Introduction

This document only explains ways to complete the field experience. By and large, it does not discuss the costs of completing the experience or how to find the money, when in your college career you should try to do a field experience, common problems with experiences that students ask us to consider as possible field experiences, or anything else. For some advice on those topics, please see the “Global Health Field Experiences” page of the Certificate in Global Health web site (http://ghi.wisc.edu/undergraduate-certificate/global-health-field-opportunities/). We do want to emphasize that completing this requirement can be expensive and that preparing in advance to cover the costs of a field experience is important.

The field experience must carry at least one credit but can otherwise be any course, internship, service learning program, or other experience related to global health that is approved by the Executive Committee of the Certificate in Global Health. While we anticipate that many students will meet this requirement abroad, there are also approved and potentially approvable field experiences to be found within the US.

Whatever you do to meet our field experience requirement, it must be for credit, must cover essential content in global health, and must involve oversight by faculty. There are at least six possible routes that do or could incorporate these elements. Briefly, they are:

1) The Certificate’s own preapproved global health field experiences
2) “Traditional” study abroad with a global health component
3) Global health-focused semester or summer-long study abroad
4) Worldwide Internship
5) Inter-L&S Internship
6) Miscellaneous other credit-bearing experiences (theses, capstones, independent studies, other major/college-specific internships, etc.)

These six routes are described in the next section and are also summarized in a table at the end of this document. The first route involves own preapproved field experiences. These are the “easy” choice (if you complete one, you’ve met our requirement for sure), but they’re too short and/or otherwise not ideal for some people, especially those who are saving their money and extra time for a summer- or semester-long study abroad experience. Routes 2-6 give you the flexibility to find or create an experience that perhaps more closely meets your budget, subject interests, and schedule than our own courses. However, because we need to know what you will be doing, choosing any of these options requires that you obtain approval of the experience in advance by the Certificate’s executive committee. To start that process, see “Applying for consideration of a nonstandard field experience” on the Certificate’s “Global Health Field Experiences” page. In general, before you spend a lot of time looking into a field experience option other than our preapproved courses, we STRONGLY recommend talking the hypothetical experience over with a Certificate advisor (to do that, see the Certificate’s staff list at http://ghi.wisc.edu/undergraduate-certificate/#5).

Be aware that the executive committee does not accept all proposals for nonstandard field experiences, and that those that are approved sometimes have to be modified repeatedly to “count” for the Certificate. Also, if you are a freshman or sophomore, the chances of getting a nonstandard field experience approved are very slim -- most beginning college students just don’t have the experience to make good use of a field experience where connections to global health may not be explicit.

Where possible, this document gives examples of field experiences in categories 2-6 that our executive committee has accepted from individual students.
Possible routes to completion of the field experience requirement

1) Preapproved global health field experiences

Most students will meet the field experience requirement by participating in a global health field experience created for this purpose by the Undergraduate Certificate in Global Health. In 2011, we had 13 such courses. In 2012, there are 19. Nursing students (and only Nursing students!) can also consider any section of Nursing 419, the Community Health Nursing Practicum, to be a preapproved global health field experience. Nursing 419 has its own schedule and rules, but here are a few key aspects of our own courses:

