

## Writing in the Global Health Major

For a successful and productive career in global health, undergraduate students must learn to think critically and communicate effectively. This includes being able to formulate good questions, find information that will inform your question, evaluate the source of the information, synthesize and analyze the information, and present your findings to different audiences (e.g. scientific audiences, policymakers, program implementers, lay audiences, etc.). Modes of communication that you are expected to master during your four years at Georgetown include, but are not limited to, oral presentations, literature reviews, research papers, journal articles, proposals, policy briefs, professional blogs, social media posts, and opinion pieces.

## Global Health Integrated Writing Plan

The major in Global Health builds writing skills throughout the curriculum. Global Health students begin to address writing, literature research and presentation skills in the Interdisciplinary First-Year Colloquium (HEST 1010) and Introduction to Global Health (GLOH 1140). Writing a descriptive paper based on scientific literature and a policy brief are taught in Maternal and Child Health (GLOH 2202), and detailed guidance on how to write a longer research paper is provided in Comparative Health Systems & Policy (GLOH 3360). In Epidemiology (GLOH 1177) students learn to critique a research journal article and summarize the strengths and weaknesses in its study design and causality arguments. Conducting a systematic literature review based on a research question, writing a research proposal and a scientific report, and completing IRB forms are all part of the 4-credit Research Methods (GLOH 3303) course. Scientific writing and communication are further polished during the writing-intensive Global Health Practice and Research (GLOH 3950) – the department’s experiential learning semester, where students get to prepare research papers, blogs, a study report following the format of a scientific journal article, and presentations at the student’s host organization and at GU.



**Fig. 1:** Integrated Writing Plan throughout the GLOH Curriculum

In addition, most of our Global Health electives are writing intensive and teach students a variety of communication formats used in global health. Students are also encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities such as the Undergraduate Research Conference, where students write a scientific abstract and present in poster and oral formats the results of their research projects. Finally, students can elect to participate in the Global Health Honors Program where seniors write and defend an honors thesis.