

GLOBAL HEALTH STUDIES CONCENTRATION SUMMARY STATEMENT

School of Medicine

Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

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Purpose

To provide an innovative educational model for health professions students to gain a global health perspective.

Rationale

To “operate” successfully in the global health realm, one must have facility with complex health, cross-cultural, and social issues in our ever-changing world “environments.” Additional competencies will permit graduates to communicate, introduce, adapt, supervise, or implement policies, technologies, and research agendas appropriate to those challenging environments.

Methods

The Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and the OHSU Global Health Center will integrate their educational agendas within the existing framework provided and supported by the OHSU Epidemiology and Biostatistics track of the Oregon MPH program. The approach is three-fold:

1. MPH core and required courses remain unchanged.
2. A modest selection of varied social science electives with a global perspective - already offered at PSU, OHSU, and OSU- that address social determinants and “non-medical” factors impacting health and well-being will be added to the curriculum.
3. Introductory training in skills development (“blue collar trades” – non-credit pass/fail course of the student’s choosing): The rationale for skills training is clearly understood by global health professionals, who practice and consult overseas in low resource settings. Expanding development skills during graduate school training will serve students well in their future careers, whether they are involved in a planning, problem-solving, construction, or supervisory capacity.

Outcome

The gap between scientists and those who must implement clinical and public policies will be bridged by students who seek this educational path. Students will learn to integrate critical thinking necessary in the academic realm with real-life practical problems.