Global Health

Develop the expertise needed to drive change and make positive impacts in underserved communities worldwide
Take your healthcare career to entirely new places.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Northwestern University School of Professional Studies offers an online Master’s in Global Health to give professionals the knowledge and credentials necessary to drive change and make positive impacts in resource-constrained communities worldwide.

Vision
Developing leaders for the interprofessional global health landscape

Mission
To provide interdisciplinary, interprofessional, global health education that prioritizes local collaboration and fosters a spirit of inquiry and response to emerging global issues.

The Master’s in Global Health, offered in partnership with Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine’s Center for Global Health, aims to prepare the next generation of leaders for emerging global issues. The MSGH program’s expert global health faculty come not only from Feinberg Medical School, but also from McCormick School of Engineering, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and Kellogg School of Management to offer a truly interprofessional degree. Students benefit from access to a top-ranked academic medical center and dedicated center of expertise. Because the degree can be completed part time and entirely online, students anywhere can access a program of this caliber while maintaining their personal and professional commitments.

The program is designed for clinicians, researchers, epidemiologists, nonprofit administrators, policy analysts, social entrepreneurs and others who make a meaningful difference in healthcare access and outcomes in the places where it’s needed most.
Program Goals
An interdisciplinary professional program, MSGH graduates will possess the knowledge, skills and aptitude to:
• Work effectively in a health-related industry within resource-limited settings
• Contribute, evaluate and measure health outcomes and systems within low and middle-income countries
• Secure grants to fund global health initiatives
• Evaluate and navigate the cultural and ethical considerations inherent in global health contexts

Core Courses
• LEADERS 481-DL Leadership
• MSGH 405-DL Foundations of Global Health
• MSGH 408-DL Biostatistics and Epidemiology
• MSGH 410-DL Research Methods
• MSGH 417-DL Global Health Systems
• MSGH 419-DL Global Bioethics
• MSGH 421-DL Globalization & Public Policy
• MSGH 427-DL Grant Writing and Fundraising
• MSGH 450-DL Global Health Initiatives
• MSGH 452-DL Global Nutrition
• MSGH 454-DL Global Health Management & Strategy
• MSGH 456-DL Access to Health and Medicines
• MSGH 458-DL Global Health and Technology

Leadership Course
Presents leadership behaviors that enable professional success, focusing on definitions of leadership, the importance of leadership, leadership styles, the role of vision and integrity, the importance of giving and receiving feedback, how to lead change and solve problems, effective teamwork, and communication strategies.

Practicum
All students in the MSGH program are required to engage in at least four weeks of non-clinical work in a health delivery setting, which may include rotations abroad, working remotely on projects abroad, or working in your own community on “glocal” projects. Practical fieldwork experience is considered a valuable complement to the program curriculum as students earn academic credit in the Practicum course, which is overseen by MSGH faculty. The practicum is constructed so that students are not simply observers but are able to add value to our global partner’s work via the skills gained through the MSGH program.

Northwestern partners with Child Family Health International, an organization offering health education programs throughout the world including nations such as Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, India, Mexico, South Africa and Uganda.

Elective Options
• MPPA 401-DL Research Methods
• MPPA 490-DL Special Topic: Demography, Global Health and Policy
• MSGH 450-DL Global Health Initiatives
• MSGH 452-DL Global Nutrition
• MSGH 454-DL Global Health Management & Strategy
• MSGH 456-DL Access to Health and Medicines
• MSGH 458-DL Global Health and Technology

Application Deadlines
Applications are accepted every quarter.
• Fall: July 15
• Winter: October 15
• Spring: January 15
• Summer: April 15

For detailed admission information visit sps.northwestern.edu/globalhealth. For application assistance call 312-503-2579 or email msgh@northwestern.edu
Admission

Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution or its foreign equivalent. A competitive undergraduate record that indicates strong academic ability is required, though applicants need not have extensive academic experience in Global Health or related fields. Work or research experience in the field of study is desirable but not necessarily a requirement.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Online application — sps.northwestern.edu/apply
- $75 nonrefundable application fee
- One sealed copy of official transcripts from ALL attended colleges and universities
  - Official transcripts must arrive in our office in the original sealed envelope issued by the institution. Northwestern University School of Professional Studies accepts electronic transcripts from U.S institutions via secure electronic transcript providers. Consult with your institution to see if they are part of a secure e-delivery network. All electronic transcripts should be sent to spsadmissions@northwestern.edu. Please note transcripts are not accepted by fax or personal email.
- Applicants with international transcripts must request an official course-by-course evaluation of transcripts from a NACES member such as WES or ECE. A course-by-course evaluation will translate courses, degrees and grades to U.S. equivalency.
- Two letters of recommendation focusing on academic and professional achievement and ability (see below)
- Statement of purpose (see below)
- Current resume or curriculum vitae (see below)
- Documentation of English proficiency for students whose first language is not English
- Optional writing sample (see below)

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Applicants must submit a 500–750 word required statement of purpose explaining how the degree program will help them meet their academic and professional goals. Applicants without previous education or training in Global Health or a related field should explain how other academic and nonacademic experiences have equipped them to undertake graduate study in the program.

The following considerations will guide the Admissions Committee in reviewing your application:

- The Statement of Purpose demonstrates if a student’s academic and professional goals are appropriate for this degree. This statement will also aid the committee in determining if the prospective student possesses the necessary writing skills and intellectual maturity for succeeding in this program.
- The Letters of Recommendation serve to underscore the applicant’s commitment to graduate education and ability to succeed in graduate-level work. Recommendation letters can come from academic or professional sources depending on an applicant’s current networks.
- The résumé is used to provide evidence of a student’s continuing commitment to and/or understanding of the global health field. While we prefer candidates to possess 3–5 years of work and/or research experience in a related area, recent college graduates and career changers are also encouraged to apply. These applicants must demonstrate to the committee their commitment to the MSGH program by detailing previous internships, academic or volunteer work.

THE WRITING SAMPLE (OPTIONAL)

The writing sample should demonstrate the ability to present ideas and arguments in a manner appropriate to a graduate-level program and should not exceed 10 pages in length.

If you submit an academic paper, it should be comprised of the following:
- A clearly articulated thesis on a relevant topic
- An argument that persuasively supports the thesis
- Documentation of quoted material and acknowledgement of ideas taken from the works of others using an accepted academic style

If you submit a work-related memo or analysis, it should be comprised of the following:
- A discussion of a policy, problem, or program of which you are the sole author
- A clear identification of the issue in need of attention
- An analysis of the issue and its importance to the organization
- Well-reasoned action options and your final recommendations
- Documentation of quoted material and acknowledgement of ideas taken from the works of others using an accepted academic style

If you submit an essay, it should be comprised of the following:
- Describe a critical policy issue facing a nation, state, or community
- Provide a summary of a course of action to address this issue as if you were serving in a leadership role
- Provide supporting justification for the action you are advocating and articulate the implications of your recommendations
- Documentation of quoted material and acknowledgement of ideas taken from the works of others using an accepted academic style
It was incredibly important for me to maintain my professional experience while I went to school. Northwestern gave me the most flexibility and the best-rounded coursework, so I knew I’d be able to learn what I wanted to on a timeline that accommodated my busy schedule.”

Stephanie Kang, Doctor of Public Health Candidate at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

The MSGH program is an interprofessional competency based degree program developed to meet the high demand for professionals equipped with a global health skill set. It is designed for health, engineering, business, psychology, anthropology, government and policy, and other professionals to gain targeted skills and translate their existing degrees into a global health context.”

Ashti Doobay-Persaud, MD, MSGH Faculty Director, Assistant Professor of Medicine, MSGH Faculty Director, Associate Director of Global Health Graduate Education, Center for Global Health, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Director Section of Global Health, Division of Hospital Medicine
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