

HMP Global Health Program

Global health is exciting, growing, diverse, and competitive. The HMP global health program prepares a small number of students to work in global health policy and management, either in the United States or abroad.

What is global health?

From a policy perspective, global health means many things: work on the ground in developing and middle-income countries; engagement with international organizations that influence health; work with small and large non-governmental organizations; and participation in the increasingly vital cross-border market in health policy ideas. It can mean anything from promoting safe drinking water in one village, to influencing international debates about issues such as trade, to using international expertise and experience to influence health policy at home.

From a management perspective, global health is a mixture of sectors that have long been global, such as pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and exciting new opportunities that come with the diffusion of management approaches across borders, medical tourism and increasing cross-border trade in health care services, the internationalization of providers and insurers, and the development of global health and wellness programs in companies not traditionally associated with health care.

What is the HMP global health program?

The HMP global health program is pursued by a small set of students within the larger MHA and MPH students, chosen at admission, who are training to apply their health management and policy skills in a range of international contexts, be it work in the United States and other countries, public or non-governmental organizations, global institutions, or multinational firms. Students will combine the general skills of the HMP MPH/MHA with coursework and internships that give them a broad understanding of health policy and management issues around the world and practical experience of health policy and management in a specific health care system, non-governmental organization, or international organization.

Why the HMP global health program?

Global health is a broad, diverse and fiercely competitive field, and global health careers often involve a range of training and experience necessary to gain the networks, field experience, and cosmopolitan perspective that mark success at its higher levels. The specific strength of HMP graduates, with their broad skills, is that they will be positioned to compete for positions in a wide range of global fields and then successfully navigate the diverse career options that lead to success. Such positions span the public, nongovernmental, and private sectors at the national and state levels. Graduates of the HMP global health program, which is embedded in a deep and broad management and

policy curriculum, will be able to compete for this broad range of positions. They will also be able to bring global perspectives and experience to US-based employers that value the flexibility, discipline, and appreciation of diverse perspectives and cultures that come with a successful training in global health.

What is the difference between the HMP Global Health program and the SPH Global Health Certificate?

Global health program, and all other HMP students, also have the option of also taking the SPH Global Health Certificate, which is targeted at interdisciplinary public health work in low- and middle-income countries and complements this program.

Admission to the HMP Global health program is restricted to five students per year at present. HMP global health students will receive supplementary support for their internships and specialist advising from the HMP Global Health faculty. All students can take the HMP Global health courses as electives regardless of whether they have been admitted to the program.

The SPH certificate is a broadly based coursework option. All SPH students are welcome to take the courses necessary for the SPH Global Health Certificate, which is awarded at graduation to students who have completed the necessary courses. The SPH certificate provides students with a multidisciplinary public health training focused on the health problems of lower- and middle-income countries.

How do I apply?

Note explicitly in your application that you want to be considered for the international program. Explain, in your application statement, why you would be a good candidate for a challenging international career track and what your contributions could be.

Course requirements

HMP global health program students will take the normal MPH/MHSA course sequence plus three HMP courses geared to global health careers and skills. The philosophy is that HMP teaches valuable general skills, but that international work requires additional context so that students can operate successfully in different environments, whether it is a question of resource constraints, different population characteristics, or different finance and regulation. Students benefit from understanding the range of strategic and practical contexts for their skills.

The three courses (HMP 624, 677, and one course that is being approved, 6##) address the policy and management issues of, respectively, low-income, middle-income, and high-income countries. All three courses can be taken in any order and will be taught at least every other year. They will not have prerequisites and are open to other SPH students. For MPH students in the international program, the new comparative health systems class substitutes for the law/politics requirement (MHSA students retain the Law requirement).

Students also have to choose two courses, totaling four or more credits and in consultation with their advisor, of courses elsewhere SPH that are eligible for the SPH Certificate in Global Health. Taking the HMP global health sequence does not preclude taking the SPH certificate courses, and the SPH Certificate is a particularly good fit with students interested in public health work in developing countries. The two existing HMP courses currently count toward the SPH certificate, and we would submit the new course.

Advising

Global program students, upon admission, would be assigned to faculty from the HMP Global Health committee according to interests.

Internships

It is expected that HMP global health program students do an internship of at least six weeks abroad or at US sites that are focused on global health work. We strongly recommend that students without prior field experience abroad pursue internship opportunities outside the US. Students will work with HMP advisors and faculty and broader university resources (SPH, Center for Global Health, International Institute, International Office) to identify resource opportunities and possible university or external funding. Once they have demonstrated that they have secured a promising internship and efforts to secure external and University funding, they have first call on HMP internal support in order to ensure that they have a successful internship.

Recent HMP students for MPH and MHSA degrees have interned with:

- the Community Aid and Sponsorship Program (Kerala, India),
- Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (Tianjin, China),
- the Access Project (Kigali, Rwanda),
- the European Social Observatory (Brussels, Belgium), NHS Fife (St Andrews, Scotland),
- the East of England Strategic Health Authority (Cambridge, England),
- the WHO (Geneva, Switzerland),
- the Council of Women World Leaders (Berlin, Germany and Helsinki, Finland),
- the Washington Business Group on Health (US).

We are developing more internship sites in South Africa (infectious disease policy), Germany (health insurance and pharmaceuticals, Hamburg and Munich), Spain (technology assessment and research, Barcelona), and Japan (aging and long-term care), China (disease control and prevention and health management), and Taiwan (health promotion and health management). Most internship sites work in English.

Courses

HMP 624: Health Policy Challenges in Developing Countries.
McLaren

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and diarrheal disease are the four biggest contributors to the burden of disease in the lowest income countries in sub-Saharan Africa and represent a serious constraint on economic growth. They kill nearly 4 million African adults and children annually. Readings from the public health, economic and medical literature will focus on the main debates surrounding policy interventions to combat these diseases. The class will examine and evaluate the evidence on the nature of these diseases and the effectiveness of current interventions in Africa and other parts of the developing world. Through class discussion, small group exercises and writing assignments, students will hone their skills in policy and economic analysis. For the final project, students will develop policy recommendations for governments of developing countries on a global health issue of their choice.

HMP677: Health Care Organization: An International Perspective
Liang

Health care system in every nation is unique to its culture and history. However, the issues each faces are remarkably similar. Nations can learn a lot from one another in meeting these challenges. This course examines health systems across nations, with an emphasis on rapidly developing Asian countries in contrasted with the U.S. and other Western developed nations. Students will examine the linkages among burden of disease, health disparities, and social development. They will learn how health care is organized and financed within the context of rapid social changes and the strengths and weaknesses of these systems. Furthermore, students will study recent health care reforms in these countries and their results. At the completion of this course, students are expected to be able to apply the knowledge of international health systems to the analysis of current issues in health policy and management.

HMP ###: (in preparation). Comparative health systems and policies.
SL Greer

This course focuses on the different ways that high income countries finance, organize, regulate and manage health systems and public health, and on the political, social, and historical contexts of those systems. It ranges from longstanding structural differences to newer management and policy ideas that are diffusing across borders. Students will learn about health systems and the ability to understand their various contexts and challenges. The course includes discussion of the United States, giving students the opportunity to consider the successes, failures, challenges and changes of the United States in a broader perspective. Students leaving the course should be able to discuss and critically analyze the basic families of health systems, their different policy challenges and debates, the different roles and approaches of public health and health care management, the diffusion and international applicability of management and policy ideas, and lessons for and from the US.