- **Typically announced each year in November for the following calendar year.** Details on the courses and instructions on how to apply are posted on the certificate’s web site (http://ghi.wisc.edu/undergraduate-certificate/). When we are not taking applications, the “Global Health Field Experiences” page of the web site has a summary of courses offered in the most recent year for your reference.
- **Mostly short, just 1-2 weeks in length;** a few that are as long as 6 or 8 weeks involve a mandatory short group session at the beginning followed by individual or small-group internships at the end that are either mandatory or optional.
- **Mostly international, taking place in countries all over the world, but with some domestic offerings.** If we add courses in 2013 and beyond, we hope to add more courses inside the US both to keep costs down for you and to highlight the global health issues and solutions being explored here.
- **Mostly run during the summer, though a few take place in part or in full during winter break or spring break.** Some have an on-campus preparation or reflection part that meets during the semester before or the semester after the time when you go abroad.
- **Cover a wide variety of topics in global health.** 2012 topics range from the importance of small business development to the agricultural practices of subsistence farmers. Because undergraduate students are not trained medical professionals, our courses typically do not involve work with patients in hospitals and clinics (though you may visit those facilities and talk with staff there during some courses).
- **Will largely be the same from year to year, but will vary somewhat based on availability of the course leaders, financial support from the Certificate, and other factors.** In any given year, courses will be announced in approximately early November for the following year. If you are not already on our listserv and want to be sure to receive announcements about field courses, please go here (http://ghi.wisc.edu/undergraduate-certificate/drop-in-advising/) for instructions on how to subscribe.
- **Vary widely in cost, from a few hundred to thousands of dollars.** All of our courses are subsidized at least in part by the Certificate in Global Health, but all of them involve at least some costs you or your parents must pay. In some cases, courses where the travel, accommodations, and other logistics are inexpensive end up costing more than we would like because you also have to pay tuition (this is especially true for courses that take place during the summer and in the US).
- **Carry anywhere from 1-4 credits.** You only need one credit of field experience to meet our requirement, but if you get more, it can replace credit that you would otherwise earn by taking elective classes.
- **Have limited spaces.** You may have your heart set on getting into a particular course, but that just may not work out -- in 2011 and 2012, for example, some of our courses had more than four times as many applicants as there were spaces. Being prepared to participate in widely varying courses is important.
- **Sometimes have admission requirements.** In some cases, your GPA must be over 2.5 or 2.75 to enter a particular course. Other courses have a language requirement (e.g., conversational Spanish) or other course prerequisite. Any such requirements are noted when course descriptions are posted each November.

2) “Traditional” study abroad with a global health component

Some departments at UW run study-abroad programs that range in length from a few weeks summer or semester. In some cases these are organized and managed by the departments themselves, but in many more cases they are managed either by International Academic Programs (IAP, also called simply “Study Abroad,” with offices in the Red...
Gym) or CALS International Programs (with offices in Ag. Hall). IAP also connects students with hundreds of programs run by institutions outside UW. Some of these institutions are also colleges or universities, while others are non-profit or for-profit companies.

Whether you connect with these programs through IAP or CALS, they often involve sending you to university X in country Y to do something that looks a lot like pursuing a particular major at UW-Madison -- you live in a dorm (either with other Americans, with students from all over the world, or with students from the host country), attend lectures and discussions, and do your homework. Some also build in an internship and/or a home stay outside a dorm.

Programs like this are generally very structured and safe. In many cases you can also take courses for your major, for general education requirements, for pre-med prep, or for some other purpose, and transfer them back UW-Madison. The down side to programs like this is that, with some exceptions, we wouldn’t accept them as field experiences because they don’t involve global health and/or don’t involve field work (meeting, observing, and working with public health professionals, nonprofits and community groups).

You can still make a program like this work for our field experience if you can find something to add on that carries credit and gives you both global health content and time in the field.

A couple of examples:

- Spanish major goes to Spain to study for a semester in Seville on a program she learns about through IAP. Most of her coursework is Spanish grammar and conversation, but she finds a course titled “Introduction to European Public Health” that involves visits to hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, school lunch centers, and many other health care delivery settings in both Spain and France. The student gets a syllabus, and it seems that at each site visited, she will meet and talk with staff (and, in some cases, patients or clients) about what they do. The student will also spend time discussing the visits with classmates and a faculty mentor and will write up her experiences in a paper. She submits the syllabus and an explanation of her plans to the Certificate in Global Health executive committee and has the course approved for three credits of field experience.

- Biology major goes to the Dominican Republic on a program she learns about through IAP. She takes a mix of courses in biology and Spanish, but the school she attends also has a public health program and she enrolls in two introductory public health courses with classmates who are mostly Dominican nursing students. Both courses involve substantial time spent in well-supervised visits to hospitals and clinics as well as in internship with a community group that is working to address a local public health issue. She submits syllabi for the two courses and a description of the overall experience to the Certificate in Global Health executive committee and has both courses together approved as six credits of field experience.

