

Certificate in Global Health
New York Institute of Technology/New York College of Osteopathic Medicine

Proposal

The Certificate in Global Health's purpose is to provide a platform to comprehend the underlying determinants of poor health and its relevance to health systems and heightened global impact. The Certificate offers a new format and contextual approach to existing Global Health Certificate or Masters Programs that have had a traditionally medical or public health focus. The course will be delivered in a **multidisciplinary, case-based, interactive, student-centered learning** format interjecting content and perspectives from students and faculty in **medicine, health professions, engineering, business, and education**. The rationale for a diverse group of candidates and faculty is to enhance the individuals understanding that the delivery of effective health occurs through a collaboration of multiple fields.

The Certificate in Global Health is offered to health and related professionals in order for them to recognize "that a majority of people in the world do not enjoy the good health that is biologically possible"¹. Effectively, poor health is heavily influenced by social determinants of health and its fragmented relationship with health systems, which result in a countries health outcome. During the course, we will discuss the influence of diseases on a population and the specific determinants (culture, socioeconomic, education, gender, disparities, water, sanitation etc.) that exacerbate ill health. Health professionals will work in a multidisciplinary team to understand that critical non-health issues play a significant role in health outcomes. The goal of the Certificate is to create a paradigm shift in health and related professions that are leading the charge for innovative global health solutions.

For non-health professionals, a multidisciplinary format challenges individuals to recognize that contributions from tangential fields enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of projects. Issues such as solar power in energy-challenged areas, water access & sanitation, education for women & children, appropriate technology in resource-poor areas and financial sustainability for social enterprise projects are just a few concerns when designing strategies. The Certificate in Global Health will enhance the understanding and capabilities of health and non-health professionals, whether working directly or indirectly in an international and domestic health care setting.

Mission Statement

The Certificate in Global Health seeks to educate candidates in a multidisciplinary approach to provide a platform to comprehend the underlying determinants of poor health and its relevance to health systems and heightened global impact.

The Certificate in Global Health will be offered through the Center for Global Health of the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), initially serving the students and faculty of the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM), the NYIT School of Health Professions, Behavioral, & Life Sciences, NYIT School of Engineering

¹ World Health Organization, "Inequities are killing people on grand scale, reports WHO's Commission," www.who.int, 28 Aug 2008, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr29/en/>> 2 Dec 2008

& Computer Science, NYIT School of Management, and NYIT School of Education. New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) is a non-profit, independent co-educational senior institution of higher learning. Fully accredited, non-sectarian, and non-profit, it operates year round and provides career education, undergraduate and graduate, for men and women of all ages and from all walks of life. As the certificate becomes established within these schools, the program will be offered to a broader array of candidates.

For all NYIT and NYCOM candidates seeking to undertake an international health experience, the Certificate in Global Health will be recommended prior to embarking on their Global Health Fieldwork Practicum. The Certificate will broaden the educational exposure to candidates, provide comprehensive preparation for their global health experience, and give a theoretical framework for global health, while adding to the core educational curriculum of each school. Furthermore, as student representatives of NYIT abroad, the structured educational Certificate will improve their competency and value to the host country and/or organization, and subsequently, enhance their future education and skills.

Statement of Need

In recent years, international experiences for health care and non-health care professionals have become increasingly popular. The trend toward experiencing “global medicine” or the “humanitarianism experience” can be based on the desire by individuals to rediscover the aspects of humanitarianism and altruism that inspires health professionals to enter the medical field or non-health professionals to seek meaningful purpose in their careers.

The original intent of the international rotation for health professionals was to augment the medical education of students by exposing them to cultures, environments, infrastructure and practices of medicine that differed from their home institution. Regardless of the underlying reasons health professionals choose to go abroad, medical schools and health science schools have often been unable to handle the logistical challenge of confirming the legitimacy and the educational experiences. However, the importance of these international experiences should not be underestimated. The ideology and practices of primary care and preventative health in a global health setting can play a crucial role in forming the next generation of primary care providers that are acutely aware of the clinical significance and health care necessities of preventative health strategies.

For non-health professionals, the underlying motivation for work in global health is the same as those in the medical profession. This can be witnessed by the numerous individuals and organizations that dedicate themselves to causes that provide lasting assistance to the development of marginalized communities. Both professional groups have in common the compassion and commitment to working globally to undertake challenges that take their education beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Program Overview

The Certificate in Global Health proposes to educate candidates through a 3-part structured program each addressing essential aspects of global health through different constructs: coursework, a global practicum, and a case/project report.

