


SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.06-5

Senate Committee on University Priorities Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse 
Chair, SCUP
Vice President, Academic

RE: Proposal for a Graduate Diploma in
Global Health in the Faculty of Health
Sciences (SCUP 05-064)

DATE: December 14, 2005

At its November 23, 2005 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences for a Graduate Diploma in Global Health. At that meeting, there was agreement to change the name of the credential from the name originally proposed (as reflected on the cover memo from Dr. Jon Driver), "Graduate Diploma in Foundations of Global Health Studies". It was decided that the new name, Graduate Diploma in Global Health, was a more accurate reflection of the content and would be more attractive to students.

Motion

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Graduate Diploma in Global Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

encl.

c: D. MacLean
A. Chockalingam

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MEMORANDUM

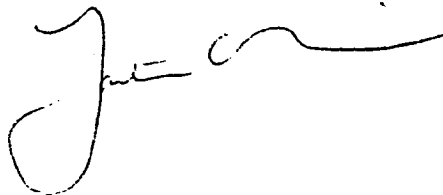
TO: SCUP
FROM: Jonathan Driver, Dean of Graduate Studies
SUBJECT: GS2005.39 (b) Graduate Diploma: Foundations of Global Health Studies
DATE: 18th October 2005
cc:

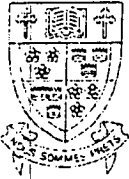
At the SGSC meeting of 17th October 2005 a new graduate diploma - Foundations of Global Health Studies – was discussed. Following suggestions for minor revisions (incorporated in the attached document), SGSC voted to recommend this new graduate diploma to SCUP for approval.

Please note that this diploma fulfils two functions. First, it can be taken as a stand-alone credential, and will probably be attractive to health professionals interested in strengthening their background in global health issues. Second it will provide a foundation for applicants wishing to enter the proposed master's program in global health.

Please also note that the recommendation is to set tuition fees at the same level as the MSc in Population and Public Health.

The courses for this program were approved separately, and sent to Senate for information. A copy of the memo to Senate and the course proposals has been copied to SCUP for information.





FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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GS2005.39
OCT 03 2005
DEAN OF GRADUATE
STUDIES OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 30th, 2005
TO: Jon Driver, Dean of Graduate Studies
FROM: David Maclean, Dean of Health Sciences
Richard Lockhart, Graduate Program Chair, FHS
RE: Masters in Global Health, Graduate Diploma, Course Proposals

We attach to this memo:

- 1) a notice of intent for a Masters in Global Health
- 2) a proposal for a Graduate Diploma - Foundations of Global Health Studies
- 3) course proposals for courses needed in the Graduate Diploma

We would like these proposals brought to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for discussion and approval at the earliest possible opportunity.

These documents were circulated for comment and course overlap on September 23; we have had favourable comments from Science and Education so far -- a couple of changes were made on the basis of those comments. There may be further commentary by the time of the next SGSC meeting.

We have also sent off the course proposals to the library for a report; that report should, we hope, be available for the next SGSC meeting.

All of these proposals were approved by the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee at its meeting on 19 September 2005; they were approved by the faculty on 29 September 2005.

Sincerely,

David MacLean, Dean of Health Sciences

Richard Lockhart, Graduate Program Chair



NEW GRADUATE DIPLOMA PROPOSAL

Sponsoring faculty

Faculty of Health Sciences

Name of program

Graduate Diploma in Global Health

Rationale for program

This professional graduate diploma will be of wide appeal, both to students interested in the diploma as an end in itself and to those who will use it as a bridge to a more advanced degree.

First, for students who do not wish to undertake a full masters degree, the diploma will complement the proposed Masters in Global Health programs. As a stand-alone diploma, it will appeal to professionals from a background in health (nursing, nutrition, or a medical degree) whose career aspirations require qualifications in global health systems, methodology, or an epidemiological perspective. For a variety of reasons, such persons frequently seek to strengthen their background in applied aspects of global health methodology, epidemiology, health delivery, or health systems. Experience at other universities is that diploma graduates commonly proceed to more advanced studies.

Second, it will meet the need of some MGH applicants for foundation courses – some health professionals, or graduates in business, kinesiology, or the social sciences. For students with deficiencies in background of academic performance, one or more courses from the proposed diploma might be assigned as qualifying courses (with no guarantee of admission). Alternatively, well qualified students who are substantially ready to enter the program may receive an offer of conditional admission, contingent upon taking one or more of the diploma foundation courses.

These foundation courses are intended to be particularly suitable for students from lower and middle income countries as a bridge to studies in Canada. The courses will allow for accommodation to the Canadian university culture as well as supplying desired academic content.

