



# Global Health Program MA Info Session

*Presenter: Brittany Wright, MA - GHP MA Advisor*

# Applications are now open!



## Fall 2027 Application Deadline:

- Applications for our Fall 2027 cohort are open.
- Deadline to apply: **February 10th, 2027.**
  - i. *Applying early does not help chances of admission.*
  - ii. *Students currently enrolled in fall quarter should wait for their fall grades to post before submitting application to have most current grades.*

# *MA in Global Health*

- The UC San Diego Master of Arts (MA) degree in Global Health is open to all students.
- It is completed in one academic year.
- **Typical Student Profile:**
  - Students interested in applying to Ph.D and Med School Programs
  - Current undergraduates looking to pursue a career in the field of global health
  - Students who have completed a global health related experience
  - Working professionals

# What makes a good candidate?

passion

['pʌʃ(ə)n] **noun**

an intense desire or enthusiasm for something.

# *MA in Global Health*

Focuses on global health policy, health equity, social epidemiology, global health research and medical anthropology.

- **Social Epidemiology:** Studies how social, economic, and environmental factors influence health outcomes.
- **Global Health Research Methods:** Builds skills to design and analyze research addressing global health challenges.
- **Medical Anthropology:** Examines how culture shapes health beliefs, illness experiences, and care practices.
- **Global Health Policy & Diplomacy:** Explores global systems and strategies that shape international health action.
- **Program Management (Theory to Practice):** Develops ability to plan, implement, and evaluate sustainable, high-impact health programs.
- **Community Health Workers (CHWs):** Investigates the role, history, and professionalization of CHWs in promoting equitable care.

# What can you do with an MA?

It is increasingly recognized that the best health professionals will have interdisciplinary perspectives, social and cultural acuity (such as in cross-cultural settings) and team-oriented skills.

Prepares students for careers in the field of global health:

- Non-Governmental & Governmental Organizations (NGOs, WHO, CDC, USAID, etc.)
- Public and Community Health Programs
- Global Health Research & Policy
- Allied Health Professions and Medicine
- Academic or Doctoral Training (Ph.D., DrPH, etc.)

# Why now is a good time for a Global Health Degree

- **Health challenges cross borders.** Climate change, infectious diseases, and migration call for a global perspective.
- **Health inequities persist.** Understanding how social conditions and policy shape health helps inform effective solutions.
- **Communities need interdisciplinary approaches.** Global health connects public health with social science, medicine, and policy.
- **Research skills support meaningful action.** Graduate study prepares students to evaluate evidence and address complex health problems.
- **A global health degree supports varied career paths.** Students can build a foundation for research, community programs, policy work, or further professional study.

# Where do our students go post MA?

## Career Paths

- **Research & policy:** Clinical research, public health analysis, evaluation, and data analysis
- **Clinical & community health:** Care coordination, behavioral health, outreach, and health promotion
- **Program leadership:** Program coordination and project management

## Selected Employers

UC San Diego, Rady Children's Hospital, CDC Foundation, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, County of San Diego, and various community health organizations

## Further Graduate & Professional Study

Medicine (MD/DO), Public Health (PhD and MD/PhD), Nursing, Physician Assistant Studies, and Social Work

## Selected Institutions

UC San Diego, UC Irvine, UCLA, USC, and osteopathic medical schools

# Requirements to apply

- Completion of online application via Grad Apply
- 2 Essays/Writing Samples
- Resume/CV
- Statement of Purpose
  - Include interest, background, and how this program fits in with future goals
- Transcripts
- 2-3 Letters of Recommendation
  - One letter must be from a faculty member the student has worked with or taken a course with. The second letter must be from a faculty member or internship/field experience supervisor

