Global Health addresses an urgent social concern and constitutes a powerful interdisciplinary intellectual synthesis aimed at understanding and productively intervening in the many processes of illness and healing across the globe. It is an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasizes transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care.

The BAGH provides students with in-depth understanding of factors related to illness, health, and healing from a comparative perspective that transcends national borders and regional interests, and takes cultural difference and cross-cultural diversity fully into account. The BAGH helps prepare students to pursue advanced degrees and careers in 1) medicine, dentistry, and nursing; 2) medical social sciences and medical humanities; 3) public and private sector service provision (NGOs, government & international institutions, philanthropies); 4) international health & health policy.

The major will require ten core courses, the primary function of which is to ground all students in the critical skills, analytic tools, and fluency in the debates expected of someone with a background in global health.

LOWER DIVISION CORE REQUIREMENTS: (12 units/3 courses) All students will take the following:

- HILD 30: History of Public Health
- SOCI 40: Sociology of Health Care Issues or SOCI 30: Science, Technology, and Society
- One course in Statistics: Choose one from PSYC 60, POLI 30, MATH 11/11L

UPPER DIVISION CORE REQUIREMENTS: (28 units/7 courses)

- ANSC 148: Global Health and Cultural Diversity
- GLBH 181: Essentials of Global Health
- MGT 173: Project Management in the Health Services
- One course in Epidemiology
- One course in Policy Analysis
- GLBH 150A: Capstone Seminar Part One
- GLBH 150B: Capstone Seminar Part Two

ELECTIVES: There are seven required electives. Five of these MUST be upper division. The elective requirement reinforces the interdisciplinary character of the BAGH with course work across four curricular categories:

1) medical social sciences – e.g. social and cultural context, economic and political factors
2) biological sciences – e.g. physiology of nutrition, infectious disease, environmental factors;
3) global processes, e.g. immigration, climate change, globalization, development
4) medical humanities – e.g. medical history, bioethics, literature.

GLOBAL HEALTH FIELD EXPERIENCE (GHFE): All students engage in at least 100 hours of supervised volunteer fieldwork at a research, service, or clinical site either in the United States or abroad.

SENIOR THESIS: All students write a thesis synthesizing research literature with their field experience or a related theme. Students present the results of their thesis at the annual Horizons of Global Health student research conference.

Website: globalhealthprogram.ucsd.edu

Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH)

Public Health seeks to improve human health by preventing disease, protecting the public from exposure to potential harm, and promoting healthy behaviors. The field of Public Health provides the research base, professional expertise and training programs to address the health of populations -- preventing illness and injuries in individuals, while focusing on identifying lifestyle and environmental conditions that prevent disease, promote health, and prolong life locally, nationally, and globally.

The BSPH provides a strong foundation for students looking to work in public health, pursue medical careers, law school, business professions, or graduate programs in public health. The BSPH at UC San Diego is offered by the School of Medicine, which is uniquely positioned at the intersection of primary care medicine and public health. In acknowledging public health’s role in the future of U.S. health care, the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) has been revised to include a section on social and behavioral sciences to ensure that our nation’s future physicians have broader training in public health disciplines.

The Public Health program at UCSD is built around five core disciplines:
1) Biostatistics: the application of statistical methods for analyzing public health data
2) Environmental and Occupational Health: the identification and prevention of hazardous exposures in air, water, and soil, prevention of occupational-related disease and injury, and regulatory/control policies
3) Epidemiology: the study of determinants and distributions of diseases and injuries at the population level, with a focus on contributing critical knowledge to inform disease prevention strategies
4) Health Policy: the structure, process, and outcomes of health services and policies affect the health of the population
5) Social and Behavioral Sciences: evaluations and interventions regarding personal behaviors that influence disease risk, severity, and prognosis.

LOWER DIVISION CORE REQUIREMENTS: (36 units/9 courses)

- Three courses in Biology from a specified list
- One course in Statistics: Choose one from PSYC 60 or MATH 11/11L
- Three courses in Social & Behavioral Sciences: ANTH 1, ANTH 23, ESYS 10, ENVR 30, HILD 30, PSYC 4, PSYC 6, SOCI 10, SOCI 40

UPPER DIVISION CORE REQUIREMENTS: (24 units/6 courses)

- FPMU 101A: Epidemiology & Biostatistics A
- FPMU 101B: Epidemiology & Biostatistics B
- FPMU 110: Health Behavior & Chronic Diseases
- FPMU 120: Health Policies for Healthy Lifestyles
- FPMU 130: Environmental & Occupational Health
- USP 143: The US Health-Care System

UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVES: (24 units/6 courses)

The elective requirement is designed to reinforce the interdisciplinary character of the field of Public Health. Students select courses from various fields including psychology, biological sciences, urban studies and planning, economics, ethnic studies, sociology, mathematics, environmental studies, and anthropology.

RESEARCH/FIELD EXPERIENCE: Students also have the opportunity to participate in research and public health programs with School of Medicine faculty through enrollment in FPMU 199. Up to 8 units of FPMU 199 may be used for elective credit.

Website: bsph.ucsd.edu

Questions? Contact the Global Health Program Academic Advisor Brittany Wright (bloy@ucsd.edu) or the Public Health Undergraduate Student Affairs Coordinator Laura Hurt via the Virtual Advising System (vac.ucsd.edu).