Description of the program and its operation

Courses: To formalize the requirements, we have provisionally identified the foundation areas as:

- *Numerical, analytical, and computational foundations for global health studies*
- *Research methods for evidence-based inference in global health*
- *Foundations of epidemiology in global context*
- *A perspective on problems and solutions in health across cultures and nations*

Three courses plus seminar cover these areas. They emphasize case studies and the practical skill-set for graduate studies or research in health. Grading would follow normal SFU practice for 500 and 600 level graduate courses. Courses would be offered either at the SFU Burnaby or Downtown campuses.

Frequency of offering: Courses would be offered at least annually, the three core courses and the seminar would be offered simultaneously in the September Fall semester. Taking them at this time would allow them to be taken by applicants to the MGH degree wishing to enter the MGH program in the January Spring semester. This timing might be less appropriate for applicants to the MSc PPH program, but the needs of MGH applicants coming from lower and middle-income countries are considered to deserve precedence.

Student demand might be conservatively predicted as 20-50 students per year.

Provisional descriptions of courses

GLOH 501-4 Seminar - Selected research applications in global health

This seminar course covers many of the areas of interest in the field of global health. It will be team taught by faculty members and associates including experts invited to participate in the Masters in Global Health program. The topics would be selected to emphasize methodology for advanced studies and research in Health. It will include faculty-moderated student discussion to allow students to conceptualize and integrate material from many sources in discussion with faculty and other students. It will be required of all students entering the Masters in Global Health or Diploma program.

GLOH 510-4: Numerical, analytical, and computational foundations for global health studies

Numerical foundations for health problem investigation, analysis, and solution. Health data and how they are obtained, stored, and accessed. Analytical approaches to the prevalence, causes, mitigation of health risks, and epidemiological inquiry. Pitfalls and solutions in the collection and interpretation of data. A case-studies approach.

GLOH 520-4: Research methods for evidence-based inference in global health

A survey of contemporary methodology for participatory problem solving in community and population health. Prerequisite knowledge for optimizing health in low and middle-income countries or marginalized communities in developed countries. Case studies will give experience in analytical approaches to one of more current real-life problems in global and regional health.

GLOH 530-4: Foundations of epidemiology in global context

The distribution of health and disease across populations worldwide. Analytical tools for understanding and drawing inferences. Epidemiological approaches to the inequities in health among populations. Evidence-based epidemiology, distinguishing cause from effect, and decision-making under uncertainty.

GLOH 540-4: A global perspective on the organization and delivery of health services

Principles and concepts of the global organization and delivery of health services. Application of economics theories to health financing and resource allocation policy problems in resource-constrained nations and the use of cost analyses in the reforming of health policies. Optimal health systems for the delivery of health care and services in developed and low and middle-income countries.

List of any courses and/or credentials to be discontinued if diploma program is approved

None

Budgetary and resource implications

Full budgetary discussions among the SFU and FHS senior administrators are currently in progress.

Faculty and resource staff

Mounting the program will require two full-time faculty to offer the additional 5 courses taught annually. The additional faculty members and support personnel are provided for in the FHS budget and hiring plan.

Additional library resources

The library report containing details of the required resources can be found at:

<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/collections/courseassessments/GLOHdiploma.htm> . The Faculty of Health Sciences has earmarked funds for this purpose.

Summary costs (additional costs will accrue if the program is taught at SFU downtown)

Total one-time funds: \$4554

Total ongoing funds: \$12,128/year

Proposed tuition fees - Initial fee \$2,100 per semester.

These would be the same as those in the MSc Population and Public Health program.

Instructional space

Computing laboratories and other teaching space will be available in the Health Sciences Building, currently under construction.

Provisional steering committee composition for first year

The steering committee will be chosen from the FHS faculty who would or could teach the courses plus those who are responsible for developing and administering the program, along with other faculty to be specifically hired for the Masters in Global Health program. An interim steering committee might be:

Dr. Arun Chockalingam (100%) International health, hypertension, cardiovascular health, patient education, health policy

Dr Steve Corber (30%) Global health, epidemiology, global health policy, economic evaluation

Dr Kitty Corbett (30%) Tobacco smoking in LMICs, medical anthropology

Dr. Craig Janes (30%) Global health, medical anthropology

Dr. Michel Joffres (30%) Aboriginal and environmental health, biochemical toxicology

Dr. David MacLean (10%) Global health - epidemiology and cardiovascular health, determinants of health

The steering committee will have the following responsibilities

Report directly to the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences

Review on a regular basis the structure of the program, and recommend to SGSC adding and dropping courses approved for inclusion in the program.

