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MED 800C Global Health Capstone Course (4 cr.)

- Required for year 4 students in the Global Health Distinction Track
- Complete the Selection Form for Research [800] Electives and submit it to the coordinator. Once the course co-directors approve it, you will be registered in OASIS during your chosen time frame.

Objectives/Goals:

1. Learn how to do research in a publishable format
2. Learn how to write a narrow, focused research question
3. Learn about a global health topic which excites and interests you

The paper should be fully referenced in **AMA style**, typically in “meta-analysis” format. The topic, preferably drawn from that student’s field experiences in this track, will be approved by the Distinction Track co-directors, even if you have a different faculty advisor.

You must speak with one of the co-directors and your advisor to help focus your topic. The written, narrow topic must be submitted to the global health coordinator on or before **NOVEMBER 1**. The Capstone paper is due on or before **APRIL 15**.

Selecting a Researchable Question

1. Before defining a research question, choose a TOPIC:
 - Something that interests and excites you.
 - Once you have a general topic, conduct preliminary research and consider:
 - What questions have been asked/answered?
 - Where are there gaps in the research?
2. All research must be defined by a research question that is:
 - Narrowly focused (in your question and region)
 - Clearly defines the exposure/risk factor and the outcome
 - Describes who, what, where, and when?
3. A typical successful literature search will yield 10 – 20 papers. Much more than that and you will have a hard time sticking to 12 – 15 pages.

Human Subjects Research

If you will be doing any activities involving interviewing patients or using their medical information, then you will likely need IRB approval. [This link](#) can help you consider if your work fits this category, but we can also connect you to the IRB if you are unsure.

If you want to do a questionnaire or any other research with people, even with your classmates or co-workers in an international setting, you **MUST** get IRB approval. We can help you with this process.

Required modules by the University of Arizona IRB in addition to their other paperwork:

- [CITI training](#): a) biomedical investigator and b) Native American Research
- University of Arizona [HIPAA training](#)
- [Conflict of interest form](#)

Paper organization:

- The paper must be between 12-15 pages (not including title page, references, abstract).
- Size 11 – 12 font and 1.5 spaced

The paper must include the following sections (some papers may be arranged with different headings based on the topic)

- Title page
- Abstract (typically arranged as: problem, methods, results, and conclusions)
- Introduction
- Methods
- Findings
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- References in AMA format
- Tables and figures (may include in body of paper or at the end)
- Appendix (if indicated)

IMPORTANT: Typical Pitfalls

1. Most students pick topics far too broad, so you must:
 - a. Discuss narrowing your topic enough with your advisor:
 - i. Example: to go from “Diabetes in Africa” to “Low-Tech lifestyle modification in Tanzanian diabetics.”
 - ii. A good rule of thumb is that you must keep narrowing your literature search until you get to 10 – 20 reference papers.
2. Conclusions
 - a. What did you LEARN?
 - b. What are the possible solutions to the problem you read about?

Sample capstone project titles from previous students:

- Black, White and Grey: The Use of Chest Radiography in the Diagnosis of Pediatric Pneumonia in Resource Limited Settings
- Neonatal Resuscitation Training in Tanzania: Helping Babies Breathe
- Rising Caesarean Section Rates at a Regional Hospital in Arusha, Tanzania
- Effects of Changes in healthcare Policy in Ecuador Under the Correa Administration on Healthcare Outcomes and the Gender Ratio among Medical Professionals
- A review of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito as a vector of disease in Central and South America and future directions in mosquito control strategies.
- Managing Traumatic Injury and Hemorrhagic Hypovolemic Shock in Resource Limited Setting
- An assessment of autism spectrum disorder awareness in Montero, Bolivia
- Mental Health Care in Refugee Populations: The Mae Tao Experience
- Assessing the prevalence of and public health efforts to address the dual burdens of malnutrition and excess weight, and their resulting non-communicable diseases in Ecuador’s present post-neoliberal era.