

Global Health Undergraduate Advising FAQs

This document is intended to supplement advising. Included in this packet are common questions from students and their answers.

Frequently Asked Questions

➤ How do I structure my course schedule?

You should aim to split your time between your global health major and any other majors, minors, and pre-professional requirements. How you choose to structure your time is ultimately up to you. While planning your course schedule, keep these things in mind:

- The core courses (GLHLTH 101, ethics, and research methods) are typically offered every semester
 - Ethics tends to fill up quickly, especially in the Spring. We recommend you try to enroll in GH Ethics as soon as your sophomore fall semester.
 - Previous students have strongly recommended that you take statistics before taking research methods. We agree with that recommendation!
- Try your best to balance the amount of STEM and non-STEM coursework you have each semester. STEM courses often pair well with non-STEM foundation courses and electives.

➤ What courses can I take to fulfill my foundations and elective requirements?

You can view a list of our pre-approved courses on our [website](#). You can petition a course not listed as a pre-approved elective by filling out [this form](#). Courses must be approved prior to being taken. Petitions are reviewed bi-weekly.

➤ What is an independent study and how do I register for one?

Independent study enables a student to explore individual academic topics of interest under the supervision of a faculty member and receive course credit. Independent studies fall under two categories: non-research and research independent study. Only one independent study course (GLHLTH 391, 392, 393, 395T, or 396T) may count toward your global health electives. If you are interested in applying for an independent study, please review the [policies and procedures](#) on our website.

➤ Can I double-count courses between global health and my other major or minor?

You cannot double-count courses *within* the global health major or minor, however, you are not limited in the number of courses you double-count *across other programs*. For example, you may be able to count BIO 153 for both your global health and biology majors, but not for both the Foundations and Electives requirement *within* the global health major.

Reach out to your advisor for your co-major, minor, or certificate program to find out what their policy is.

➤ I'm a major but I want to switch to a minor or vice versa. How do I do this?

First, you should have a conversation with your global health advisor about why you want to switch and review what requirements you may have left to complete after switching. Next, submit an academic plan change form to Trinity by filling out the form at this [link](#). If you are a senior, please contact [Trinity Graduation Staff](#) to change your plan.

➤ When should I take Capstone?

Capstone can be taken during either the Fall or Spring semester of your senior year. Before taking capstone, you must complete all core courses and your Experiential Learning Activity. If you have to take a capstone course for your other major, it is recommended to take them in different semesters to distribute your workload more evenly over your senior year.

➤ I'm interested in doing a global health thesis during my senior year. How does this work?

Students majoring in global health may pursue Graduation with Distinction in global health or Graduation with Distinction in global health and their co-major through a double honors thesis. More details about Graduation with Distinction and the application process can be found on [our website](#), and in the Spring 2024 Registration Guide.

Applications are due by the end of add/drop in the Fall of your senior year **at the absolute latest**, but it is **highly recommended** that you apply in the Spring of your junior year and begin collecting your data over the Summer.

➤ **What can I do to complete my ELA?**

All experiential learning activities must be 8 weeks or 320 hours long and must be pre-approved by DGHI in order to count. To submit a pre-approval form, follow this [link](#). All pre-approval forms are due by **April 1, 2024**.

➤ [Student Research Training Program \(SRT\)](#)

The DGHI Student Research Training Program is an intensive experiential learning program that engages **second- and third-year** undergraduate students in the development, implementation, and assessment of a community-based project. Applications for the 2024 SRT program have already closed. If you are interested in participating in SRT next academic year, be on the lookout for information about project sites and the application process in September.

➤ [DukeEngage](#)

DukeEngage empowers undergraduate students to address critical human needs through immersive service in the U.S. or internationally. Each fall, DGHI releases a list of DukeEngage programs acceptable to count towards ELA. Students can apply for programs through the DukeEngage website, and application deadlines can be found on the DukeEngage website.

➤ [Bass Connections in Global Health](#)

Bass Connections is a university-wide initiative that allows students to engage with research on interdisciplinary teams. For Bass connections to count toward ELA, students cannot receive global health elective course credit for participation on the team. Students must also engage with the Bass team over the course of an entire year or engage in a summer component in addition to participation during the academic year to meet the minimum hour requirement for ELA.

➤ [Global health internship](#)

We work with numerous U.S. and international organizations that offer internships for undergraduate students. You can view a list of internships and learn more about how an internship meets the ELA requirement for the co-major [here](#).

➤ [Faculty-mentored independent research projects](#)

Undergraduate students also have the option to work directly with faculty mentors on independent research projects. To see which faculty are working on projects in your area of interest, you can browse our [faculty directory](#).

➤ **Are there any funding opportunities for independent research?**

The Duke Global Health Institute offers [individual grants](#) of up to \$5,000 to support undergraduates pursuing independent global health fieldwork projects. We prioritize sophomores and juniors enrolled in a DGHI education program or working with a DGHI faculty member. Applications are typically due in March. [To apply for a grant, please visit our website.](#)

The Undergraduate Research Support (URS) office also offers grants to help defray research expenses of up to \$400 for Trinity and Pratt students enrolled in faculty-supervised independent study courses or the equivalent,

such as thesis and research capstone courses. Grant funds may purchase approved supplies and equipment (which become the property of the University) for the research project. For more information about this grant opportunity, visit <https://undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/opportunity/urs/urs-independent-study-grants>.

➤ **Can I study abroad?**

Absolutely! If you are interested in studying abroad, it is best to begin planning well in advance. Courses taken in study abroad must receive approval through the Global Education Office in advance of starting the program. [The Course Approval Database](#) offers a list of courses approved for global health transfer. You can also search for study abroad programs by area of study [here](#).

[Set up an advising meeting with GEO staff](#) to discuss your study abroad options, and begin planning your coursework.

➤ **How can I get more involved with global health work outside of the classroom?**

You are always encouraged to engage in global health projects beyond your ELA, either through research, internships, or volunteering. Another great way to engage with global health and connect with other students in the field is through joining the [Global Health Majors Union \(GHMU\)](#), which brings students interested in Global Health together and provides resources and mentorship to students interested in Global Health as a career.

➤ **What are popular careers in global health? What do students typically do after they graduate?**

Global health is an expansive, multi-disciplinary field that provides students with a foundation of research, communication and management skills. Popular roles in global health include positions in health care provision, research, policy, program management, and program development. Global health students at Duke typically end up in research positions, working in an independent lab or at an academic institution, going onto a graduate program or medical school, or entering the workforce into a variety of different sectors, including government, non-governmental organizations, and corporate businesses.

➤ **Who should I reach out to if I have more questions about global health?**

If you have questions about the undergraduate global health programs or would like to discuss your academic plan with an advisor, please make an appointment using the [Bookings link](#). If you have detailed Experiential Learning questions, contact [Lysa Mackeen](#) via email or make an appointment using the [Bookings link](#).

For all other questions regarding global health at Duke, please email gh-education@duke.edu and a member of our education will be in contact with you shortly.

If you have any further questions about registration after reviewing this packet, please contact an advisor (below):

- **A-G: Maegan Hoss | Maegan.hoss@duke.edu**
- **H-Z, 4+1 students: Emilee Kerr | Emilee.kerr@duke.edu**