Decide whether particular special topics courses are suitable for inclusion in the program.

Develop related programs

APPENDIX: FACULTY MEMBERS WHO MIGHT TEACH COURSES

Courses will be taught by existing FHS faculty and associate faculty, along with adjunct and sessional faculty to be specifically hired for the Masters in Global Health program.

Michel Joffres Chronic and infectious diseases, hypertension, diabetes, and record linkage studies.

Community based prevention programs, large-scale clinical trials, policy development and mental health: *GLOH 520-4 Research methods for evidence-based inference in global health*

Kitty Corbett: Interventions and policy change to improve practice and, behaviour (laypersons) and promote global health: *501-4 Seminar - Selected research applications in global health*

Craig Janes: Anthropology and Public Health; Social Determinants of Health; Healthcare Reform Policy; and Global Health Studies and Ethics: *GLOH 540-4 A global perspective on the organization and delivery of health services*

Leilei Zeng: Analysis of Longitudinal Data, including model mis-specification and missing data: *GLOH 510-4 Numerical, analytical, and computational foundations for global health studies*

This list will be supplemented as existing faculty are seconded to the MGH program, and new faculty members are hired.

APPENDIX: CALENDAR ENTRY

Graduate Diploma in Health Studies

The professional Graduate Diploma in Health Studies is offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences to provide the foundations of methodology in contemporary use in community, population, and global health.

The diploma is aimed at graduates with a background in some aspect of health, or in a discipline with applications in health systems, health policy, or global health or at those who would simply like to learn more about this field. The program is intended to update prerequisite skills for graduate studies in these areas. It will emphasize current methodology for evidence-based inference: epidemiology, numerical analysis, modeling, and management of uncertainties and risks. The methodology will be presented in the context of their applications in real world situations.

Graduates will have the skills, methodology, attitudes, and confidence to enter graduate programs in global health and be full participants in academic endeavours that require the research methodology of community, population, and global health. International students are especially welcomed into the program.

Application and Admission

Applicants will normally hold an undergraduate degree in health, natural or applied sciences, social, business, or management studies, with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Applications from students with other qualifications or with equivalent professional training and experience will also be considered.

Applicants must submit the following documentation to the graduate secretary of the Faculty of Health Sciences:

- application for graduate admission, available from the Dean of Graduate Studies office's web site at www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/forms.htm;
- official copy of transcript of undergraduate and graduate grades (mailed directly from the granting institution);
- three confidential letters of reference (mailed directly from the referees);
- a one page statement of student interest;
- Refer to the general graduate regulations for TOEFL or TWE test score requirements for applicants whose first language is not English.

Transferable credit

Directly equivalent courses can be accepted for transfer credit, sometimes with the need to challenge the SFU course by examination. The decision whether a course meets articulation requirements will be made by the Graduate Program Committee. There is an allowable transferable credit maximum that counts toward the Diploma program from any other institution, including the Open Learning Agency. See "Residency Requirements" SFU Graduate Calendar.

Course Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 22 credit hours, with a minimal grade point average of 2.5.

Students may take up to five courses in a given semester, but they should be aware that this is a heavy load. Most students would take three or four courses plus seminar in a semester and take additional courses in subsequent semesters.

Students must complete

Three courses plus a seminar course (16 credits)

GLOH 501-4 Seminar- Selected research applications in the health sciences

GLOH 510-4 Numerical, analytical, and computational foundations for global health studies

GLOH 520-4 Research methods for evidence-based inference in global health

GLOH 530-4 Foundations of epidemiology in global context

A minimum of 6 credits selected from the following courses

GLOH 540-4 A global perspective on the organization and delivery of health services

HSCI 804-4 Systems Analysis of Health Care and Delivery

PPH 801-4 Case Studies in Health Systems and the Determinants of Health

PPH 802-4 Health economics, health project evaluation and management

HSCI 806-4 Case studies in epidemiology of chronic and infectious diseases and acute health problems

HSCI 807-4 Topics in health risk assessment and risk management

HSCI 808-4 Conceptualization and mechanisms in the sociocultural determinants of health

HSCI 809-4 Case studies in qualitative research methods for the health sciences

Once a Masters in Global Health Program is available, additional courses from that program will be added to the above list of electives.

Required GPA and timing for degree completion

Students must have a minimum 2.50 GPA calculated on all required courses. The diploma is normally taken full time and completed within 2 semesters. Credits applied to a diploma may not be applied to another qualification.

APPENDIX: COURSE PROPOSALS (See attachments) * Course proposals available for review by contacting Bobbie Grant, 604 291-3168 or email bgrant@sfu.ca

NOTE: All courses have been approved by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee,