Certificate in Global Health Affairs

The Certificate in Global Health Affairs (CGHA) is the first global health program to be based in a school of International Studies. Unlike certificates offered by schools of medicine or public health, which emphasize biomedical approaches to health, CGHA places social and political solutions at the forefront of global health action. Combined with a degree program, the seven-course CGHA sequence prepares students for systematic, evidence-based approaches to a broad range of global health problems relating to development, diplomacy, security, trade, and human rights.

CGHA’s core emphasis lies in building sound decision-making skills in an arena often suffused with inefficiency and blindness to political, social and cultural context. Substantive courses address: the widest conception of the causes and consequences of individual and population health, emphasizing short- and long-term effects; the increasing globalization and personalization of health; and interactions between health and other key areas of human endeavor such as politics, development, trade and conflict. Practical courses combine basic analytic, management, and epidemiologic skills with innovative new technologies such as social marketing, Geographic Information Systems, and mobile technology.

Students who graduate with the Certificate in Global Health Affairs distinguish themselves as leaders and innovators through the pursuit of the “science of service” on and off campus. While most GHA students take advantage of traditional internship opportunities at leading international health organizations, many also pursue action-oriented research and leadership projects through a network of partner agencies and through our own student-led community-based research projects in Nairobi, Delhi and Jerusalem. Students are encouraged, but not required, to undertake action-oriented research projects including a thesis or Significant Research Paper (SRP), which may be completed for course credit. Throughout the GHA program, students build an evidence-based framework for evaluating project impacts on served communities, service agencies, their own career paths, and their community at DU.

Students must complete a brief application to enter the Certificate in Global Health Affairs by the end of their first year. The GHA application form can be found at: http://portfolio.du.edu/globalhealth

1. Global Health Core:

Students are strongly encouraged to complete one or both courses before taking other classes. Both are offered in Fall Quarter.

INTS 4367 - Global Health Affairs: Theory & Practice

This course offers an entry point to Global Health from a social science perspective. The history of global health action is littered with failure and disillusionment, primarily due to a lack of theoretical or empirical rigor. Success begins with identifying salient interventions to problems of consequence, a surprisingly rare achievement. But even sensible interventions can fail without an understanding of other aspects of human development that affect health directly, that determine programmatic success or failure, and that are themselves impacted by health. In the first five weeks we will explore and apply frameworks for basic global health intervention, measuring burdens, inspecting risks, identifying interventions and building a “theory of change” concept. Having established the basics, the next five weeks consider the broader context of scaling up, integration, and health diplomacy in the global
system. You will be asked to demonstrate your mastery of global health affairs by dissecting the theory of change of an existing global health program and by designing your own proposal for service-based research.

**INTS 4516 - Major Diseases in Global Health**

In this course, the students develop a complete and solid understanding of the mechanisms, physiology, epidemiology, transmission patterns, and clinical impact of the major diseases affecting global health. Students learn about the etiology, agents, vectors, burden, methods of detection, basic treatment complexities, and life cycles of major diseases impacting the world such as HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria, as well as chronic diseases such as cancers and diabetes. Students also acquire knowledge about maternal/reproductive health, some protozoa, helminths, major parasites, and violence/trauma.

**2. Methods and Practice Core:**

**INTS 4483 - Practical Applications in Global Health**

The purpose of this course is to create an awareness of the theories and practices of effective program design, implementation and evaluation in global health so that students can become exceptional practitioners in the field. The emphasis is to learn about and then push beyond best-practice approaches to theory of change, strategy, program planning and evaluation, with the intention of developing deep insights into what it takes to be a successful innovator and manager of international health programs in low and middle income countries. This includes perspectives on social entrepreneurship and bottom-of-the-pyramid social enterprises, innovation, leadership, information technology and the implementation of public-private partnerships. During the course, we will connect the various elements and tools discussed in the class to equip you to be able to effectively take on the challenges and opportunities of global health program implementation. All students are asked to come with an open mind and to be ready to engage in significant dialogue and class participation regarding the readings and lectures.

**INTS 4423 - Introduction to Epidemiology (previously titled: “Health Data for Decision Making”)**

Decisions and policy related to global health are based on data from various disciplines such as demography, medicine, and epidemiology. Therefore, it is crucial to correctly understand and interpret what health data, and data in general, really tell us. This course provides the knowledge and skills required to critically assess data, and to understand both strengths and limitations of data and research. This course will cover the basic principles and concepts of descriptive and analytic methods in epidemiology and their application to research and practice in public and global health.

**3. Elective Courses:** Three of the following are required:

Health Issues and Interactions

- INTS 4353 - Sustainable Development and Environment
- INTS 4362 - Gender and Health
- INTS 4368 - HIV/AIDS in International Affairs
- INTS 4397 - Environment, Economy, Development, and Human Well-Being
- INTS 4435 - Health and Development
INTS 4465 - Population and Society* +
INTS 4492 - Health and Humanitarian Aid

Methodological:
INTS 4056 - Information Management in Humanitarian Crises+
INTS 4058 - Applied Time Series Analysis
INTS 4342 - Project Management+
INTS 4576 - Seminar in Community-Based Research*
INTS 4632 - Qualitative Research Methodologies+
MFJS 4912 - International Health Communication & Development
* Course not offered every year
+ Only one of these courses may count for elective requirement

4. Internship / Field Requirement

All GHA candidates must conduct a single, 150-hour health-related practical experience or a suitable alternative (see below). This experience must take place during the student’s course of study and the work must be carried out off campus. As an alternative to a traditional internship, this requirement could be fulfilled through current employment, an RPCV local internship, independent research (as long as it has an off-campus field component), or work on a GHA service-based research project.

To qualify as health-related, a substantive component of the internship/practicum should focus on health issues. If this condition is not met within the context of the internship/practicum, the student may instead submit an additional, separate report on the health implications of their internship/practicum to the certificate director in order to fulfill the requirement. See the GHA Director for guidelines. It is possible for students to fulfill both a degree and certificate requirement with one internship/practicum.

Students are encouraged but not required to base their internship on their required proposal for INTS 4367 (Global Health Affairs), and to prepare a thesis, significant research paper, or independent study based on one of their internships or other self-driven or faculty-driven research.

More information concerning internship opportunities can be found at
http://portfolio.du.edu/globalhealth/page/22823

Core Faculty
Randall Kuhn, PhD, GHA Director and Assistant Professor
Madiha F. Abdel-Maksoud, MD, PhD, MSPH, Adjunct Professor, Instructor, Colo. School of Public Health
Renee Botta, PhD, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Media, Film, & Journalism Studies
Sandy Johnson, PhD, Scholar in Residence and Director, BA Program in International Studies
Chen Reis, MPH, Clinical Professor and Director, Humanitarian Assistance Program
Susan Rifkin, PhD, Adjunct Professor; Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics
Peter van Arsdale, PhD, Senior Lecturer and Director, African Initiatives
Benjamin Young, MD, PhD, Adjunct Professor; Medical Director, Rocky Mountain Cares

For more information concerning the certificate, please email gha@du.edu