



Subject:
Support for students from interdisciplinary backgrounds

Policy Number:
AQP-010

Department:
Academic Quality Policy

Effective/Revised Date:
1 August, 2020

Revision Date:
1 August, 2022

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PURPOSE

UGHE is committed to building future global health leaders and welcomes students from interdisciplinary backgrounds. Because some students enroll in the MGHD program without a health sciences background, UGHE has developed mechanisms to support these students in gaining a foundation in health sciences content throughout the Master of Science in Global Health Delivery program. These mechanisms are outlined in this policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students enrolled in the MGHD without a health-related background.

PROCEDURE

The following mechanisms are in place at UGHE to support students enrolled in the MGHD without a health-related background:

1. Academic & Support Staff Preparation

Prior to the first day of classes, the Office of Admissions and Records develops a profile of the incoming students and provides this to all academic and student support staff. The student profile outlines each student's background and informs staff of particular students who do not have a health sciences background and may need extra support.

2. Orientation Program

UGHE's orientation program is designed to orient students to life in Butaro and the academic requirements for the MGHD. In addition to providing comprehensive information on UGHE's academic policies and procedures, the orientation program allows students to begin exploring global health through pre-readings, pre-class tests, and supplementary materials. Students receive their academic materials and are introduced to academic staff and faculty members who can answer any questions or concerns they may have. Sessions are designed to introduce students to the key concepts they'll be using through the year, as well as introduce students to effective study skills and academic reading and writing skills. The orientation program also ensures that all students, regardless of their educational or professional backgrounds, are provided with a solid foundation at the beginning of the program.

3. Introductory Course: Principles of Global Health Equity

Principles of Global Health Equity (PGHE) is the first course of the MGHD and provides an interdisciplinary introduction to global health equity to engage students coming from a non health-related background. PGHE frames global health using a biosocial perspective, in order to better understand and critique efforts to deliver equitable health care throughout the world. The course draws from social theories, One Health, as well as various disciplines, including history, anthropology and epidemiology, to analyze and to explain global health challenges and attempts to address them. This course provides an excellent, straightforward introduction to global health for students who do not have a health sciences background.



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4. Office Hours

At UGHE, students from all backgrounds are encouraged to engage with academic staff and faculty members through designated office hours. Students are encouraged to make appointments with UGHE faculty or staff via email whenever they need assistance. Students who do not have a health sciences background are particularly encouraged to meet with their faculty for additional support. In addition to this, meetings between students and UGHE can be initiated by UGHE faculty or staff.

5. Journal Club and Seminar Series

Throughout the MGHD program, students are engaged in weekly seminars which are designed to support skills-building in global health. As part of this seminar series, UGHE will run a *Journal Club* for students to read and learn more about health issues in a group setting. This enables students without a health-related background to engage with key global health topics and to discuss these with faculty members and fellow students.

RESPONSIBILITY

Both students and UGHE are responsible for ensuring that students who are enrolled in the MGHD program without a health sciences background are supported.

UGHE academic staff and faculty must be aware of students who are enrolled without a health sciences background, and they must provide the necessary supplementary materials during UGHE's Orientation program and throughout the duration of the program. They must be receptive to students' requests for support, and hold regular office hours. Academic staff must closely monitor students' progress and highlight any concerns with other academic staff and faculty so that the concern is addressed promptly and appropriately.

UGHE students must be proactive in seeking out office hours and meetings with academic staff and faculty. If a student is having academic concerns, they must seek out support from staff and be vocal about their concerns. All students are obligated to communicate regularly with the relevant academic staff.

REVISION/REPLACING

This policy is effective as of August 1, 2020 and will be subject to a review in August 2022.

MATERIALS/DOCUMENTATIONS

Not applicable

Approved by:
Prof Abebe Bekele

Signed:
Abebe Bekele

Date:
September 08, 2020

