

Global Health Concentration Program

Introduction:

The Global Health Concentration Program is an exciting new opportunity for University of Manitoba medical students to explore global health issues. Through extracurricular self study, local and global volunteering, GHCP allows students to appreciate a wide variety of global health topics in an interactive fashion. The framework of the Global Health Concentration Program was developed by the National Global Health Program of the Canadian Federation of Medical Students. The program is proposed to be introduced into every medical school in Canada.

Program Structure

GHCP has four major components:

1. Self-study
2. Local engagement
3. Global engagement
4. Knowledge translation

Self-study

Once a month, there is a three hour “Hot Topics” session in which five or six global health topics are covered. Each student is expected to present once per year on a well-researched topic of their choice. A half hour is allocated to each topic with approximately 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for Q&A and discussion.

Local Engagement

Students will learn about social determinants of health through Winnipeg agencies. This is an opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience with organizations and agencies which promote health in the community. Students may choose to volunteer at one particular agency, or volunteer with a different agency every month. There is a minimum time commitment of four hours per month.

*Global Engagement

Students will learn about social determinants of health through global travel. There are a number of programs that fulfill the global engagement requirement. This can be done through a fourth year elective, the Northern Medical Unit program or a summer program in any underserved community around the world. The experience should be four weeks minimum.

Knowledge Translation

Towards the end of the program, students will synthesize knowledge acquired by proposing a method to improve a global health issue of their choice.

Membership

Students apply in early September and receive notification of acceptance in mid September. Criteria for acceptance include an established interest in global health and commitment to attend programming. Previous experience in global health is not a requirement but may distinguish applicants. Students are expected to attend a minimum of six out of eight Hot Topics sessions.

Recognition

Students who complete the Global Health Concentration Program will receive a mention on their dean’s letter upon graduating from medical school. As mentioned, global engagement is not an absolute requirement of the program. Students who do not complete the global engagement component will receive a mention on their dean’s letter but there will be a distinction for those who complete the global engagement component.

* Students are not required to participate in the global engagement component in order to complete the GHC program. Although funding is available for certain programs, it is understood that not all students have the means to travel. It is, however, encouraged if you are able to do so.