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.
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

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.

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.

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. The writing sample allows the applicant to demonstrate the ability to present ideas and arguments in a manner appropriate to a graduate-level program. The sample should be a critical analysis paper or essay not exceeding 10 pages and should consist of the following:
- A clearly articulated thesis
- An argument that persuasively supports the thesis and demonstrates an awareness of contrary arguments
- Documentation of quoted material and acknowledgement of ideas taken from the works of others using an accepted academic style guide

APPLICATION DEADLINES
Applications are accepted every quarter.
- Fall: July 15
- Winter: October 15
- Spring: January 15
- Summer: April 15
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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