GLOBAL HEALTH SCIENCES (MS)

Visit program website. (https://globalhealthsciences.ucsf.edu/education/masters-program/)

Degree Offered: MS
Program Leadership:
Madhavi Dandu, MD, MPH, Program Director
Alden Blair, PhD, MSc, Associate Director
Admissions Inquiries:
Rachel Cox, Education Program Officer

Program Description

The Master of Science in Global Health in the UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences (IGHS) is a four-quarter program designed for those who wish to gain global health knowledge, skills, and experience in one transformative year. The interdisciplinary curriculum emphasizes research methods, population health, and the social, economic, and environmental determinants of health in a globalized world. Become prepared for a career in research, policy, organizational leadership, academia, or program management and evaluation. The master’s curriculum is organized over four academic quarters in thematic blocks:

- Foundations of Global Health
- Scientific Methods
- Diseases and Determinants
- Systems and Policy

Lectures, seminars, case studies, debates, and team-based projects introduce students to critical aspects of global health practice. The learning environment is dynamic and emphasizes faculty involvement, peer teaching, problem-solving, and discussion.

A centerpiece of the program is each student’s individual capstone project, developed over a yearlong seminar and conducted in locations around the world, which emphasizes study design, practicalities of field research, and cultural humility. This project allows students to obtain depth of expertise in a specific topic and method.

Admission Requirements

Admissions Criteria

You must have the following qualifications to apply:

- Bachelor’s degree or the equivalent from an accredited institution, with at least a 3.0 GPA
- Completion of at least one college-level course in each of the following areas, with at least a B grade:
  1. mathematics (e.g., calculus, algebra, statistics);
  2. general biology;
  3. health-related science (e.g., nutrition, microbiology, anatomy, physiology), or a second biology course
- English proficiency for non-native speakers
- Please note you can only apply to one graduate program at UCSF per application cycle/year

How to Apply

To be eligible for admission, submit the following materials via the UCSF Graduate Division online application (https://gradapplication.ucsf.edu/security/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f) by the application deadline. Please note, upon completion of the application and receipt of the non-refundable application fee ($120 for US citizens and permanent residents, and $140 for international applicants), or – alternatively – once your request for an application fee waiver (https://graduate.ucsf.edu/application-fee-waivers/) has been approved (US citizens and permanent residents only), an admission file is established by the Graduate Division. All supporting documents, e.g. transcripts and letters of recommendation, are sent directly to the individual graduate programs. IGHS MS program specific application requirements include:

- Three letters of recommendation: The letters should address your academic strengths, personal qualities, and accomplishments, as well as how the MS degree will contribute to your career growth. At least one letter should be from someone familiar with your academic strengths and weaknesses. All recommendations must be written on official letterhead and submitted electronically via the UCSF application (https://gradapplication.ucsf.edu/security/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f).
- Résumé or curriculum vitae (no more than 3 pages): Summarize your educational, professional experience, publications, languages spoken, honors and awards, local and international experience, extracurricular interests, and special skills.
- Personal statement (short responses): Address your reasons for applying, prior global health experience with underserved populations (local or international), personal expectations of the program, and global health career goals. If your GPA is less than 3.0, please thoroughly explain the circumstances here.
- Transcripts from all academic institutions you attended: Upload to your application all unofficial transcripts from each institution you attended, even if you did not receive a degree. The program does not require official transcripts until admission. See additional details on the FAQ page (https://globalhealthsciences.ucsf.edu/education/masters-program/frequently-asked-questions/).
- Application fee: U.S. citizens or permanent residents may qualify for an application fee waiver. See guidelines on Application Fee Waivers (https://graduate.ucsf.edu/application-fee-waivers/) to determine your eligibility for this exemption. To request the waiver, select the “application fee waiver” option in the payment area of the online application.
- Test scores: Graduate-level tests are not required for entry to this program, but if you have taken the GRE, MCAT, LSAT, or GMAT, you may choose to self-report your scores. To do so, you may email a copy of your score report to education@globalhealth.ucsf.edu. You do not need to send official score reports to UCSF through the official test site systems.
- TOEFL or IELTS scores: If you are a non-native English speaker, you must demonstrate English proficiency in one of three ways:
  1. Submit an official transcript showing you completed at least one year of study at an accredited college or university in the United States with a minimum GPA of 3.0.
  2. Submit an official transcript showing you completed either your bachelor’s or graduate degree or the equivalent from
The program accepts the following minimum scores based on the type of test:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper-based TOEFL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer-based TOEFL</td>
<td>213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet-based TOEFL iBT</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
<td>7</td>
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</table>

**Additional Admissions Process**

- When an application is complete and the application fee has been paid or waived, the graduate program’s admission committee makes a recommendation to the Graduate Division for admission or denial. Final authority to admit or deny admission resides with the dean of the Graduate Division. The dean will not admit a student without the concurrence of the faculty of a graduate program; however, the dean may deny admission even if acceptance is recommended by the committee.

- Once the graduate program and graduate dean have made their admission recommendations, the Graduate Division sends a notice to the applicant via email. Applicants may then log into their online application account to view their admission status. They will also be able to view or print an official Graduate Division letter of admission (or denial of admission), signed by the dean of the Graduate Division. If offered admission, applicants will also indicate their intention to accept or not accept admission via the online application system.

- All students are required to submit documentation of immunizations and complete a tuberculosis screening questionnaire. For more details on the requirements visit the Student Health and Counseling Service (https://studenthealth.ucsf.edu/new-student-immunization-requirements/) website.

- Admission to an intercampus joint degree program requires approval by the deans and faculty of both campuses.

