Global Health, B.S.

The Global Health major is a bioscience and public health program in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at UW-Madison.

Students in the major will study human health and well-being through population-level and planetary health perspectives. The major provides students with a foundation in disease biology and epidemiology, food systems, environmental health, and public health and policy, and also allows students to focus further within their area of interest. The curriculum features introductory coursework in biosciences and social sciences, a set of core courses, a variety of depth courses, and a culminating capstone course. Students are encouraged to complete a global health field experience as part of their major.

Global health is about improving health equitably for all people worldwide. The “global” in global health does not necessarily mean “international,” but rather refers to the scope of the issues addressed, spanning geographic and socioeconomic boundaries. A key facet of global health is a focus on disease and illness prevention and addressing root causes of health challenges around the world. Examples of global health issues include infectious disease, inadequate water and sanitation systems, climate change, food insecurity, maternal and child health, and racism in the medical system, to name a few.

The Global Health major fits well with a range of career interests and will benefit students interested in healthcare professions as well as those interested in research or policy careers related to the biological or social science facets of public health.