Global Health, MA

ASU is not currently accepting applications for this program

The master's degree program in global health goes beyond fighting disease and health disparities at the ground floor. By digging deeper into the sociocultural roots of these issues, students pick up the reigns where medical practice leaves off and create new, far-reaching solutions to both localized and universal health concerns.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Global Health

In this MA program, global health is considered to be much more than and very different from international public health. It emphasizes that major health challenges stem from many factors well beyond disease itself --- factors that are:

- cultural
- ecological
- evolutionary
- historical
- institutional
- social
- technological

Any effective, sustainable solutions to the most pressing global health challenges will need to take all of these factors into account, including the complex ways in which they relate to each other. In this manner, this degree program teaches students to understand health as not simply a product of disease, but rather emerging in the contexts of complex and interrelated ecology, politics, history, culture, social institutions and evolutionary biology. It also places primacy on how to address the broader (i.e., structural, cultural) bases of ill health in complicated, ever-changing health challenges in low-resource community settings and a globalizing world. To do this, the program combines both social and life science theories with on-the-ground research and its application. There is a strong emphasis on collaborative action as key to identifying and addressing global health problems in a sustainable and meaningful way.
Students accepted into the program are tied to ongoing transdisciplinary global health projects that address complicated, multifaceted health challenges that defy easy fixes, such as:

- climate change-related diseases
- emerging infectious diseases
- obesity

By applying a collaborative, problem-solving format, the master's degree program in global health is intended to provide those planning to enter health or related fields (i.e., environmental, social) with the transdisciplinary orientation, team skills and social and cultural acuity that the Pew Health Professions Commission inter alia has identified as critical but lacking in current health workforce training. The program also emphasizes experiential learning as a way to gain mastery and requires participation in a global internship program based in one of the international partnering communities.

At a Glance

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

Accelerated Degrees

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

Global Health, BA

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

30 Credit Hours including the required applied project course (SSH 593)

All students are required to take the following four foundational courses (12 credit hours):

ASB 500 Topic: Ethnographic Field Methods (3)
ASB 503/SSH 503 Medical Anthropology (3)
ASB 510/SSH 510 Health: Social and Biocultural Theories (3)
AML 613 Methods and Concepts in Math Epidemiology OR SSH 591 Topic: Principles of Epidemiology for Global Health (3)

Substitutes may be permitted by the graduate director for some coursework that includes individualized research, conference and independent study courses with approved faculty. Additional methods-focused courses or graduate-level epidemiology courses can count toward this requirement.

Students also are required to complete a minimum of six credit hours of practicum, six credit hours of electives and six credit hours of an applied project. Applied projects are completed in consultation with a faculty advisor; options include internship, practicum, a research project, scholarly research paper or an outreach project.

All students must maintain a 3.00 average GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") on both the interactive plan of study and graduate GPAs per the Graduate College satisfactory academic progress policy.

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 in the social or life sciences (i.e., anthropology, sociology, gender studies, geography, political science), public health or related fields (i.e., nutrition, human biology), 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.

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

Admission is competitive and based on student academic excellence, additional relevant experience, and fit with available faculty. Value will be placed on foreign language skills; practical, cross-cultural and international experiences; and prior social science and life science research.

Contact Information

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Admission Deadlines