# Application Requirements Cont...

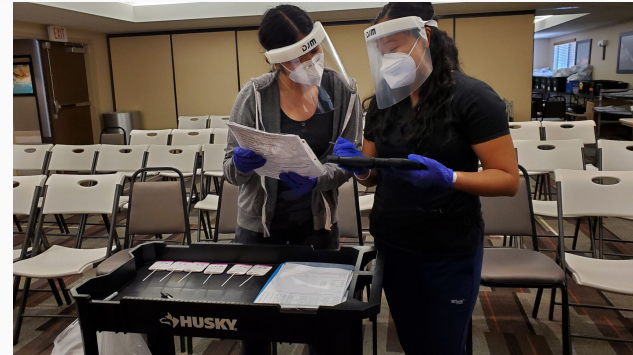
- Have received a bachelor's degree by the beginning of the program
- **Minimum of a 3.3 GPA**
- Have completed a ***global health field experience*** (international or domestic) or have postgraduate global health related volunteer or work experience (e.g. Peace Corps).
- Have completed undergraduate coursework in global health, medical social sciences, international studies or related field.

# What is a global health field experience?

“ Have completed a ***global health field experience*** (international or domestic) or have postgraduate global health related volunteer or work experience (e.g. Peace Corps)”

## Examples:

- Volunteering in a health clinic, food bank, or serving as a medical scribe.
- Global Health research position - e.g. studying diabetes in specific population.
- Studying abroad in a health related context
- For more ideas see our Global Health Field Experience page under the undergraduate tab.



# Application Fee

- U.S. Citizens & Permanent Resident Applicants: \$135.00
- International Applicants: \$155.00

More details:

<https://grad.ucsd.edu/admissions/requirements/application-fee-and-fee-waiver/index.html>

Students with financial need can apply for a fee waiver in the application portal.

# When do I apply?

- Fall/Winter of your senior year or anytime after.
- You must complete all requirements by the time the program begins in Fall.
- *For global health majors, all major core courses requirements should be completed by spring.*

# Program Requirements

**1**

**9 Courses**

**2**

**Maintain a 3.0 GPA**

In all coursework, both cumulatively and for each quarter.

**3**

**Comprehensive Exam & Portfolio**

Take a comprehensive exam and submit a portfolio upon graduation.

# Curriculum – 9 courses

## Core Courses

6 courses / 24 units

- **GLBH 200.** Global Health Masters Core Seminar (4)
- **GLBH 214.** GH & Program Management (4)
- **GLBH 215.** Community Health Workers (4)
- **GLBH 248.** Introduction to Global Health Research (4)
- **GLBH 249.** Social Epidemiology (4)
- **GLBH 260.** Global Health Policy (4)

## Elective Requirements

3 courses / 12 units

# Sample Plan

## Professional Track

9 courses / 36 units

### Fall

- **GLBH 200.** GH Seminar (4)
- **GLBH 248.** GH Research (4)
- **Elective** (4)

### Winter

- **GLBH 214.** Program Management in Global Health (4)
- **GLBH 249.** Social Epidemiology
- **Elective** (4)

### Spring

- **GLBH 215.** Community Health Workers
- **GLBH 260.** Global Health Policy (4)
- **Elective** (4)

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**Final Portfolio Due**

**Comprehensive Exam**  
(end of quarter – finals week)

*Students may not take additional courses outside the MA curriculum.*

# Sample Electives

- GLBH 201. Special Topics in Global Health
  - Design thinking for global health and health systems strengthening
  - Innovation by Design: Tackling the Sustainable Development Goals
- GLBH 111. Health Frontiers in Tijuana Internship
- GLBH 212. Experiencing Epidemics: Anthropologies of Infectious Diseases
- GLBH 241. Clinical Perspectives in Global Health
- HISC 280. Science and Public Policy
- GPEC 468. International Health Economics
- SIOB 289. Pollution, Environment, and Health

# Independent Research Opportunities (GLBH 299)



## Spring Enrollment

Enroll in spring quarter and count GLBH 299 toward one MA elective.



## Research Deliverables

Complete a 15-page research paper and a research poster.



