



## 15 CREDIT SEMESTER SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM IN TANZANIA

HIV/AIDS Prevention Education, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

\*\*For semester 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 in GSC's international programs qualified to earn academic credit through SUNY-Albany on individual programs. GSC and SUNY-Albany are now jointly offering this fifteen credit semester integrated program. Students successfully completing the program will receive a letter grade (A-F) for each of the three courses described below for a total of 15 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. This 15-week program includes six weeks of classroom training and nine weeks of field work. Students will work closely with the 36 GSC Tanzania staff members and participate in three weeks of orientation and academic training to prepare them for the following nine weeks of group projects as they take on roles as staff assistants and trainers in their community development work. The final three weeks of the program will consist of academic classes in which students will integrate their academic work and field experiences, culminating in final group presentations on their projects as well as required academic papers.

Students will be provided required and suggested reading material as an academic grounding in the areas of HIV/AIDS, food security, nutrition, and service learning theory as well as East African culture and history. Class lectures, discussions, and group activities will be balanced by class outings and field work preparation to provide students with a well-rounded understanding of these subject areas. Basic, conversational Swahili lessons will also be included during orientation with an option available for further training. All students will be required to maintain journals/blogs and submit reflection papers that will be reviewed by the Course Instructor during the fifteen week period.

The Instructor will maintain office hours during the six weeks of academic coursework to accommodate student needs and will also hold group meetings at the end of each of the nine weeks of field work to provide feedback and guided reflection on student experiences. Students will submit reflection papers as well as a final paper(s) that will be reviewed by the service-learning coordinator for suggested improvements before being submitted to SUNY-Albany for final grading. In order to provide students with a truly unique cultural exchange experience, they will be joined in the classroom and field settings by Tanzanian counterparts and students.

## Academic Overview

### Weeks 1 through 3: Foundations to African Culture, Public Health and Community Development (3 Credits)

Schedule: Students will spend approximately 8 hours per day participating in orientation, attending class lectures, engaging in discussions and group work, and completing hands-on field work training

Subjects and Activities:

- Introductions, Syllabus, Overview of Program and Course
- Swahili Language Training
- Tanzanian Culture and History
- Service Learning Theory
- International Development in the African Context
- Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture
- HIV/AIDS
- Nutrition
- Project Planning and Management
- Project Monitoring and Evaluation
- Hands-on Training in Bio-intensive Agriculture

### Weeks 13 through 15: Service Learning Capstone Course (3 Credits)

Schedule: Students will spend approximately 8 hours per day attending class lectures, working on their final paper(s) and preparing group presentations that they will deliver on the final days of the program

Subjects and Activities:

- Review and Application of Community Development Theory
- Program Evaluation and Assessment
- Public Health Policy (Including Health Behavioral Change and Health Promotion)
- Group Project Work
- Presentation Techniques and Skills
- Final Group Presentations
- Course Evaluation

## Field Work Overview and Student Experience

### Weeks 4 through 12: GSC HIV/AIDS Prevention and Sustainable Agriculture Food Security Programs (9 Credits)

Schedule: Students will spend approximately 8 hours per day participating in a variety of HIV/AIDS prevention and sustainable agriculture training and hands-on projects based on the needs of local community members at that time.

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 **Semester Integrated Service-Learning Program** allows students to participate in two GSC program areas providing a cross-sectoral response to development in Tanzania. As participants in the **GSC HIV/AIDS Prevention Program**, students will be prepared to assist GSC staff in providing HIV/AIDS prevention education trainings to youth and adults. Participants will also receive technical training in sustainable agriculture and food security as part of the **GSC Sustainable Agriculture Food Security Program**. Weeks four through twelve 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**

Since 2001, GSC has been facilitating HIV/AIDS Peer Education and Life Skills Day Camps during the summer for Tanzanian secondary students 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 throughout the rest of the year. GSC volunteers and staff provide assistance to these health clubs throughout the year.

With the Peace Corps Life Skills Manual as a basis, students will receive training in the following areas: HIV/AIDS in Tanzania, biology of HIV/AIDS and the immune system, STIs, nutrition, healthy lifestyle choices, gender roles, and life skills such as decision making and goal setting. Along with GSC staff and counterparts, participants will then organize community workshops and awareness activities for Tanzanian youth and adults targeting HIV/AIDS education and prevention.

### **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. Students will assist GSC's staff of professional development workers with community trainings in sustainable agriculture and will also have the opportunity to engage in hands-on rural development projects. By focusing on rural food security, students 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 fourteen 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 program fee

This includes:

- Fifteen 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 common questions, visit <http://www.globalservicecorps.org/site/tanzania-faqs/>

For further information about this fifteen credit semester program, the nine credit summer program, or graduate program credit, contact [Tanzania@globalservicecorps.org](mailto:Tanzania@globalservicecorps.org).

