GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

OVERVIEW
The goal of Global Public Health practitioners is to improve the health and development of the world’s societies by responding to the social, cultural, and epidemiological challenges of poverty, disease, and inequity. Creating improvements in health and well-being can be attained through research, technical assistance, and service. The outcomes of these efforts include: empowerment of citizens, governments and organizations and mitigation of the effects of poverty using evidence-based policies, programs, and advocacy. Global public health practitioners assume key roles in public health organizations as managers, researchers, educators, advocates, and directors and provide leadership in creating and implementing programs and policy that promote the ideals of public health.

HOW A BUSPH MPH, GLOBAL HEALTH CONCENTRATION FITS INTO THE PUZZLE
Global Health Concentrators are able to: identify the determinants of health and disease; estimate the burden and patterns of disease in communities in order to prioritize health needs; use systematic approaches to develop, implement, and evaluate public health policies, programs, or services; communicate effectively to promote the health of all members of our communities, especially the disadvantaged, underserved, and vulnerable; demonstrate the ability to access and use data to identify and solve public health problems; demonstrate the ability to work independently and as part of a team, and identify effective leadership qualities and practices; make decisions that reflect ethical frameworks and respect for the values, beliefs, and practices within diverse communities and cultures; and demonstrate professional knowledge and skills for effective practice in a selected field of study.

AREAS OF FOCUS IN BUSPH GLOBAL HEALTH CONCENTRATION
The public health industry is typically divided into two contexts/environments: global and domestic. The goal of both environments is to apply knowledge to solve complex public health issues. Major areas of focus for BUSPH Global Health Concentration practitioners are: infectious and non-communicable diseases, research methods and decision analysis, sex, sexuality, gender and health, health program management, and managing disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies. These areas of focus can be accomplished in various environments and organizations: international organizations, US-based organizations support of international projects, USG organizations, community health and local departments of health, academic/research institutions, academic education institutions, emergency preparedness or relief organizations or consulting for any of the aforementioned.

GLOBAL HEALTH CAREER PATHS FOR BUSPH GH CONCENTRATORS TO CONSIDER: Career paths for BUSPH GH practitioners to consider include private and public sector employment in relief and development organizations, research, and government services internationally and domestically, and consulting in a wide variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

1. Global Health (field-based positions): Most field-based positions are highly desirable and competitive and require: master's degree in public health, development or related professional advanced degree, 3-5 years experience in public health development in developing countries, demonstrated experience leading a program of similar magnitude and complexity, experience in development of capacity building among and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners, good knowledge of Monitoring and Evaluation methodologies required to illustrate the impact of interventions in developing countries, willingness to be accountable for results including progress against work plan, financial compliance, and quality-oriented management among sub-partners and staff, experience working with USAID-supported cooperating agencies, donors, missions and international counterpart organizations, excellent interpersonal, presentation and English oral/ written communication skills. Fluency in one or more languages is highly desirable.

2. US-based Global Health (highly desirable backstopping/program coordination): The Program Coordinator’s country-specific responsibilities include: assisting the senior program management to coordinate and monitor the country work planning process; organizing and following up on meetings with program staff; scheduling and attending country program review meetings; and compiling and analyzing information. The Program Coordinator also provides administrative support and assists in preparing plans and reports, procuring goods and services, coordinating international travel, preparing technical documents and presentations, and performing other tasks to ensure quality and timely performance.
3. **Domestic Health with Diverse Foreign Populations:** As a result of globalization and shifting demographics, for many BUSPH GH graduates working in domestic community health allows them to build their portfolio, acquire experience, and prepare for a future position in global health. It is, however, essential that GH graduates maintain and grow their networks with practitioners working in international organizations in order to transition into the global arena in the future.

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<td><strong>GLOBAL:</strong></td>
<td>• Program Coordination/Management</td>
<td>• HIV/AIDS</td>
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<td>• International NGO</td>
<td>• Skills – proposal writing, contract management, work plan development, grant management, finance management, budget preparation and reconciliation</td>
<td>• Malaria</td>
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<td>• International Fellowships</td>
<td>• Technical Assistance/Consulting</td>
<td>• Communicable diseases</td>
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<td>• Government Funded Programs</td>
<td>• Skills – IT, SAS, GIS, knowledge management, Mhealth</td>
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<td>• Pharmaceutical Consulting</td>
<td>• Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>• Monitoring and evaluation</td>
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<td>• Consulting</td>
<td>• Skills – qualitative and quantitative data analysis</td>
<td>• Research methods</td>
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<td><strong>DOMESTIC:</strong></td>
<td>• Health Education</td>
<td>• Sex, sexuality, and gender</td>
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<td>• Public Health Agency</td>
<td>• Skills – curriculum development, training, presentations for various ages and ethnicities</td>
<td>• Maternal and child health</td>
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<td>• Hospital</td>
<td>• Research</td>
<td>• Health program management</td>
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<td>• Community Health Center</td>
<td>• Skills – plan and execute initiatives, analyze data using SAS, GIS, &amp; PH databases</td>
<td>• Managing disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies</td>
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<td>• Non-Profit</td>
<td>• Business Development</td>
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<td>• Research/Consulting Firms</td>
<td>• Skills – Fundraising, proposal writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Government</td>
<td>• Finance/Business Analysis</td>
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<td>• Skills – Excel</td>
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FOR NEW GRADUATES WITH LIMITED EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

**WHAT PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR:**

MPH or other relevant degree, documented interest in gaining experience in the field of public health, willingness to work in a volunteer and/or entry level support capacity to gain experience, and skills in SAS, EXCEL, knowledge management, GIS, Mhealth.

