

**Public Health-Global Health
Departmental Honors Handbook
2026-2027
Academic Year**

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*This PH-GH Departmental Honors Handbook is reflective of the requirements for the 2026—2027 Honors Program. Please contact your phgh@uw.edu if you have additional questions. One of our academic advisers will respond to you!

Public Health-Global Health Major

Overview

The Public Health-Global Health (PH-GH) major is a school-wide liberal education major that leads to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science. The degree uses public health questions, concepts, and tools to teach critical thinking skills. PH-GH students learn to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and explore answers to promote the health and well-being of communities, locally, nationally, and globally.

The major provides undergraduates with competencies in Assessment & Measurement, Communication, Environment, Ethics & Social Justice, Natural Science, Population Health, Policy & Politics, and Social Science with particular emphasis on collaboration and critical thinking across these domains. The program uses active learning techniques to encourage conversation and connection to facilitate mutual learning among the students.

Vision

A collaborative community preparing innovative, diverse students to promote the health and well-being of communities – locally, nationally and globally.

Mission

To create a learning environment that facilitates students becoming critical and creative thinkers prepared to work collaboratively for full and equitable participation in building healthy communities.

Values

Access, Challenge, Collaboration, Community, Equity, Experiential Learning, Growth, Intentionality, Impact, Opportunity, Professional & Personal Development, Support.

About the PH-GH Departmental Honors Program

Departmental Honors allows students to explore the PH-GH Major in greater depth with their peers and PH-GH core faculty. Departmental Honors can be completed in conjunction with *Interdisciplinary Honors (to graduate with College Honors in Public Health)*, or alone (*to graduate with Departmental Honors in Public Health*). Our program is designed to build an engaged community of learners that can positively support each other's growth by centering values in their future careers as public health practitioners. In our Honors program, students discuss what they have learned in the major and how they witness "public health in action." Towards this end, students engage in deep dialogues on assigned readings, completing an ad hoc project, engaging in an experiential learning project, and by presenting in the SPH Undergraduate Symposium to showcase their learning. Each component of the Honors program is designed to enhance students' academic experience, practice critical public health career readiness skills such as collaboration, giving and receiving feedback, exploring positionality, and centering equity for all in their work. Many of our PH-GH Honors alumni go on to utilize the skills gained in completing independent research and study for further application in graduate programs (e.g. public health, nursing, medicine) or in professional roles such as project management, research coordination, and more.

Admission to PH-GH Departmental Honors Program

Students apply to the PH-GH Departmental Honors by completing our application process. The application process begins during the winter quarter, and acceptance emails can be expected before spring break. A meet and greet and orientation occur in the spring quarter. The Honors program officially begins during the following autumn quarter. Students will complete their Honors program (coursework, ad hoc, and presentation) during the autumn quarter, winter, and spring quarters of their final year. To pursue departmental honors, students must have earned a cumulative UW GPA of 3.3 or higher and maintain a PH-GH Major GPA of 3.5 or higher.

While high scholarship is a significant portion of departmental honors admissions requirements and program, meeting minimum eligibility requirements, or being a member of the Interdisciplinary Honors Program, will not guarantee admission.

PH-GH Departmental Honors Requirements

There are several requirements to complete the PH-GH Honors Program

- Minimum 3.3 UW GPA at the time of application and graduation
- Minimum 3.5 Major GPA at the time of graduation
- Completing two, 2-credit seminar courses within the same academic year
 - All Honors students are required to complete seminar in THE AUTUMN quarter
 - Half of the honors students will complete the seminar in WINTER quarter, the other half in SPRING quarter. Priority registration for the winter quarter seminar is reserved for

students graduating in the winter quarter or completing as ad hoc project during winter quarter.

- **Complete 5 credits of ad hoc in either:** SPH 480: Research Methods in Public Health, or SPH 481: Ethics, Social Justice, and Policy in Public Health. The ad-hoc projects have already been outlined by the course instructor, providing a firm foundation upon which to explore a range of topics that are of personal interest.
 - If enrolled in SPH 480 or 481 in the autumn, the ad-hoc project must be completed in the autumn. If enrolled in SPH 480 or 481 in winter, the ad-hoc project must be completed in Winter.
 - Students who have yet to complete their ad-hoc project will receive priority registration for the winter quarter seminar.
- Students must present at the SPH Undergraduate Symposium in the spring quarter. Those planning to graduate in the winter quarter are still welcome to apply to the Honors program but must discuss with a PH-GH academic adviser first. Email phgh@uw.edu to confirm when needed.

