

Guidelines for Calvin College Undergraduate Students Participating in Health-Related Activities Abroad and Commitment to Adhere to Guidelines

Calvin College recognizes the value of participating in educational activities abroad and students are encouraged to take part in health-related projects outside of the U.S. These activities may be organized by Calvin through semester abroad and interim programs or other Calvin-affiliated programs or arranged privately by students. *Students participating in any of these programs are expected to read the AAMC and Department of Justice guidelines, complete the GAPS online workshop and commit to adhering to the standards presented in these resources by signing this document.* A copy of the signed document should be returned to your pre-health advisor and the leader of the health-related international activity.

Why is it necessary that students be informed of these guidelines?

- Medical schools are not interested in applicants who perform medical procedures for which they have not been adequately trained or place their own safety or that of any other person at risk and exceed safety guidelines when working outside of the U.S.
- So that students understand how their experiences should inform their applications to professional schools. For example, bragging about medical procedures (for which students have not been adequately trained) performed during overseas experiences is viewed negatively by admissions committees.
- Reports of work performed abroad that does not adhere to ethical standards will raise red flags in the minds of admission committee members resulting in a negative application review.
- Students should begin to model ethical behavior in a medical care setting in preparation for a career in which such decisions may be commonly required.

AAMC AND US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GUIDELINES FOR TRAVEL ABROAD:

- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) guidelines for premedical students participating in an international medical service experience:
<https://www.aamc.org/download/181690/data/guidelinesforstudentsprovidingpatientcare.pdf>
- Forum on Education Abroad Standards sanctioned by the US Department of Justice
<https://forumea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Guidelines-for-Undergraduate-Health-P3.pdf>

GAPS ONLINE WORKSHOP FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

- Global Ambassadors for Patient Safety (GAPS) (complete the 8 online workshop links provided at the site and submit the certificate of completion form)
<https://www.healthcareers.umn.edu/courses-and-events/online-workshops/global-ambassadors-patient-safety>

I acknowledge that I have reviewed the AAMC and US Department of Justice guidelines and have completed the GAPS online workshop and pledge to adhere to the standards presented therein during my trip abroad.

Student Name (Printed)

Signature

Date

Signed copies of this sheet and certification of GAPS completion form should be returned to the instructor of record for your class. In addition, Calvin encourages to share this document with any trip organizers of the experience that you may encounter while you are abroad.

Additional resources can be found on the back of this document.

Additional Resources:

- *First, Do No Harm* – a documentary on the ethics of global health clinical electives and volunteer projects. <https://vimeo.com/22008886>
- Ethical Challenges in Short-Term Global Health Training is an online course organized by Johns Hopkins University and Stanford University, and consists of 10-cases to provide an introduction and to increase participants' awareness of ethical issues surrounding short-term programs abroad. Additionally, these cases aid in the identification of strategies for dealing with ethical issues that may arise while traveling abroad. <http://ethicsandglobalhealth.org/>
- Cultural Competency is an online course that provides training and cultural awareness for those who work in clinical settings abroad. <http://www.uniteforsight.org/cultural-competency/>

Contact Persons

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ms. Teri Crumb (tlc9@calvin.edu), Dr. Kumar Sinniah (ksinniah@calvin.edu), or Dr. Amy Wilstermann (amw26@calvin.edu).