

## Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

### MEMO

**To:** Faculty Senate

**From:** Colby Kervick, Co-Chair Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

**Date:** 4/6/2023

**Re:** Approval of a proposal from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences for a new minor in  
Global Public Health

---

The CAC unanimously approved (18-0) a proposal for a new undergraduate minor in Global Public Health from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) at our April 6, 2023, meeting. No public comments were received during the 30-day circulation. The new minor will be administered by the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences (BHSC) in CNHS and will be offered starting in Fall 2023.

#### ***Program Description and Rationale***

The Global Public Health minor is for undergraduate students to examine public health and health care processes and systems at the global level. It is designed to emphasize interdisciplinary, integrative approaches to understanding global population health and support student leaders through participation in applied global learning. [OBJ]

The field of Global Public Health is focused on the pursuit of equitable, community-driven and evidence-based practices and policies to improve the health of populations globally. The Public Health Sciences major, in the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences at UVM was recently accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health and has seen a rising demand for Global Public Health-focused content at the undergraduate level. Faculty in the Public Health Sciences major have been fielding requests from students from across campus for additional opportunities to engage with Global Public Health coursework for the past few years. Focus group data from Public Health Sciences Majors reveals that students not only want health-focused minors, but specifically are seeking a minor in Global Public Health.

The Public Health Sciences program currently offers a global health course (cross-listed with ANTH) that is open to all majors. Enrollment in this course is over 150 students a year. Additionally, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences has, for many years, been offering students opportunities to engage in short, health-focused travel courses on academic breaks and in the summer sessions. The Public Health Sciences undergraduate program is also deeply committed to and engaged in community-based and experiential learning through the lens of public health and supports students in partnering with communities around public health issues.

This minor will provide students with an intentionally scaffolded curriculum, grounded in Public Health frameworks and focused on building applied skills that will allow students to be prepared for immediate employment and opportunities in Global Public Health, and capitalize on expertise in the Department of Biomedical and Health Science to meet student demand. While there is currently a Concentration in Global Health in the Anthropology Major and a Global Health focus track in the Anthropology minor, this new minor in Global Public Health will be distinct in its application of and skill-building around Public Health approaches and will not require a focus on anthropological ones.

#### ***Justification and Evidence for Demand***

The field of Global Public Health is focused on the pursuit of equitable, community-driven and evidence-based practices and policies to improve the health of populations globally. The Public Health Sciences major, in the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences at UVM was recently accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health and has seen a rising demand for Global Public Health-focused content at the undergraduate level. Faculty in the Public Health Sciences major have been fielding requests from students from across campus for additional opportunities to engage with Global Public Health coursework for the past few years. Focus-group data from Public Health Sciences Majors reveals that students not only want health-focused minors, but specifically are seeking a minor in Global Public Health.

Research conducted for the University's Strategic Enrollment Plan found there was a perceived lack of global/international engagement opportunities at UVM. One of the 2017-2020 strategic goals and current initiatives by the Division of Enrollment Management is to 1) expand the number of exchange programs and 2) increase student participation in exchange programs. This minor would support these two University-identified priorities by having a focal point for undergraduates who are interested in Global Public Health and through supporting the development of and participation in Applied Global Learning. Furthermore, this minor specifically supports the "Catamount Global" initiative.

As outlined in UVM's strategic vision to "Amplify our Impact," developing and strengthening partnerships around study-abroad and experiential-learning activities is essential. This minor will support and expand community engagement and impact through the inclusion of an integrated, applied experience for students to work either globally or locally with a global population. An additional identified priority is focused on building on UVM's strengths in the area of 'healthy societies and healthy minds.' The Global Public Health Minor supports this priority through a focus on sustainable solutions with global applications and impact through cross-disciplinary collaborations and partnerships. Finally, the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion identified international inclusion and global education as one of the 5 key strategic priorities for UVM to create an inclusive community. The minor in Global Public Health is an essential component to creating stronger global education and global student body at UVM.

### ***Relationship to Existing Programs***

The core courses will be offered by the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences, with HSCI 2100 being offered as a cross-list, jointly with the Health and Society (HSOC 2100)/Anthropology (ANTH 2191) programs.

The most closely related minor is the Global Studies minor, which explores global issues from political science, economic, sociological, and anthropological lenses. The Global Public Health minor specifically focuses on global public health and public health sciences.

There could potentially be a few elective courses that overlap in the minors, but they are very different minors—with Global Public Health minor core classes being based out of the Public Health Sciences Program and electives that focus on global issues specifically through a 'public health and health sciences' lens. This minor will provide students the ability to look at global infectious disease, health care systems including Universal Health Care Coverage and other population health issues in public health.

In contrast, the global health focus track in the Anthropology minor requires an anthropological focus.

The Health and Society minor requires either SOC 1300: Health Care in America or ANTH 1190: Global Health, Development and Diversity, rather than both, so an HSOC minor would not need to focus on global health.

Dean Falls of the College of Arts & Sciences says in a letter of support:

"These minors, while having themes in common to Health & Society, the Concentration in Global Health in the Anthropology major and the Global Health focus track in the Anthropology minor, are solid additions to UVM's health-focused curricula."

The email exchange between Dr. Amiel, Dr. Shea and Dr. Stickler appended to the proposal in addition to the program description also make it clear that this minor has a “PUBLIC health and SKILL building focus”, in contrast to the existing programs.

**Curriculum**

18 credit hours; 12 required core and 6 elective course hours.