Departmental Honors Program Milestones

Quarter	Activity	Notes
WIN QTR	Attend Info Sessions and apply	#goals
SPR QTR	Acceptance & Orientation	Find out all the details, start planning
SUM QTR	Meet with PH-GH Advising	Before THE AUTUMN Q starts, complete your mandatory meeting to discuss your honors completion plan with a PH-GH adviser. Track honors emails for critical deadlines.
THE AUT QTR	Plan and write ad hoc project draft	Occurs in SPH 494 with 480 and 481 instructors
THE AUT QTR	All Honors take SPH 494	No exceptions
THE AUT QTR	Students complete ad hoc projects	Students enrolled in SPH 480, or 481 will complete their ad-hoc projects, no exceptions
THE AUT QTR	Academic Adviser Check In	If needed, to discuss scholarship or opt out concerns
WIN QTR	SPH 494 Honors Half the cohort	Priority for students enrolled in 480 or 481, or WIN Q graduates.
WIN QTR	Academic Adviser Check In	If needed, to discuss scholarship or opt out concerns
SPR QTR	SPH 494 Honors Remaining half the cohort	Complete the seminar requirement
SPR QTR	SPH Undergraduate Symposium	Meets Honors program requirement

Quarter	Activity	Notes
SPR QTR	Graduate with Departmental Honors!	Woot woot! You made it.

Pathways to Complete Honors Requirements (Timeline)

SPR QTR	SUM QTR	THE AUT QTR	WIN QTR	SPR QTR
Orientation	Meet with Advising; Ad hoc planning	SPH 494 SPH 481 + ad hoc		SPH 494 SPH Undergraduate Symposium (i.e. public presentation)
Orientation	Meet with Advising	SPH 494 SPH 480 Ad hoc planning	SPH 494 SPH 481 + ad hoc	SPH Undergraduate Symposium (i.e. public presentation)
Orientation	Meet with Advising; Ad hoc planning	SPH 494 SPH 480 + ad hoc	SPH 481	SPH 494 SPH Undergraduate Symposium (i.e. public presentation)
Orientation	Meet with Advising	SPH 494 Ad hoc planning	SPH 494 SPH 480 + ad hoc	SPH 481 SPH Undergraduate Symposium (i.e. public presentation)
Orientation	Meet with Advising	SPH 494 SPH 480 Ad hoc planning	SPH 494 SPH 481 + ad hoc Public Presentation	N/A (Graduated WIN QTR)

SPH 494: Honors Seminar

In essence, SPH 494 is where much of the Honors work “happens.” Our program was intentional to create a small cohort within a large major. Students will engage with faculty, practice professionals, and each other regularly during a protected time of the day. Students will take a total of 4 credits of SPH 494, 2 credits in the autumn quarter, and the other 2 credits in either winter or spring. The autumn quarter focuses on reading and discussion; WIN and SPR emphasize experiential learning. Students are encouraged to attend relevant public health lectures and bring insights into class discussions. In addition, seminar time will include honors, group advising, and time for groups to meet on their projects.

Seminar Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the two seminars (4 credits of SPH 494), students will be able to:

- Critically engage with diverse public health topics through reading, discussion, and experiential learning, with a focus on applying equity-centered approaches to future public health work.
- Demonstrate leadership competencies relevant to public health careers, including communication, collaboration, and ethical decision-making.
- Analyze the impact of privilege and social positionality on their understanding and application of public health models and frameworks.

The seminar is the “vessel” in which the goals and objectives associated with academic study, experiential learning, completion of an ad-hoc project, and planning for the public presentation at the SPH Undergraduate Symposium are contained.

THE AUTUMN Quarter SPH 494 (Academic content)

Students will be taught to facilitate thoughtful discussions on relevant public health books, research articles, documentaries, and/or gray literature focused on a public health issue of their interest. Students are expected to be the leaders of how they present their learning to their peers as well as support their peers in learning the content.

WINTER or SPRING Quarter SPH 494 (Experiential Learning)

Different from the already required PH-GH service-learning experience, honors students will be the “project managers for another experiential learning project that is not curated by a teaching team. In contrast, this project is led by the students who directly support and work with the community partner, and the instructor functions more as a liaison, coordinator, and coach with a light touch.