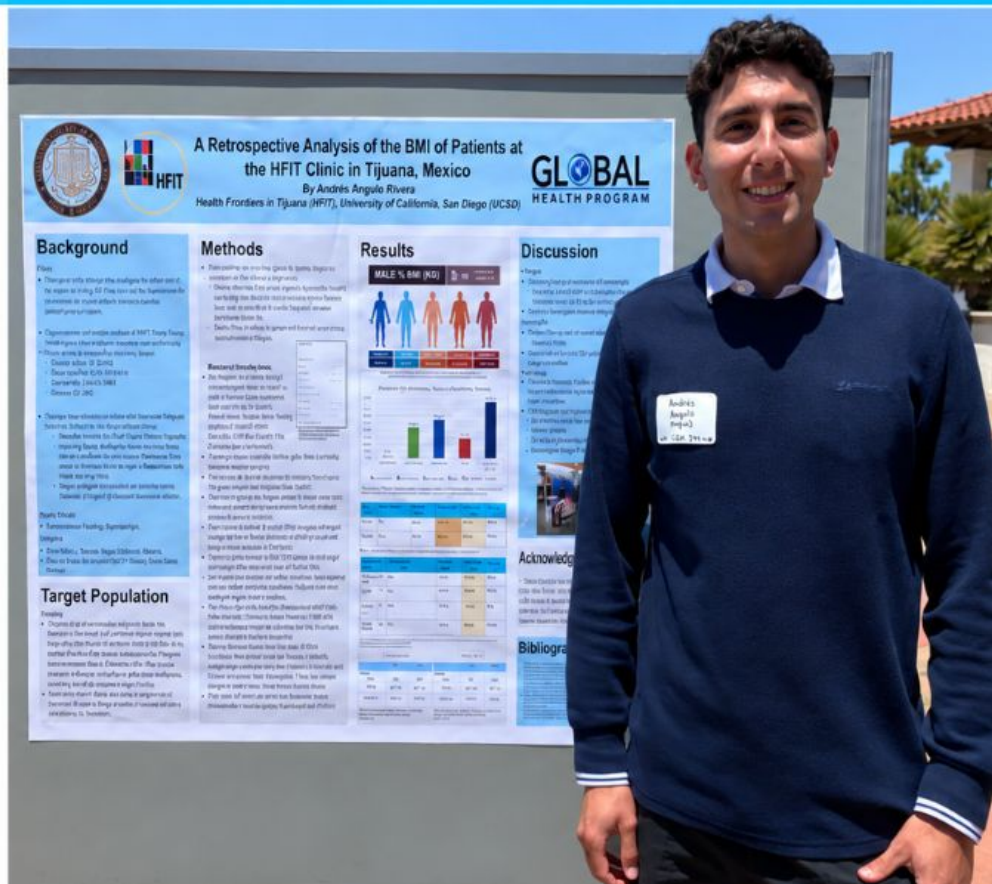
## May Symposium

Participate in the Horizons of Global Health Research Symposium in May.



## Faculty Collaboration

Students seek their own opportunities to work with faculty. Research may be a literature review or collaboration on faculty research.



# Sample fall schedule

- Course times can vary throughout the day.
- Most grad courses are once a week classes for 2 hours and 50 minutes or twice a week in the afternoon. So you may have classes 3-4 days per week.
- Some classes may be scheduled earlier in the day depending on instructor preference.

# Portfolio

At the end of the Spring Quarter, you will submit an electronic portfolio that contains the minimum items:

- 1) One single-spaced page an executive summary of your overall learning experience for the past year of your program.
- 2) A competency statement where you reflect on your interests, strengths, skills, and the areas or topics you wish to further pursue. You can refer to assignments, work or volunteer experiences, group projects, and other materials to support this statement.
- 3) A professional statement and goals.
- 4) Resume or CV.
- 5) Other work examples (assignments, opinion pieces, advocacy statements, etc.).

# Comprehensive Exam

- **Essay Exam** - closed note, half-day comprehensive exam that will consist of a selection of short answer questions (~10) and a selection of long essays (answer 3 of 5 options).

