling
- culture and health
- health in the Americas
- indigenous and minority health
- mathematical epidemiology
- nutritional anthropology
- social justice and vulnerable populations
- social networks
- urban and environmental health

The program draws together some 80 faculty members from across the university to consider how cutting-edge social science can be applied not only to understand, but also to substantively improve the health of populations. The program favors community-based research and runs collaborative projects in which students are encouraged to gain experience and conduct research, from large U.S. cities to hunter-gatherer communities. Students generally enter the program with a master's degree in a relevant field.
The concentration in culture and health provides focused, specialized training in theories and methods for researching the relationship between culture and health. This concentration utilizes the perspectives of medical anthropology and sophisticated ethnographic methods to study and interpret the role of cultural and social differences in shaping health. Students investigate these methods in the context of the community-based, participatory approaches that tend to promote the most mutually meaningful and lasting health solutions. Graduates are thus particularly prepared for leadership in addressing health disparities in cross-cultural settings and with the most vulnerable populations. This includes very complex, difficult settings where particularly nuanced and sophisticated (often anthropological) understandings of health-related challenges are needed.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Students entering with a master’s degree in a related field may be granted up to 30 credit hours toward the 84 credit hour total required for the doctorate degree program. This leaves 30 hours of coursework, 12 hours of research credit and 12 hours of dissertation credit (54 credit hours total) to be earned post-admission.

Students entering without a master’s degree must earn an additional 30 hours of graduate credit, produce a research portfolio that is formally evaluated by a faculty committee, and present that research in a public forum before continuing on in the later stage of the doctorate.

All students must maintain a 3.20 average GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in their courses and complete degree requirements per the program’s satisfactory progress policy.

For the concentration in culture and health, 15 credit hours will be selected from an approved list of applicable courses.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement outlining educational and professional goals
4. current curriculum vitae or resume
5. GRE scores
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Suitable backgrounds for admission include a master's degree in the social sciences (such as anthropology or sociology), public health, human biology or related fields. Students entering directly from a bachelor's degree program should have already completed at least 15 credit hours of social science and six hours of human biology (or equivalent) at the senior level, and should also have some background in statistics or epidemiology.

Applicants may submit an optional scholarly writing sample, not to exceed 20 to 30 double-spaced pages, to be included in their application materials.

**Contact Information**

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Admission Deadlines