Ad Hoc Project

Honors students must complete an ad hoc project in either SPH 480 or SPH 481. These are the only two courses where students are permitted to complete an ad hoc project. These projects offer additional mentoring and a deeper exploration of a public or global health issue. Each project builds upon a

foundation outlined by the course instructor, allowing students to pursue a topic of interest with greater depth and intensity. Ad hoc projects are group-based. Group sizes may range from 3 to 5 students, depending on the topic and scope. Instructors from both the ad hoc course and the Honors Seminar will help guide appropriate group sizing. Solo projects are not permitted—no exceptions. Students who would have already completed SPH 480 and SPH 481 prior to beginning the Honors program in the autumn quarter, are ineligible for the program due to the ad-hoc requirement.

SPH Undergraduate Symposium

Honors students will be required to give a poster or oral presentation at the [School of Public Health Undergraduate Symposium](#), an annual open forum which occurs in the Spring quarter. Students who are graduating in the winter quarter must consult with PH-GH advising in the autumn quarter to sort out how they will address this requirement. After this consultation, the director of the Honors program will consider the request.

Completing the Honors Program

Students Graduating in Winter Quarter

Students planning to graduate in WIN quarter must meet with a PH-GH Adviser early in THE AUTUMN quarter to determine their plan to complete their honors requirements. Students must submit an email request to Anjulie Ganti (anjulie@uw.edu) to develop a plan for completing the public presentation as their participation in the [School of Public Health Undergraduate Symposium](#) is not possible.

Departmental Honors on your Transcript

Departmental Honors will be notated on your transcript in the following manner:

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON DEGREES EARNED:
BACHELOR OF [ARTS or SCIENCE] (PUBLIC HEALTH-GLOBAL HEALTH)
[Graduation Quarter and Year]
WITH HONORS IN PUBLIC HEALTH-GLOBAL HEALTH

GPA Maintenance and Honors Program Continuation Policy

Students in the PH-GH Honors Program must graduate with a cumulative UW GPA of 3.3 or higher and PH-GH Major GPA of 3.5 or higher. PH-GH academic advisers will periodically review GPAs of honors students to support them to make satisfactory progress toward earning the honors designation on their transcript.

Graduation and GPA Requirements

- To graduate with Honors, students must:
 - Complete all Honors requirements as outlined in this handbook

- Have a UW GPA of 3.3 or higher and maintain a PH-GH Major GPA of 3.5 or higher by the end of their graduating quarter
- Graduation cannot be extended beyond UW Satisfactory Progress requirements
 - Please refer to the UW 210-credit rule as outlined on the Academic Satisfactory Progress section of the [Office of the University Registrar Policies & Procedures website](#)

Students Not Meeting GPA Requirements

- If, at any point after admission to the PH-GH Honors Program it appears unlikely that a student may not meet the UW cumulative GPA and the PH-GH Major GPA by their expected graduation quarter, an adviser will contact the student to review available alternatives and clarify the potential impact on graduation eligibility in accordance with University policies on satisfactory progress and continuation

Circumstances regarding removal from the PH-GH Honors Program

Students may be removed from the Honors Program under the following circumstances:

1. UW cumulative GPA and the PH-GH Major GPA are not meeting the program's minimum requirements by their expected graduation quarter
2. The student does not complete the requirements of the PH-GH Honors Program
3. The student requests to withdraw from the PH-GH Honors Program

Communication and Support

- To provide support and ensure clarity of honors' policies, PH-GH academic advisers will initiate a conversation with the student before any changes are made to their Honors status
- The goal of this process is to ensure students have clear information and support to successfully complete their degree

Withdrawing from Departmental Honors

Many factors could impact a student's decision to continue participating in this program. Common reasons include underestimating the time commitment of the ad-hoc project or the additional experiential learning experience, work obligations, other extracurricular activities or family responsibilities. If you're considering withdrawing, please meet with a PH-GH academic adviser to discuss your options and receive support in your decision-making process. Contact PH-GH advising at phgh@uw.edu to help with your decision!

To officially opt out of the Honors program, you must submit your request in writing via email to phgh@uw.edu, as we require documentation of your desire to withdraw from the program for our program records.

Contact Information

Departmental Honors Team

- PH-GH Associate Director and Honors Program Director, **Anjulie Ganti**
- PH-GH Departmental Honors Adviser, **Heran Kidane**
- PH-GH Academic Services Director, **Jillian McBride-Payne**
- SPH 494 Seminar Faculty
- SPH 480/481 Faculty

Emails and Locations

Please email us at phgh@uw.edu

Schedule an appointment with PH-GH Advising: <https://www.meetme.so/uwphadvising>

Public Health-Global Health Major & Departmental Honors Program

phgh@uw.edu | 206-221-4561

Hans Rosling Center G-120

UW Honors

uwhonors@uw.edu