



## Honors in Global Health



### Program Purpose:

1. Encourage, support, and recognize medical students who work extensively with medically vulnerable global populations during their medical school careers.
  - a. MCW is committed to improving global health through both local and international engagement. Many students work with global populations or on global issues through service, education or research through Scholarly Pathways and their student organizations. *The purpose of this Honors distinction is to support and recognize sustained commitment, excellence, and impact over and beyond usual expectations.*
2. Improve and learn about the unique healthcare needs of patients, families, and communities from a “neighborhoods to nations” perspective through the development, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based global health projects.
  - a. Students distinguish themselves by assuming significant responsibility in the collaborative planning, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of focused, sustainable global health initiative(s).

**Program Eligibility:** Students submit their Honors in Global Health proposal prior to starting work on their honors thesis project. Criteria for consideration include:

- 1) **Academic Standing:** Student must be in good academic standing to participate in the Honors in Global Health program
- 2) **Prior to Application:** Student must demonstrate a sustained commitment to global health through research, education, or service, as well as leadership skills and personal responsibility during the first three semesters of medical school, including *both*:
  - a) Preparation/Formal Coursework (e.g., outstanding performance in the Global Health (GH) Pathway or approved alternative)
  - b) Global health engagement through scholarly activities including research, education, or service beyond minimum course requirements, which result in a measurable product (e.g., new partnership, pilot data, new curriculum, publication, community impact, website). Student must provide evidence of progress toward completion of a relevant scholarly project that will meet MCW graduation requirements, including (at minimum) a submitted and approved Scholarly Project Proposal.

### Application Requirements:

- 1) **Personal Statement:** Outline your overall global health accomplishments to-date, personal goals, and commitment to global health scholarship. Briefly describe the background/significance, goals/objectives, methods, and results of the scholarly project as well as your role in the project, how much time you committed to the work, and whether it has, or will be, published. Confirm that your Scholarly Project Proposal has been approved. Progress toward completion of the Scholarly Project (e.g., stage of project, timeline) and anticipated or actual results must be included in the application. Note: the Scholarly Project, regardless of its stage of completion, must NOT be the same project as that proposed for the Honors in Global Health (see below).
- 2) **Global Health Honors Project Proposal:** The Honors in Global Health Project Proposal should include the following sections: (A) Background and Significance (with citations), (B) Goals/Objectives (and how they extend the previous project, if applicable), (C) Methods (data sources, populations, data collection approaches, evaluation approaches, analysis approaches), (D) Anticipated Results, (E) Description of partnering organizations and the student’s role, (F) Description of how the project aligns with Consortium of Universities for Global Health core competencies (<https://www.cugh.org/online-tools/competencies-toolkit/>), (G) planned presentation format(s) and anticipated authorship position for the student, and (H) how the student plans to find the time to accomplish the project (i.e. Pathway

time, research elective). The Honors project may build upon the required Scholarly Project but must extend the work beyond that of the required scholarly project.

- 3) Learning/Mentorship Plan:** In addition, the student must provide an Individual Learning Plan that includes a commitment to dedicate time during and/or beyond the third year to relevant global health educational, research, service, and leadership activities. This must include at least two of the following:
- i) Sustained commitment to the GH Pathway (beyond mandatory requirements)
  - ii) Enrollment in an M3 or M4 Honors elective
  - iii) global health research or initiative supervised by an MCW faculty mentor

**4) Letters of Support from Faculty Mentor and Partner(s) (letter from partner(s) if/as appropriate):** Mentors must outline support for the project and willingness to support the student through project completion and attest that 1) the student has made significant accomplishments to-date consistent with the Honors in Global Health goals; 2) the student is taking a primary lead role on the project in collaboration with the global health partner (when applicable), and 3) the project adheres to global health scholarship principles.

**Table 1.**

GLASSICK'S CRITERIA	GLOBAL HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP
<b>Clear Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared goals of importance to community served</li> <li>• Build on community-identified strengths and needs</li> <li>• "SMART" objectives (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound)</li> </ul>
<b>Adequate Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of scientific background, previous research in this area</li> <li>• Awareness of population's history, attitudes, structure, culture, and socioeconomic status</li> <li>• Foreign language acquisition if needed</li> </ul>
<b>Appropriate Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culturally appropriate, valid methods</li> <li>• Bidirectional learning, recognizing mutual benefit</li> </ul>
<b>Significant Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures of inputs, process, outcomes, goal achievement</li> <li>• Results meaningful scientifically and to global community</li> </ul>
<b>Effective Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication or presentation to stakeholders (e.g., academia, community, media, policymakers)</li> <li>• Shared credit and dissemination with local/global partners</li> </ul>
<b>Reflective Critique</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical reflection on partnership, processes, results, impact and future directions</li> </ul>

**Approval of the Honors in Global Health Application:** Applications to the Honors in Global Health program will be reviewed by the Honors Committee. Students whose applications are not approved may have the opportunity to revise and resubmit their application once for reconsideration based upon the committee's recommendations.

