



NINE CREDIT SUMMER SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM IN TANZANIA

HIV/AIDS Prevention Education, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

**For summer dates visit <http://www.globalservicecorps.org/site/for-students/>

Program Requirements and Credit

This integrated HIV/AIDS and food security community development program is built on Global Service Corps' (GSC) 17 years of experience providing service-learning programs in East Africa. For the past 10 years, students participating on GSC's international programs qualified to earn academic credit through SUNY-Albany on individual programs. GSC and SUNY-Albany are now jointly offering this nine credit summer integrated program. Students successfully completing the course will receive Pass/Fail credits from SUNY-Albany.

The focus of this service-learning experience is for students to expand their own knowledge while at the same time helping to educate local community members in HIV/AIDS prevention and rural sustainable agriculture. Students will work closely with the 36 GSC Tanzania staff members and participate in two weeks of orientation and training to prepare them for their role as staff assistants and trainers in this community development work. Required and suggested reading material will be provided as an academic grounding in the areas of HIV/AIDS and food security as well as East African culture and history. Basic Swahili lessons will also be included during orientation with an option available for further training. All students will keep blogs and/or journals that will be reviewed weekly by the on-site GSC service-learning coordinator. The coordinator will also hold weekly group meetings to provide feedback and guided reflection on student experiences. A final paper will be reviewed by the service-learning coordinator for suggested improvements before being submitted to SUNY-Albany for final grading. The students will be joined by Tanzanian counterparts and students during the nine-week program.

Program Overview and Student Experience

This GSC program provides a unique opportunity to learn while serving alongside GSC Tanzanian staff in **rural communities**. Student participants will have a true intercultural experience through living and working with the people of Tanzania. Students will be welcomed to stay with a **local host family** who will generously introduce the culture, traditions and cuisine of Tanzania. During rural community development assignments, students will also have opportunities to experience camping in rural areas while working with **Maasai groups and other indigenous cultures**. This cultural immersion will provide a first-hand experience of very different perspectives on life, family, time, wealth, nature and religion. Best of all, students will feel the sense of satisfaction that comes from giving something back to these wonderful people who have given so much to them. While the weekdays will be spent learning and serving the local communities, weekends are free for students to socialize, travel, and soak in the beautiful and unique sights of Tanzania. Also included in the program is a daylong safari excursion hosted by GSC.

Designed for individuals with multiple programmatic interests, the **Summer Integrated Service-Learning Program** allows students to participate in two GSC program areas providing a cross-sectoral response to development in Tanzania. During the initial four weeks, students will focus on the **GSC HIV/AIDS Prevention Program**, spending the first week participating in cultural orientation and technical training and the following three weeks assisting with HIV/AIDS prevention community training. Specifically, students will staff the annual HIV/AIDS Peer Education and Life Skills Day Camp during weeks two and three and will assist GSC staff with additional HIV/AIDS awareness activities during week four. During week five, students will receive their second week of technical training in sustainable agriculture and food security as part of the **GSC Sustainable Agriculture Food Security Program**. Weeks six through nine will provide opportunities for students to participate as training assistants in sustainable agriculture and HIV/AIDS prevention community workshops. Students will also assist GSC staff with hands-on innovative food security field work and trainings.

GSC HIV/AIDS Prevention Program

During the HIV/AIDS Peer Education and Life Skills Day Camp, GSC participants provide Tanzanian secondary students skills to mitigate the spread of HIV/AIDS. These camps are designed to be an interactive way for Tanzanian students to learn about HIV/AIDS, prevention, relationships, and sexuality in a fun, creative, and ultimately sustainable manner. These students then disseminate information about HIV/AIDS, life skills, and other health issues through peer health clubs at their schools during the rest of the year.

GSC program participants work collaboratively with local teachers, peer educators, and Tanzanian counterparts to teach a pre-designed education curriculum over a two-week period. With the Peace Corps Life Skills Manual as a basis, lessons include: HIV/AIDS in Tanzania, Biology of HIV/AIDS and the immune system, STIs, healthy lifestyle choices, gender roles, and life skills such as decision making and goal setting. At the conclusion of the camp, program participants join students as they participate in a graduation ceremony where in addition to receiving certificates of completion, the students present what they have learned through drama, song, dance, and poems.

GSC Sustainable Agriculture Food Security Program

As a result of two three-year rural development projects funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, GSC has been contracted to provide HIV/AIDS education as well as food security training and support in Northern Tanzania rural areas where some of the most underserved populations reside. GSC provides training techniques in areas such as bio-intensive agriculture, poultry vaccinations, food storage and preservation, water catchment, and additional food security innovations for Maasai and other indigenous people, including women's groups, people living with AIDS, and AIDS widows and orphans. These innovations critically target improved food production, as well as the main causes of food losses at the homestead level. Participants assist GSC's staff of professional development workers with community trainings in sustainable agriculture as well as engage in hands-on rural development projects. By focusing on rural food security, participants will be working with Tanzania's most vulnerable populations, including those affected by HIV/AIDS, to strengthen immune systems through improved nutrition as well as sustainable food production and income generation.

Accommodations

Program participants will spend the first few days of their program living in a comfortable local hostel. The following eight weeks will be spent living with a local Tanzanian host family as home base in Arusha. Participants will also spend several weeks camping in villages or staying in local guest houses along with GSC staff while providing rural trainings in HIV/AIDS prevention and sustainable agriculture. Students return back to their homestay after each work week.

Program Fee: Visit <http://www.globalservicecorps.org/site/tanzania-dates-and-rates/> for the current fee

This includes:

- Nine Pass/Fail credits from SUNY Albany
- All in-country student expenses: Airport pick-up/return and project transportation; hostel, homestay and camping accommodations; all meals; language and cultural orientation and training; project administration; and, Tanzania day trip safari

Not included:

- Airfare, travel insurance, resident permit and visa; required or optional reading material

To Apply

Please Note: Students will have to apply through both GSC and SUNY.

- To apply through GSC go to <http://www.globalservicecorps.org/site/apply/>
- To apply through SUNY go to <http://www.albany.edu/studyabroad/>

For answers to commonly asked questions, visit <http://www.globalservicecorps.org/site/tanzania-faqs/>

For further information about this nine credit summer program, the fifteen credit semester program, or graduate program credit, contact Tanzania@globalservicecorps.org.