Minor in Global Public Health

The focus of global health research and practice is to improve the overall health and health equity of all people worldwide. The minor in Global Public Health will use an interdisciplinary approach to explore the major underlying biological determinants of health as well as aspects of social, political, environmental and economic influences. Students will analyze the dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases facing the world’s population. Students interested in graduate school can demonstrate to prospective schools an extension of their major disciplines that provides perspective on human health and the factors that influence the health of populations. The purpose of the minor in Global Public Health is to allow students to become familiar with the major problems and policy issues in global health. The Global Public Health minor offers a flexible set of requirements that will allow students to design a minor that is appropriate for their particular educational and professional objectives.

Three Core Courses:

**Fundamentals of Global Health**
The focus of global health research and practice is to improve the overall health and health equity of all people worldwide. This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to explore the major underlying biological determinants of health including the contributions of social, political, environmental, and economic factors.

**Disease Detectives: An Introduction to Epidemiology**
Epidemiology is a cornerstone of public health and involves the study of the incidence, distribution, and control of diseases and factors affecting the health of populations. Using a series of real life case studies, this course will present the principles of epidemiology and the role epidemiologists play in responding to disease outbreaks and promoting public health through.

**Senior Seminar in Global Public Health**
This course will integrate each student’s educational experience (e.g., core global public health courses, specializations, and projects) into a capstone seminar in Global Public Health.

The Global Public Health minor consists of two units of work distributed in the following way:

1. 2/3 unit Core courses.
   - STS 1200 Fundamentals of Global Health
   - ID 2100 Disease Detectives: An Introduction to Epidemiology
   - Or an Independent Study/Project (ISP) approved by the Global Public Health Steering Committee

2. 3/3 unit Global Public Health Electives.
   - 1/3 unit Great Problems Seminar course (FY 1100) that has a Global Public Health focus with an approval of the Global Public Health Steering Committee or an additional Global Public Health elective with steering committee approval.

3. 1/3 unit Senior Seminar in Global Public Health (STS 4000). This seminar may be taken concurrently, or any time after a Global Public Health Experience (for example, a Global Public Health-focused IQP or MQP (see below). With the approval of the Global Public Health Steering Committee, the seminar may be completed as an independent study.

4. Global Public Health Experience. All Global Public Health minors require an ‘experience’ in global public health that is educational in nature and equivalent in length to at least one WPI term. The Program Steering Committee Chair must approve this experience, prior to the student undertaking it, by signing the ‘Global Public Health Experience Approval’ at the bottom of the Application for the Global Public Health Minor.
Global Public Health Minor Electives: Below is a list of courses from which students can choose to fulfill their Global Public Health elective requirements. Students will take 1 Unit (at least 2 of the 3 courses must be at or above the 2000 level) from the list below or courses approved by the Global Public Health Steering Committee.

- Social Science and Policy Study
  - GOV 2319 Global Environmental Politics
  - GOV 2302 Science, Technology, and Policy
  - GOV 1320 Topics in International Politics
  - SOC 1202 Introduction to Sociology and Cultural Diversity
  - ECON 2125 Development Economics
  - PSY1400 Introduction to Psychological Sciences
  - PSY 1402 Social Psychology
  - PSY 2407 Psychology of Gender
  - PSY 2406 Cross Cultural Psychology: Human Behavior in a Global Perspective

- Life Sciences
  - BB 1025 Human Biology
  - BB 2003 Microbiology
  - BB 3003 Medical Microbiology
  - BB 3920 Immunology
  - BB 4065 Virology

- Humanities and Arts
  - HI 2401 U.S. Environmental History
  - HI 2403 Global Environmental History
  - INTL 1100 Introduction to International and Global Studies
  - PY 2712 Social And Political Philosophy
  - PY 2713 Bioethics
  - PY 2716 Philosophy of Difference
  - PY 2717 Philosophy and the Environment
  - PY 3731 Problems in Ethics and Social Philosophy
  - PY 2732 Suffering, Healing and Values
  - WR 1011 Writing about Science and Technology
  - WR 2210 Business Writing and Communication
  - WR 3214 Writing about Disease and Public Health

- Business
  - BUS 1010 Leadership Practice
  - BUS 1020 Global Environment of Business Decisions

- Other
  - CE 3060 Water Treatment
  - CE 3061 Wastewater Treatment
  - CE 3070 Urban and Environmental Planning
  - MA 2610 Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences

Steering Committee: Dean Karen Oates (koates@wpi.edu), Reeta Rao (rpr@wpi.edu) and Laureen Elgert (lelgert@wpi.edu)