- The Graduate Division does not admit students to non-degree or unclassified status for the purpose of course work only. Students must apply for a specific degree.

- UCSF welcomes applications for admission from undocumented individuals, such as those who qualify under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (https://undocu.berkeley.edu/legal-support-overview/what-is-daca/) (DACA) and/or AB540 (https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/tuition-cost-of-attendance/ab-540-nonresident-tuition-exemption.html). Please visit the website of the UC Office of the President (https://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/) (UCOP) for more information.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Acknowledge one’s limitations in skills, knowledge, and ability
- Apply leadership practices that support collaborative practice and team effectiveness
- Apply project management techniques throughout program planning, implementation, and evaluation
- Design context-specific health interventions based upon situation analysis

...
• Develop understanding and awareness of the healthcare workforce crisis in the developing world, the factors that contribute to this, and strategies to address this problem
• Exhibit inter-professional values and communication skills that demonstrate respect for and awareness of unique cultures, values, and roles/responsibilities
• Identify how demographic and other major factors can influence patterns of morbidity, mortality, and disability in a defined population
• Implement strategies to engage marginalized and vulnerable populations in making decisions that affect their health and wellbeing
• Include representatives of diverse constituencies in community partnerships and foster interactive learning with these partners
• Integrate community assets and resources to improve the health of individuals and populations
• List major social and economic determinants of health and their impacts on the access to and quality of health services and on differences in morbidity and mortality between and within countries
• Plan, implement, and evaluate an evidence-based program
• Validate the health status of populations using available data (e.g., public health surveillance data, vital statistics, registries, surveys, electronic health records, and health plan claims data)

Additional Information
The master's program boasts a low faculty-to-student ratio with courses taught directly by world-renowned global health researchers and practitioners. Dozens of faculty members from UCSF's four professional schools (medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, and nursing) and the Graduate Division, as well as from other UC campuses and the broader community, teach and mentor the master's students.

Program Core faculty
• Find a program faculty list on the program website.

Career Outcomes
• Find career outcomes and other data on master's programs on the Graduate Division website.

Graduates with an MS in Global Health often pursue further degrees (especially MD or PhD degrees) or work in academia, governmental agencies, NGOs or other non-profit settings. Note that IGHS also offers a PhD program in Global Health Sciences.

Program Core faculty

Career Outcomes

Graduate Division's Policy on Student Conduct and Discipline

Global Health Sciences (MS)

Core Courses
Curriculum
The interdisciplinary curriculum of the one-year Master of Science in Global Health program provides a comprehensive introduction to important topics, research methods, and skills necessary for careers in global health. Students learn multiple perspectives on global health problems and solutions in a dynamic learning environment that emphasizes active participation, peer teaching, problem-solving and discussion. Upon completion of the program, students are prepared for careers in research, policy, organizational leadership, academia, and program management and evaluation.

In addition to mastering the content and process of global health as a field of study and scholarship, students learn leadership and communication skills and have ample opportunities to practice their skills in the classroom and in the field. Professional development activities include career panels and guidance on CV preparation and interviewing.

The centerpiece of the academic program is the capstone project — an opportunity for students to focus on a particular area of interest and apply rigorous scholarship to active projects in global health.

All classes are held on the UCSF Mission Bay campus and the capstone research projects are conducted in the US and around the world during one quarter of the program. Students work closely with the teaching faculty, advisers, capstone mentors, and program leaders, and study alongside diverse classmates who represent a wide variety of academic and professional backgrounds, interests, and countries of origin.

Coursework
The master's curriculum is organized over four academic quarters in thematic blocks:
• Foundations of Global Health
• Scientific Methods

Degree Requirements
The policy regarding satisfactory academic progress in the Master of Science in Global Health program is as follows:

1. Students must meet with their faculty advisers at least once a quarter and their capstone mentors at least biweekly once their projects have been chosen.
2. Students must pass their oral and written qualifying exam at the end of the winter quarter in order to advance to candidacy and work on their capstone project.
3. Students must advance to candidacy at least two quarters before participating in the comprehensive exam.
4. Students must maintain the highest standards of academic integrity, professionalism, and cultural humility in the program, as reported by course directors, course assistants, capstone mentor, site mentors, academic advisers, staff, and other faculty.
5. Students must pass their oral and written comprehensive exam by the end of the summer quarter.
6. Students must pass all of their courses (grades of C or higher in any given class), and maintain a cumulative GPA of equal to or greater than 3.0. This is equivalent to a B average.
7. Students are expected to complete all degree requirements within one year.
Coursework includes lectures, seminars, case studies, debates and team-based projects. All courses are required, with the exception of a single elective opportunity in the winter quarter. Courses are subject to change.

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<td><strong>Fall Quarter</strong></td>
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<td>GLOBL HLTH 201A</td>
<td>Foundations of Global Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLOBL HLTH 201C</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Approaches in Global Health</td>
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<td>GLOBL HLTH 203A</td>
<td>Global Health Practice Seminar</td>
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<td>GLOBL HLTH 205</td>
<td>Global Health Policy</td>
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<td>GLOBL HLTH 206</td>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology</td>
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<td>Introduction to Biostatistics</td>
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<td><strong>Winter Quarter</strong></td>
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<td>GLOBL HLTH 202A</td>
<td>Communicable Diseases of Global Health</td>
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<td>GLOBL HLTH 202D</td>
<td>Social Determinants of Health</td>
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<td>Comparative Health Systems: Financing and Delivering Health</td>
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<td>GLOBL HLTH 202B</td>
<td>Health, the Environment and Non-communicable Disease</td>
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<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
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**Non-course Core Requirements**

- Global Grand Rounds