3) Global health-focused semester or summer-long study abroad

In contrast to option two, above, where you are primarily taking coursework for your major or general education requirements, there are programs out there that involve spending an entire summer or semester doing work in public or global health. Some of these programs are run by colleges and universities, while others are run by non-profit or for-profit groups. Programs like this usually have a more-or-less narrow focus (for example, traditional herbal medicine, urban environmental health, or community empowerment) that you explore through a combination of site visits, internships and service learning with community groups, lectures and discussions with host-country experts, home stays with local people, and perhaps some language study.

If you find a course like this that you can get approved by the Certificate in Global Health executive committee and are able to get credit for it at UW-Madison through the Study Abroad Office, then this could count as your field experience for at least one credit (and probably more). Be aware that some providers of experiences like this either a) let you do things you should not (in terms of working with patients in health care settings, in particular) and/or b) are not recognized academic entities such that you can’t get credit for working with them.

An example:
The School for International Training (SIT; http://www.sit.edu/) offers study abroad programs in global health that would, in most cases, meet our field experience requirement if you transferred the credit to UW through the Study Abroad Office. SIT’s programs involve either extensive work on one issue in one country or travel to four or five countries across which you compare the state of a particular global health issue. These programs are excellent but very expensive because you are paying someone to manage a lot of complex travel, housing, food, and other logistics for you.

4) Worldwide Internship

The International Internship Program (IIP; http://internships.international.wisc.edu/) coordinates an experience called the Worldwide Internship (http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/programs/program.asp?program_id=343) that is offered in partnership with the International Academic Programs office and is especially well-suited to those who want to do something for a whole semester or summer and have a strong interest in a global health topic that is not covered in any other available field course. If you can identify a country or region where you’d like to be (anywhere at all outside the US), a global health topic you want to work on in that country, and one or more organizations you’d like to work with in that place on that topic (could be a governmental or inter-governmental agency, a nonprofit group, or a corporation), then you start working with those organizations to see if one of them will take you on as an intern. If you have no idea where to start looking for an organization, both IIP and Certificate staff can provide you with some pointers, but you will need to do much of the exploration yourself.

Once you have a possible internship placement identified, IIP will work with you to “vet” both the organization and the potential internship. Among other things, they will find out if the organization has a real staff and a real office and really does (or genuinely tries to do) what it says it does. They will also work with the organization and with you to figure out various aspects of what you would do there -- would you work for at least 96 hours? Would you have a mentor who would guide your learning and work? Would you have some kind of project that you were responsible for completing?

If you and IIP identify what seems like a solid internship, they will have you enroll in International Studies 320 for the term when you are planning to do the internship. IS 320 is 3-credit online course that is offered during the fall, spring, and summer terms, and it is a real course with a real instructor (based in Madison) and fellow students who are doing internships all over the world. As you do your internship, you go to an internet cafe or somehow get online each week, join discussions, and complete other assignments to help you evaluate and make sense of the organization, the internship, and your cultural experiences.

IS 320 is a highly unusual course because you can take it (and only it) for an entire semester and still maintain full-time student status. This can let you take a semester “off” in the middle of your college years to do a really substantial internship abroad, something that is otherwise hard to do until after you graduate. The benefits of doing it while in college are several: the online course can help you get much more out of an internship than just doing it on your own; you can finish your internship and potentially follow up on newly developed interests during your remaining time in school; and finally, many internships are only open to people who are still formally college students. Doing the Worldwide Internship can also be a way to spend a long time abroad at a lower cost than you would pay to have someone else manage the term for you.

Because of the substantial amount of work involved in setting up an internship and related logistics, the cutoff for lining up an internship is 2-3 months before the term you want to do it. See the IIP web site (above) for precise deadlines.

Although they know about the Certificate in Global Health, the staff who run the Worldwide Internship are not affiliated with the Certificate and are only responsible for helping you figure out a solid internship with a reputable organization -- they cannot certify that your internship will meet our field experience requirement. For that, you need to involve certificate staff and get formal approval from the Certificate’s executive committee. Ideally you would pursue that approval at the same time you were formalizing your internship with the help of International Internship Program staff.

