Creating Leaders
Meeting Global Needs

BEYOND TRADITIONAL BORDERS

RICE UNIVERSITY

Beyond Traditional Borders a unique, multi-disciplinary program to train students to reach beyond traditional disciplinary and geographic boundaries to solve global health disparities.

Advances in biotechnology and bioengineering are transforming the future of health care, but ensuring that these technologies meet the healthcare needs of least developed countries (LDCs) requires a new way of thinking.

BTB brings together faculty members from Rice University and all across the Texas Medical Center, and across a variety of disciplines, including the natural sciences, bioengineering, social sciences, humanities, public policy, and medicine, **to train the next generation of leaders to develop and implement *appropriate health technologies*** for low resource settings across the globe. This innovative global health curriculum culminates in a senior design course in which students undertake design challenges aimed at solving real-world health problems.

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Recognizing that effective problem-solving requires interdisciplinary teams, the ***Beyond Traditional Borders*** initiative offers:

- **A minor in Global Health Technologies <u>for undergraduates from all disciplines</u>.** Students take a series of courses that culminate in a capstone design experience. The Fall introductory course : *GLHT 201 Bioengineering and World Health* provides an overview of scientific, economic, and policy issues associated with advances in global health technologies, followed by an introductory design course, *Appropriate Design for Global Health*. Subsequent elective courses, such as *Virology, Health Economics*, *Medical Sociology* or *Bioengineering for Global Health Environments*, give students experience in science and engineering as applied to international health problems, <u>regardless of their chosen academic major.</u>

- **A capstone course, *Global Health Design Challenges*, in which multidisciplinary teams of undergraduates work together to develop and implement solutions to real health challenges in the developing world.** Students from all disciplines take this course. Mentored by faculty from Rice, the Texas Medical Center, partner organizations in the developing world, and clinicians, student teams design solutions to real-world health challenges.
- **Summer internship opportunities abroad.** The BTB international two month summer internship program gives students first-hand exposure to health care in the developing world. It improves students' understanding of the constraints under which such care is given and inspires new ideas for innovations in appropriate health technologies. The internship also enables students to develop and implement of global health technologies of their own design.

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