ASU is not currently accepting applications for this program.

When the evolving health needs of growing global populations beckon, few are better equipped to answer the call than those with a PhD in global health. With an emphasis on preparation for medical, commercial, governmental and academic careers, program graduates can help save and improve thousands of lives.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Global Health (Evolutionary Global Health Sciences)

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 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 throughout 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 evolutionary global health sciences requires training in universal principles of research design (from experiments to systematic qualitative and quantitative description), data analyses, methods (quantitative and qualitative) and anthropological interpretation (or the identification of determinants of the origins and distribution of health phenotypes in past and present human populations). Students choose from a wide range of data collection and inferential tools in order to address specific questions, through a combination of lecture and guided reading courses designed to master the highly diverse literature in evolutionary global health sciences that best pertains to their career goals.

At a Glance

• College/School: The 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

Required Core (3 credit hours)
SSH 510 Health: Social and Biocultural Theories (3)

Concentration (12 credit hours)
ASB 503 Medical Anthropology (3)
ASM 560 Human Growth and Development (3)
ESS 513 Institutions (3)
ASM 456 Infectious Disease and Human Evolution (3), ESS 514 Urban and Environmental Health (3), or SSH 514 Urban and Environmental Health, or SSH 591 Topic Principles of Epidemiology for Global Health (3)
Electives (26 credit hours)

Other Requirements (16 credit hours)
ASB 500 Ethnographic Research Methods (3)
ASB 591 Topic: Professionalism (1)
ASM 579 Proposal Writing (3)
SSH 591 Topic: Principles of Epidemiology (3)
Systematic Methods Courses (6)

Research (15 credit hours)
ASB 500 Ethnographic Research Methods (3)
SSH 792 Research (12)

Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)
SSH 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information
For the concentration coursework, students choose one course from ASM 456, ESS 514, SSH 514, or SSH 591 Topic Principles of Epidemiology for Global Health.

For electives, please see the academic unit for a course list approved by the chair.

Other requirement coursework may be substituted with the approval of the academic unit. At least two systematic methods courses in an area other than epidemiology/biostatistics and ethnography (such as nutrition, survey, archival analysis, demography, or geographic information system) should be selected.

When approved by the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate College, this program may allow up to 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree to be used for this program. If students do not have a previously awarded master's degree, the remaining coursework will be made up of electives.

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 their 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 also should 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

School of Human Evolution & Social Change | SHESC 233
shesc.grad@asu.edu | 480-965-6215
Admission Deadlines