Examples:
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To learn more about this option, see ttp://

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to certificate staff.

As with the Worldwide Internship, the staff who run the Inter-L&S Internship can approve an internship for you and get you into the associated course but cannot approve it as a global health field experience. For that, you need to talk to certificate staff. Because there are no international travel details involved, it is possible to set up an Inter-L&S internship on relatively short notice compared to the Worldwide Internship.

To learn more about this option, see ttp://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/careers/students/internship_prep.html

As of May 2012, we have not yet had a student meet our field experience requirement using L&S 260 and are unable to give you examples. We expect that will change soon!

5) Inter-L&S Internship – This course is very much like the Worldwide Internship (#4 above) in that you identify a topic and organization of interest to you, set up an internship with them during the summer, fall, or spring, and enroll in an online course that helps you think critically about the internship experience. Unlike the Worldwide Internship, the Inter-L&S Internship must take place somewhere inside the US, and the associated online course (Inter-L&S 260) is just one credit. Despite the name, you do not have to be an L&S student to enroll -- students from any major can take the course.

As with the Worldwide Internship, the staff who run the Inter-L&S Internship can approve an internship for you and get you into the associated course but cannot approve it as a global health field experience. For that, you need to talk to certificate staff. Because there are no international travel details involved, it is possible to set up an Inter-L&S internship on relatively short notice compared to the Worldwide Internship.

To learn more about this option, see ttp://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/careers/students/internship_prep.html

As of May 2012, we have not yet had a student meet our field experience requirement using L&S 260 and are unable to give you examples. We expect that will change soon!

6) Miscellaneous other credit-bearing experiences (theses, capstones, independent studies, other major/college-specific internships, etc.) – Some majors on campus (for example, the CALS biology major) either allow or require their students to complete a thesis or capstone project involving research guided by one or more faculty. Most majors allow students to complete an independent study, also guided by a faculty member, that may or may not involve research. If you can set up or modify a thesis, capstone, or independent study to include both content in global health AND a field component that involves meeting with, observing, and potentially working alongside global health professionals, then that experience could be your field experience for the certificate. This can be a difficult route for several reasons. First and foremost, you have to find a faculty member whose research and teaching relate to what you want to do and who is willing to supervise your experience. Then, you have to set up an experience that includes field work and get it approved by both the faculty member and the Certificate in Global Health. It can be done, but it’s not easy.

There are also many internship options on campus besides the Worldwide Internship and the Inter-L&S Internship. For a list of many of them, see:


If you can somehow get credit for your internship and can get it approved by the certificate’s executive committee, it could be your field experience. To get our approval, the internship would of course have to be related to global health and probably need to have some sort of supervisory structure (that is, an associated course led by a UW instructor)
like the Worldwide Internship and the Inter-L&S Internship.

Examples:

- Student in CALS biology capstone -- A student went to Ghana for an entire spring semester and worked in an orphanage for HIV-positive children. In addition to talking extensively with orphanage staff about their work and helping to care for the children, she created a guide to help the staff assign children with little or no formal schooling to grade levels. She also visited local health clinics and took a trip to a very remote village with a small clinic of its own. She wrote up her experiences in the form of both an academic paper about HIV orphans and a reflective paper based on a journal she kept, and submitted both papers and the guide mentioned above to Certificate staff for approval. We don’t know the details of how she got this approved as her biology capstone experience, but it shows up on her transcript as 3 credits of Biology 399.

- Student in Anthropology independent study -- Supervised by a UW anthropology faculty member, a student makes two trips (one over winter break, one for a whole summer) to Belize to conduct research for a 699-level Anthropology independent study exploring the concept of medical pluralism (the use, often by the same person, of different kinds/models of medical care). Belize has complex pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial history, and the student’s interviews with residents, medical practitioners, and government officials of a small town (summarized in a lengthy paper) explore in very nuanced way the reasons why different people rely on traditional medical providers, “modern” or “Western” ones, or some combination of those (and others, like witchcraft). The student gets three credits in Anthropology for his work but also submits his paper to the Certificate and gets approval.