**Successful Completion of the Honors in Global Health to be Awarded at Graduation:**

- 1) **Evidence of commitment** to global health as demonstrated by extensive time involvement and effort in the area consistent with the plan outlined in the approved application.
- 2) An **Honor's Thesis** that is reviewed and approved by the Honors committee. The thesis must demonstrate:
  - a) Adherence to **Principles of Global Health**
  - b) **Originality** – All work must be original and have been produced since the start of medical school
  - c) Evidence of **leadership, innovation, creativity** – the student must have a primary lead role
  - d) **Quantity** – The body of work should be substantive and represent a significant commitment of time and intellectual energy
  - e) Evidence of **sustained impact** – The product developed must be sustainable or have meaningful impact

- f) **Quality** - High quality/scientific rigor as determined by a committee with expertise in global health
  - g) **Competency** in areas well-recognized as critical global health education competencies
- 3) **Contribution** to the Pathway and/or institutional engagement activities – e.g., new partnership, educational product that will be sustained upon the students' graduation.
  - 4) **Completed and signed Mentor Attestation form(s)** must provide testimony that thesis represents original work and the student's involvement warrants authorship.

## HONORS IN GLOBAL HEALTH APPLICATION

Students must be approved for the Honors Program before work on their Honors project begins. Honors candidates must write and submit an approved Honors thesis by November 1 of their M4 year; earlier submissions are encouraged. The thesis product must be approved for the Honors distinction and communicated to the Registrar's Office by February 1 of the graduation year.

Please complete this form and attach 1) letters from your preceptor and partner (if/as appropriate) supporting your application for the Honors in Global Health Program, and 2) your Honors proposal and Learning/Mentorship Plan as described below. Return your materials electronically to Patricia Schmidt, [paschmidt@mcw.edu](mailto:paschmidt@mcw.edu).

### APPLICATION

Date submitted	Date Rec'd (Office use only):
Student Name:	Student email:
Mentor Name/Department:	Mentor email:
Local/Global Partner Name/Organization (when applicable):	Local/Global Partner email:
Pathway(s) M1/M2/M3 years:	Plan for completion of honors project (check all that apply):  M3 Pathway (list) _____ M3 elective ___ M4 elective ___

**Attach:**

**1) A personal statement (2-3 pages):** Outline accomplishments to-date, personal goals, and commitment to global health scholarship. Include a scholarship plan that includes progress toward completion of an approved scholarly project that meets graduation requirements, in addition to a distinct Honors project that will form the basis of the Honors thesis, as outlined below:

**a) For the original scholarly project:**

- i) Explain the background and scientific significance of the original project.
- ii) State the goals of the original project.
- iii) Briefly explain how they were achieved (methods).
- iv) Briefly describe the results (or preliminary results) of the original project.
- v) Briefly describe your role on the research project.
- vi) How much time has been committed to this project (e.g., noncore hours, summer)?
- vii) Did you publish or present this work? If so, where?
- viii) Summarize overall progress toward completion of the project, including timeline.

**b) For the Honors project:**

- i) Explain the background and scientific significance of the Honors project.
- ii) State the new project goals/ objectives (and how they extend the Scholarly Project, if applicable).
- iii) Describe the anticipated methods.
- iv) Describe the anticipated results.
- v) Describe partnering agencies and the student's role on the project.
- vi) Describe how the project aligns with CUGH core competencies.
- vii) Describe how you plan to present project findings and the position for the student in the authorship of the final products.

**viii)** Explain how/when the additional training time will be fulfilled (e.g., research elective, Pathway time, on nights/weekends with specifics).

- 2) Learning/Mentorship Plan (ILP format):** Provide a detailed learning plan that includes a commitment to dedicate time during and/or beyond the third year to relevant educational activities (e.g., Pathway participation, relevant electives), leadership and community service activities.
- 3) Letters of Support from Faculty Mentor and Partner(s) (letter from partner(s) if/as appropriate):** Mentors must outline support for the project and willingness to support the student through project completion and attest that 1) the student has made significant accomplishments to-date consistent with the Honors in Global Health goals; 2) the student is taking a primary lead role on the project in collaboration with the global health partner (when applicable), and 3) the project adheres to global health scholarship principles.