The coursework will cover the following subject areas: critical issues in global health, cultural competency, health disparities, applications of preventative health strategy and infectious disease/tropical medicine. Students will be taught through a case-based-learning format and will be given a set of questions, problems, topics and objectives prior to the beginning of coursework to establish a basic foundation of information needed to stimulate discussion. Testing of students will occur throughout the course to assess the understanding of material. A case scenario will then be presented to students that contain references to multiple issues addressing the learning objectives of the course. The students will be expected to investigate materials pertinent to understanding the overall issues and analyze existing strategies to address the problem. Upon completion of the cases within a specific course, students will be expected to write an effective proposal that details specific revisions of an existing health strategy or devise an entirely novel strategy for a health problem. In all proposals, financial sustainability will be considered a critical part in determining the success of a project. The case-based-learning structure allows students to actively obtain information critical to understanding a health problem, thereby giving them the tools to tackle future problems on their own.

The Certificate also requires candidates to undertake a Global Health Fieldwork Practicum in order to put the theoretical knowledge into practice. Furthermore, the health practicum is an opportunity to personally experience the issues in global health that motivates thousands of dedicated professionals. Although most Certificate candidates may not pursue a career in global health, the Center for Global Health believes that the lessons learned will have a tremendous impact on the health professionals practice patterns or non-health professionals career decisions.

Additionally, candidates are required to complete a research study on a preventative health topic and write a case/project report. The research segment plays an especially significant role for health professionals whose exposure to research may not begin until required by their clinical training. By introducing these analytical and research skills early in a professionals career, the next generation of researchers can be created. Upon completion of the required project, individuals or groups may have the opportunity to implement their proposals with cooperation and approval of the host practicum site.

Candidates who satisfactorily complete the Global Health Courses, Practicum and Independent Observation Research will be issued a Certificate of Completion in Global Health. Upon completion of the program, the credits attained may be eligible towards a Masters in Public Health degree.

Summary

The Center for Global Health proposes a Certificate in Global Health that will educate students and professionals from multidisciplinary backgrounds in the comprehension of global health needs, ideals, practices and strategies. Although the context of the course will focus on issues of preventative health in primary care, the course material will be equally weighted towards nonclinical issues in order to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of effective health strategies. The multidisciplinary problem-solving approach makes it important that Certificate candidates are drawn from a diverse group of individuals in order to devise effective and sustainable solutions.

The Certificate in Global Health seeks candidates that have the motivation and compassion to understand the environment of working in a global health setting and to have the courage to apply their newly acquired skills to make changes that has effective sustainability. The Center for Global Health anticipates that the lasting impression of working in a global health setting will inspire candidates to join the ranks of thousands of individuals that work to improve the health and lives of marginalized communities.

Qualifying Candidates:

- I. Undergraduate and graduate students, recent graduates, residents, attending physicians, faculty and other individuals interested in the field of global health. In addition, individuals working or intending to work with the following type of organizations should apply:
 - Non-governmental organizations (NGO's)
 - Government and Policy Agencies
 - Research and academic institutions
 - Philanthropic Foundations
 - Industry
 - Faith-based organizations
- II. Minimal requirement for qualification:
 - a. Currently enrolled medical students in good standing
 - b. Currently enrolled third or fourth year nursing students in good standing
 - c. Currently enrolled graduate students in good standing
- III. All applicants will be subject to final approval by the faculty of the Certificate in Global Health

Certificate Requirements

- I. **Global Health Core:** 3 courses (Total 3 Credits)
 - a. Critical Issue in Global Health
 - b. Cultural and Health Disparity Issues in a Global Setting
 - c. Infectious Diseases/Tropical Medicine
- II. **Global Health Fieldwork Practicum with Independent Research** (Total 3 Credits)
 - a. Students will choose between an international or domestic practicum at a pre-approved training site
 - b. The student will write a 1-page proposal during the 1st week of clinical experience to specify an area of research.
 - c. Upon completion of the clinical experience, the student will write an 8-10 page case reporting research findings.

Note: Candidates who satisfactorily complete the Global Health Courses, Practicum and Independent Observation Research will be issued a Certificate of Completion in Global Health.