**Volunteering:** Volunteering in an international or domestic health organization affords the new BUSPH GH Concentrator graduate the opportunity to work in their field of choice and gain valuable experience. It also gives the organization the opportunity to see the individual as a prospective paid staff member. Commonly, volunteers work in local and rural clinics and help immunize, diagnose and treat patients and combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases through public health education.

**Internships/ Fellowships:** Internships and fellowships take a wide variety of forms and allow interns and fellows to gain insight into public health programs. Employers strive to work closely with each intern to ensure that they have a fulfilling experience and contribute to the organization's daily work in a meaningful way. Fellows help to improve the managerial and training capacity of organizations focusing on providing community support and sustainable training programs to vulnerable populations.
FOR GRADUATES WITH SOME EXPERIENCE AND/OR TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

WHAT PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR:

MPH, 3-5 years international experience, willingness to travel and/or re-locate, willingness to work long hours, knowledge of USG regulations, administrative, and finance requirements, cultural awareness and ability to work well in a variety of settings with good communication, negotiation, and team building skills with international and domestic stakeholders, and skills in SAS, EXCEL, knowledge management, GIS, Mhealth. Clinical experience can be a plus.

Community and Hospital Health: Community health, a field of public health, is a discipline that concerns itself with the study and betterment of the health characteristics of biological communities, focusing on geographic areas rather than people with shared characteristics. The health characteristics of a community are often examined using geographic information system (GIS) software and public health datasets. Boston Medical Center is a prime example of community and hospital health organizations.

Research: Plan and execute research initiatives intended to advance the public’s health and health awareness, internationally, nationally, and locally. Locate, assemble, and critically analyze qualitative and quantitative data, information, and knowledge resources.

Education: Health education involves skills required to develop community-wide prevention programs, school health and the health of minority and disadvantaged populations encouraging healthy lifestyles and wellness by educating people about behaviors that promote healthy living and disease prevention. Health educators work one-on-one with patients and families, but they can also work in government public health offices or nonprofit organizations. School health educators typically work in high schools and colleges and may teach classes or hold trainings.

Business Development in Health Services and Health Insurance: Health services delivery systems are undergoing rapid change. Greater emphasis is being placed on health promotion and disease prevention as a means to reduce the costs of care by improving the health of our populations.

Emergency Preparedness: Emergency management specialists develop disaster response plans, train other people in an organization in disaster and emergency preparedness, and coordinate with various emergency personnel (such as those at state, local, or municipal levels) to make sure emergency contingencies are covered. Examples of these employers include: Ministries of Health, the military, law enforcement, and regional, state and local governments, hospitals, colleges and universities, and community relief organizations.

Pharmacology/ Biotechnology: Work in the pharmacology and biotechnology field includes research and development of original science in the laboratory, working in randomized control trials, manufacturing quality products, supply chain management, marketing and client support. Examples of employers include: universities, private research institutions, pharmaceutical companies, health insurance companies and manufacturing firms.

Government: There are numerous federal employment agencies in the field of public health. See BUSPH Career Library for complete listing (housed on BUSPH Career Office website).

Consulting: Consulting as a field consists of individuals and firms that advise clients on virtually any subject. Consultants are hired by a company (or a non-profit organization or government agency) for a variety of reasons, including: to help identify solutions for problems, plan future strategy, or improve operations. Consultants often perform thorough quantitative and qualitative analyses, suggest recommendations, and assist in implementation.
SUGGESTED READING:

- AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
- AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
- HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING
- JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL AIDS SOCIETY
- HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES MAGAZINE
- WHO PUBLICATIONS

WEB SITES TO VISIT:

www.sph.bu.edu/careers - BUSPH Career Library. View “Global Health” section for robust listing of international health and development organizations and professional associations.


http://www.sph.emory.edu/PHIL/PHILjournals.php - Public Health InfoLinks

http://www.globalhealth.org/ – As of April 20, 2012 – GLOBAL HEALTH COUNCIL has closed operations. Their website is accessible and useful; for example, see their extensive list of members that are global health organizations:

http://issuu.com/globalhealthcouncil/docs/ghcmembership?mode=window&backgroundColor=%232322222

www.apha.org – American Public Health Association (APHA) Note GH Section:

http://www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/aphasections/intlhealth/
http://www.bu.edu/ihblast/ih-professional/

http://www.mpahweb.org – Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA)

www.linkedin.com – join groups such as Devex and Global Health Council.