**TABLE COMPARING FIELD EXPERIENCE ROUTES IS ON THE NEXT PAGE.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Needs approval by Certificate staff?</th>
<th>Work required to start the experience</th>
<th>Range of topics</th>
<th>Flexibility of duration, timing, commitment</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Preapproved field courses</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Apply in Dec. or Jan.</td>
<td>Limited to what the Certificate offers (approx. 20 courses/year)</td>
<td>Mostly 1-2 weeks, some longer; most during the summer, a few during other break periods. May need to plan up to a year ahead given timing of application process. You will probably be doing only global health work for the duration of the course.</td>
<td>Variable, from a few hundred to thousands of dollars</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Traditional study abroad with a global health component</td>
<td>YES, ideally in advance (you can ask afterward but we might say no).</td>
<td>You identify and apply to both the larger program and the global health component and get approval from the Certificate</td>
<td>Very broad, though finding a program with a suitable global health component can be hard.</td>
<td>Most are during fall and spring semesters, but some happen during the summer; most are an entire semester or summer long. Typically need to enroll months in advance, need to allow at least 10 weeks for Certificate approval. Global health will be a small part timewise of what you are doing.</td>
<td>Typically many thousands of dollars</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Global health-focused study abroad</td>
<td>YES, ideally in advance (you can ask afterward but we might say no).</td>
<td>You identify and apply to the program and get approval from the Certificate</td>
<td>Very broad, though finding a reputable provider from whom you can get credit can be hard</td>
<td>Most are during fall and spring semesters, but some happen during the summer; most are an entire semester or summer long. Typically need to enroll months in advance, need to allow at least 10 weeks for Certificate approval. You will probably be doing only global health work for the duration of the course.</td>
<td>The most expensive of all field courses (can be &gt;$20k for a semester), though they can be excellent</td>
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<td>4. Worldwide Internship</td>
<td>YES, ideally in advance (you can ask afterward but we might say no).</td>
<td>You identify the country, topic, organization of interest, do legwork to line up internship and get approval from Inter-L&amp;S Internship Program and Certificate</td>
<td>Extremely broad, though finding an organization that is both reputable and willing to take you as an intern can be hard.</td>
<td>The associated course is offered every fall, spring, and summer, but you would need to set up your internship &gt;2 months before you planned to do it and allow at least 10 weeks for Certificate approval. The amount of your time spent doing global health work depends on specifics of your internship.</td>
<td>Less than most semester/summer-long study abroad, but still in the thousands of dollars</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Inter-L&amp;S Internship</td>
<td>YES, ideally in advance (you can ask afterward but we might say no).</td>
<td>You identify the topic and organization of interest, do legwork to line up internship and get approval from Inter-L&amp;S Internship staff and Certificate</td>
<td>Extremely broad, though finding an organization that is both reputable and willing to take you as an intern can be hard.</td>
<td>The associated course is offered every fall, spring, and summer. Lead time between finding an internship and participating in the course can be short but you need to allow at least 10 weeks for Certificate approval. The amount of your time spent doing global health work depends on specifics of your internship.</td>
<td>Potentially quite cheap or even free if done in Madison, more expensive in other US locations but likely cheaper than going abroad.</td>
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<td>6. Theses, capstones, independent studies, misc. others</td>
<td>YES, ideally in advance (you can ask afterward but we might say no).</td>
<td>You identify faculty member(s) as potential supervisor(s), agree with them on work to be done, and get approval from the Certificate.</td>
<td>Extremely broad, though identifying appropriate faculty members and finding one willing to supervise you can both be hard</td>
<td>Could be done any fall, spring, or summer when faculty agreed to it. Experiences like this are often (though not always) set up at least a few months in advance. Global health will be a small part timewise of what you are doing.</td>
<td>Potentially very cheap, but variable depending on specifics of the experience you set up.</td>
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