

## **Specialization: Society and Health (Public Health)**

**Overview of Specialization:** This specialization prepares students, professionals, and clinicians to work in challenging and inter-professional environments. As the job market becomes increasingly competitive, this certificate can serve as a valuable qualification to set you apart from other applicants. Students will be equipped to react competently to health challenges that go beyond geographic and cultural boundaries, as well as identify and analyze factors that impact health disparities.

### **Core competencies**

Students will have acquired experience in the following competencies after completion of this specialization:

- Understand the concepts and principles of the evolving concept of global health, and the policies and processes that underlie its historic development and contemporary context (**Meta, Humanistic**)
- Recognize how recent cultural, political-economic, and environmental trends shape health both locally and globally (**Meta, Humanistic**)
- Characterize local, regional and global patterns of health and disease (**foundational**)
- Develop appropriate global health interventions and evaluate their impact scientifically and socially (Foundational, meta, humanistic)
- Demonstrate the capacity to value and promote health equity, human rights, and social and environmental justice (**Meta**)

### **Elective Courses**

*Elective courses for this specialization were chosen to enable students to understand how the social, economic, political, and philosophical aspects of society affect our health. These elective courses will utilize innovative methodology to integrate the understandings of the biological, social, and physical sciences.*

### **Public Health in Action**

A course to prepare trainees for a culminating international practice-based experience designed to address existing and emerging public health priorities as defined by the respective communities and their academic partners. Trainees will be engaged directly and exposed to the contextual, cultural, political and economic factors impacting health.

### **Health, Evidence, and Human Rights**

Trainees will be able to generate and interpret evidence that is critical to addressing human rights abuses both in the courts and through national and multilateral policies. This course will use case studies to examine how to frame population research priorities and designs from a human rights perspective.

### **Practice in Global Environmental Health**

The course will be divided into three sections:

Section 1: Trainees will obtain an introduction of a variety of aspects of internships in global environmental health

Section 2: Each trainee will work with an individual faculty to select an international project and prepare funding applications to a funding agency selected by the advisory committee.

Section 3: Trainees will present the proposed project in class.

### **Field Methods in Epidemiology**

This course is for trainees interested in pursuing collaborative epidemiologic research. The course will focus on steps and procedures for setting up and conducting epidemiologic studies. Topics will include relationship between research groups and host country policy makers and collaborators, cultural and logistical differences between research studies in the U.S. Other topics will include developing and maintaining research infrastructure, research design, field operations, anticipated obstacles, monitoring, ethical and IRB requirement for international studies, funding, and plans for maintaining future collaborations. Occasional guest lecturers, actively involved in epidemiologic research will be integrated into the syllabus.

### **Introduction to Epidemiology**

This course will introduce trainees to epidemiology so that they will understand how epidemiology contributes to everyday life. Topics will include methods to develop strategies for resolving problems that arise when conducting epidemiology studies in low- and middle-income countries.

### **Social and Behavioral Biostats**

Basic knowledge and skills to effectively use biostatistics in research design and data analysis and to understand articles in related professional journals. Topics include choosing appropriate research designs and statistical methods in public health research

and practice, descriptive statistics, and an introduction to analysis of variance and the statistical software packages.

**Other Electives (offered as needed)**

Public Health Ethics

History and Theory of Public Health

Special Topics – Varies by semester offered

Health and Socioeconomic Development

Health, Evidence, and Human Rights

**Assessments:**

- Trainees enrolled in the public health specialization will be assessed by portfolio and quarterly surveys during their initial entry into certificate
- After completion of certificate, trainees will be followed up by annual survey and student centered database
- Other assessments will include faculty presentation/seminars on prospective ideas