Global and Public Health Sciences Major

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**What makes this an internationalized curriculum? Please describe the experience abroad and how you internationalized the curriculum at home.**

In Fall of 2014, the Division of Nutritional Sciences launched the new Global and Public Health Sciences Major. The new Global and Public Sciences major has integrated international learning into the curriculum through both coursework and experiential learning. Students in the major are required to engage in experiential learning. This requirement provides students with the unique opportunity to connect theory and practice, to learn in unfamiliar contexts, to interact with others unlike themselves, and to practice using knowledge and skills in an applied public health setting. Through this requirement, students will be challenged to engage more effectively with the content of their courses while also learning about professional practice and about themselves as individuals. In addition, students will gain a deeper understanding of public health issues and problems and have the opportunity to enhance research, writing and critical thinking skills by applying knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to a public health field or laboratory setting.

Students choose from a portfolio of options, which include a diverse array of international opportunities. Some of these opportunities include Global Health Summer Programs in Tanzania, Zambia, India and the Dominican Republic, international research opportunities and internships with Cornell faculty and semester-long study abroad programs.

**How has the international experience been integrated into the curriculum?**

As a part of the Global and Public Health Sciences major, students participate in an experiential learning opportunity after taking foundational core courses. For example, students may participate in one of the Global Health Summer Programs in Tanzania, Zambia, Dominican Republic, or India, each with their own requirements for pre-departure. Students participating in the Tanzania Program enroll in NS 4620: Global Service Learning Pre-Departure Seminar and ASRC 1107: Elementary Swahili for Global Health to prepare for their summer experiential learning opportunity. During these courses, visiting faculty and scholars from Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College interact with our students during their visits to integrate international learning and reflection even prior to their summer experience. During the summer, students participate in NS 4630: Global Health, Development, and Policy Issues in Tanzania and work collaboratively with Tanzanian medical school students to develop and write a policy case study on various health and development issues relevant to Tanzania.
What are the intended student learning outcomes of the internationalized curriculum related to knowledge generation, changed attitudes, and developed skills, and how do you assess them?

The student learning outcomes of the experiential learning component of the GPHS Major are as follows:

1. Identify a public health issue, through engagement in practice, policy, or research, which you intend to analyze in great depth in NS4600: Explorations in Global and Public Health.
2. Examine and explain the key characteristics and interests of host organization, hospital, institution, or research project, and how they relate to specific public health issue of student interest.
3. Analyze a public health issue integrating academic knowledge and experiential learning.
4. Document and explain how the applied experience advanced academic, professional, and personal learning goals.

These learning outcomes are assessed through the assignments built into the capstone course, NS 4600: Explorations in Global and Public Health. Upon completing the experiential learning component, students enroll in NS 4600, during which they will further explore and analyze chosen issue through conceptual frameworks and critical reflection. The learning outcomes will also be assessed through ePortfolios that are designed to document and integrate student learning throughout the GPHS major.