The exam will require demonstration of expertise in:

- 1) Global Burden of Disease
- 2) Institutions and Practices of Global Health Care Delivery
- 3) Expertise in a topical problem area (maternal and child health, infectious disease, mental health, nutrition and food security, refugee and immigrant health, natural and human caused disasters)
- 4) Expertise in a particular geographical region and the range of its global health challenges.

# Research & Professional Development Opportunities

- Apply to participate in Health Frontiers in Tijuana Program (HFIT)
- Seek out faculty research positions - GLBH 299
- Present in research conferences locally and nationally
- Professional development workshops

# Cost of Attendance

Graduate students are eligible to apply for financial aid.

|                                                 | Fall<br>2025       | Winter<br>2026     | Spring<br>2026     | Annual<br>Total    |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Registration Fees                               |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Registration Fee Payment Deadline               | 9/24/2025          | 12/19/2025         | 3/20/2026          |                    |
| <b>Systemwide Tuition and Fees</b>              |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Student Services Fee                            | \$430.00           | \$430.00           | \$430.00           | \$1,290.00         |
| Tuition                                         | \$4,380.00         | \$4,380.00         | \$4,380.00         | \$13,140.00        |
| <b>UC San Diego Fees</b>                        |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Grad Student Association Fee                    | \$21.29            | \$21.29            | \$21.29            | \$63.87            |
| University Center Fee                           | \$114.06           | \$114.06           | \$114.06           | \$342.18           |
| RIMAC Recreation Facility Fee                   | \$100.00           | \$100.00           | \$100.00           | \$300.00           |
| Canyonview Recreation Facility Fee              | \$22.00            | \$22.00            | \$22.00            | \$66.00            |
| Mandatory Health Insurance                      | \$1,940.00         | \$1,940.00         | \$1,940.00         | \$5,820.00         |
| CAPS/Student Mental Health Fee                  | \$38.63            | \$38.63            | \$38.63            | \$115.89           |
| Student Transportation Fee                      | \$75.00            | \$75.00            | \$75.00            | \$225.00           |
| PRESS Newspaper Fee                             | \$3.50             | \$3.50             | \$3.50             | \$10.50            |
| Document Fee (one-time newly admitted students) | \$100.00           | –                  | –                  | \$100.00           |
| <b>Total for California Residents</b>           | <b>\$7,224.48</b>  | <b>\$7,124.48</b>  | <b>\$7,124.48</b>  | <b>\$21,473.44</b> |
| <b>UC San Diego Nonresident Fees</b>            |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Nonresident Supplemental Tuition                | \$5,034.00         | \$5,034.00         | \$5,034.00         | \$15,102.00        |
| <b>Total for California Nonresidents</b>        | <b>\$12,258.48</b> | <b>\$12,158.48</b> | <b>\$12,158.48</b> | <b>\$36,575.44</b> |

# Employment

- Students may be employed up to 50% per quarter.
- A reader or TA position of 25 % + covers registration, tuition and health insurance for the quarter employed.
- GHP will have a few positions available each quarter - apply to all positions

# Programmatic Activities

QUARTERLY CONVERSATIONS  
IN GLOBAL HEALTH

## Water Without Borders: Global Challenges, Local Solutions



OCTOBER 14TH



3:00 P.M.



GREAT HALL,  
UC SAN DIEGO



**HORIZONS OF  
GLOBAL HEALTH  
RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUM**



# Resources



The Graduate Student Association (GSA) exists to advocate for the rights and interests of our diverse community, to provide for the enjoyment of social, cultural, and service-oriented events, and for the betterment of academic and non-academic life of all graduate and professional students at UC San Diego.

- Host Social Events throughout the year - networking events, socials, career nights, research opportunities

Funds available for conference travel, host grad events on campus and lounge improvements

**Global Health Program Conference Funding Available**



Contact us at [ma-globalhealth@ucsd.edu](mailto:ma-globalhealth@ucsd.edu)

[globalhealthprogram.ucsd.edu](http://globalhealthprogram.ucsd.edu)