\*New courses; Course Action Forms have been submitted

Required Courses

Number	Name	Credits
HSCI 2100/ ANTH 2191	Foundations of Global Health	3
HSCI 2190*	Global Public Health Practice	3
HSCI 3200*	Pressing issues in Global Public Health	3
Varied	Applied learning : Approved Travel Course or Experiential Learning with Global Population	3
<i>Given examples:</i>	HSCI 2991 : Public Health Initiative	
	HLTH 2770 : Iceland Thermal Springs	
	HLTH 3100 : Health and Culture : Oaxaca	
	HLTH 3410 : Exploring Healthcare Systems	
	EDSP 3899 : Global Perspectives on Building Resilience in Families, Schools and Communities	
	Study Abroad Program	
	Other opportunities as considered on an individual basis in consultation with the Minor Director and as UVM course offerings increase	

Elective Courses – 6 additional credits		CH
ANTH 1190	Global Health Devl and Diversity	3
ASCI 1090	One Health	3
CDAE 1020	World, Food, Population, Development	3
GRS 1500	Intro to Global Studies	3
ANTH 2170	Culture, Health and Healing	3
ANTH 3192	Anthropological Research in Global Health	3
CDAE 2020	Sustainable Community Dev	3
ENSC 2300	Global Environmental Assessment	3
GEOG 1770	Geography, Race and Ethnicity in the US	3
GEOG 2250	Global Environmental Change	3
GRS 4500	Seminar in Global Studies	3
HLTH 2050	Cultural Health Care	3
NFS 5245	Nutrition for Global Health	3
POLS 2560	Int'l Environmental Governance	3
POLS 3280	Global Justice	3
SOC 2210	Global Deviance	3

The program requires experiential learning, to be satisfied by either an appropriate travel study course or unpaid internship. Students may meet this requirement via travel or participation in a local program or situation working with global populations based locally. J. Dickinson asked for clarification about

availability of opportunity and support to satisfy this requirement on behalf of the subcommittee and received this response:

From Dr. Eyal Amiel - "While travel course opportunities are envisioned as options to meet this requirement of this Minor, an important pathway to meeting this aspect of the Minor will be to house and administer local internship-for-credit opportunities that work with global populations here in the greater Burlington-area community. One example is a partnership currently in development with the Winooski school district which serves a rich and diverse student community that is global in scope. This internship-based coursework would have a combination of academic work and hands-on applied experiential learning with global-population-serving local constituents. We will be leveraging the rich working relationships the Public Health program has built with many local public health organizations and modeling a framework that will be similar to the CAS "Communities of Practice" model. Deb Hinchey, Public Health Program Director, was awarded the Outstanding New Service-Learning Faculty Award by the Office of Community-Engaged Learning (CELO) last year and is currently a Kroepsch-Maurice Faculty Fellow in Community-Engaged Learning this year. The program will utilize her (and other program faculty's) deep expertise in developing community-engaged learning opportunities to further grow current options in place for this work. In line with the Communities of Practice model, we anticipate being able to serve around 30 students per semester for these opportunities, above and beyond the number of students who complete this requirement through travel-learning courses."

### ***Admission Requirements and Process***

All majors are eligible. HSCI 2100 has a pre-req of sophomore standing.

ANTH majors with a Concentration in Global Health, ANTH minors following the global health focus track, and HSOC majors/minors will need to pay special attention to course overlap.

### ***Anticipated Enrollment and Impact on Current Programs***

Current enrollment in relevant coursework is between 60-100 students. The program also anticipates being able to support approximately 30 students per term for the required 3 credits of experiential learning, in addition to an unknown number of students who choose to satisfy this requirement by international study opportunities.

The addition of this minor will increase course enrollments in core courses (HSCI 2100) within public health sciences, where existing capacity is available.

Some elective courses may overlap at times with the existing Global Studies and Health and Society majors and minors.

### ***Advising***

The Minor Director will offer advising for students enrolled in this minor.

The CAC subcommittee asked for clarification about how academic advising for students in the new minor will be made available. The reply, from Prof. Eyal Amiel, the director of BSHC, is that advising will follow the structure for of the group-advising system of the Public Health undergraduate major within BSHC: "We do have a fairly robust group advising system for the Public Health undergraduate major, so we intend to leverage that current strength of the program's faculty. There will be clear guidance and 'curriculum sheets' for each Minor available online for any advisors from outside the department who advise our minors."

### ***Staffing Plan, Resource Requirements, and Budget***

There are no anticipated new faculty or staff appointments associated with this minor.

A. First year costs in addition to current budget:

An existing faculty member in the department will be allocated 7% effort to administer this new program. As well as faculty workload for the CEs associated with the new minor courses (HSCI 2190 - 3 credits, and HSCI 3200 – 3 credit).

B. Total costs for first five years in addition to current budget:

An existing faculty member in the department will be allocated 7% effort (adjusted for enrollment) each year to administer this new program.

### ***Evidence of Support***

The proposal included letters of support from the following:

- Dean of CAS
- Dean of CEMS
- Dean of CALS
- Acting Dean of GSB
- Interim Dean of RSEN
- Dean of Libraries
- Co-Directors of the Global and Regional Studies Program
- Jennifer Strickler, Dept. of Sociology

14 of 14 available Public Health Sciences faculty voted in favor of this minor.

### ***Summary***

The CAC believes the proposers have clearly described the new Global Public Health minor and provided justification and evidence of its value to UVM students and of its consonance with UVM's strategic vision and with the Provost's academic success goals.

If approved by the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees, this program will be implemented starting Fall 2023.