

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why would nurses be interested in online coursework in Women’s Global Health Leadership?

Have you ever wondered how your role as a patient advocate extends beyond the bedside and into your community? How a society built on RN values of caring, compassion, and community might look? How nursing relates to some of the most pressing social and economic issues of our time, such as extreme poverty, climate change, and famine? Who really decides who lives and who dies? How nurses like you have begun to organize to heal the world and to transform human desperation into human dignity?

The courses will engage students in conversations about vital issues related to health and healthcare: economic inequality; climate change and other environmental crises; famine; epidemics; failures of the consumer-driven healthcare model; how health information technology is changing healthcare; corporate healthcare providers; global health governance; international trade agreements; nurse migration; impacts of private pharmaceutical companies on drug research and distribution; commodity food speculation; genetically-modified organisms; privatization of public resources and services; cuts in spending on social programs; human rights; and women’s movements for health around the world.

What are the advantages of online courses?

Are you worried that college coursework will take too much time away from your already busy schedule? Are you wondering how you can possibly make time for reading and assignments while working twelve-hour shifts and picking your kids up from school? A significant advantage of online coursework is great flexibility. In consultation with your instructor, you can complete the coursework on a flexible timeline, wherever you are, and at any time of the day or night. Nurses wishing to take courses do not need to be Rutgers students.

With the founding of Global Nurses United in 2013 and the international fight for a Robin Hood Tax, building alliances and community with all who share RN values is becoming increasingly important. Online education enables NNU to communicate the point of view of bedside nurses to anyone anywhere in the world. Offering courses online allows NNU to strengthen alliances with people and organizations that support our fight for universal healthcare and a more equitable distribution of resources in the United States and around the world.

Who teaches the courses?

Courses are taught by NNU Educators.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at www.nationalnursesunited.org/womens-global-health-leadership

Email us at certificateprograms@nationalnursesunited.org with the subject line “More Information”



155 Grand Ave | Oakland CA 94612



CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN WOMEN’S GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP

National Nurses United
Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University
Institute for Women’s Leadership, Rutgers University



CERTIFICATE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

National Nurses United’s certificate program in Women’s Global Health Leadership is the first academic program built from the values of bedside nurses: compassion for the world’s sick and suffering; the necessity for a single standard of care for all people regardless of their ability to pay; just distribution of life’s basic necessities; equal opportunities to fulfill our human potential; and commitment to building solidarity with all who share these core values. Through the certificate program, NNU continues its work to create a world more aligned with core RN values: community, compassion, and caring.

The Certificate Program offers registered nurses the opportunity to learn how national and international forces influence their everyday nursing practice and their patients’ health. The courses examine the social, economic, political, and environmental forces that are contributing to worsening health and precarious existence in all regions of the world. The courses will engage students in conversations about vital issues related to health and healthcare. Through the certificate program, nurses will come to understand patient advocacy as advocacy for humanity.

The certificate is not a certification in nursing but a certification in leadership on a global scale. A certificate is in between an undergraduate academic major and an academic minor. All courses are taken for college credit, whether or not a certificate is obtained.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Women’s Global Health Movements

Global political and economic institutions and policies impact health globally. The course investigates how women’s non-governmental organizations have attempted to transform existing institutions and policies of global health governance such that people everywhere can lead healthier and more dignified lives.

Debt, Crisis, and Women’s Health

Growing national debt has become a feature of increasing numbers of nations over the past 60 years, heightening dependence on international financial institutions and restricting the sphere of freedom of national policy makers. Healthcare provision has been subjected to severe cuts as nations struggle to meet their debt obligations and stabilize their economies. Framing ongoing global economic crisis as a consequence of excess rather than scarcity, this course unsettles the conventional moral calculus of credit and debt, exploring the relationship between debt and economic crisis, and examining the impacts of austerity policies on women’s health.

Gendered Health Impacts of Structural Adjustment Programs

Since the 1980s, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have conditioned loans to poor countries on implementation of economic policy requirements known collectively as structural adjustment. This course considers the gendered health effects of structural adjustment and investigates why women are over-represented among those most negatively affected by cuts in public services.

Gendered Professions and the Transnational Care Economy

This course examines how nursing and other women-dominated professions lie at the heart of what is known as the “care economy.” Involving work that requires intensive physical labor, person-to-person communication, and spatial proximity, the intimate nature of care work resists mechanization. In contrast to the production of commodities, the highly personalized labor of care is driven by human need rather than profit maximization. Focused on the cultivation and preservation of human capacities, nursing and other professions at the heart of the care economy resist routinization and automation. The course culminates in an exploration of recent efforts to heighten the profit-making potential of the care economy, and it considers the long-term implication of efforts to deskill and outsource care work.

Impacts of Economic Inequality on Women’s Health

Domestic and global economic inequality place significant numbers of people at high risk for health crises even as they are denied access to care. This course investigates the “pathogenic” aspects of gender and economic inequality; how systems of unequal resource distribution contribute to wide disparities of health risk, access to healthcare, and clinical outcomes; and how global trade and transnational migration affect health costs, healthcare delivery systems, and the availability of healthcare professionals.

Health Consequences of Global Trade in Food Commodities

In the twenty-first century, close to one billion people suffer from malnutrition and many more from food deprivation. As neoliberal trade policies have restructured national economies, new speculation in global commodities markets has limited access to food by the poor. This course investigates shifting modes of food production as local practices of subsistence agriculture have been replaced by export agriculture and global commodities markets. The course compares the consequences of these changes for women as consumers in the global North as well as for women as producers of subsistence in the global South. Examining impacts of global commodities markets on food distribution, diet, and health, the course also analyzes the health effects of the creation of consumer markets for processed foods.

Health Consequences of Global Trade in Pharmaceuticals

This course explores the political economy of the global pharmaceutical industry. Students will examine ethical issues such as: disproportionate investment in drugs for minor health problems while serious diseases affecting the poor and other marginalized groups remain insufficiently studied; inadequate vaccine development and manufacture; restrictions on the distribution of life-saving generic drugs in third-world countries; overuse of antibiotics and the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria; and the influence of the pharmaceutical lobby on healthcare.

The Growth Imperative, Global Ecology, and Women’s Health

In the last quarter century, the premise of the possibility of endless growth for the purpose of unlimited capital accumulation has met the inevitable challenges of resource exhaustion on a global scale and its human consequences. Markets and technological innovation are inadequate to solve the resulting environmental crises. This course examines the externalized business costs paid in the currency of human health and health consequences such as illness caused by toxic industrial byproducts, injury from resource extraction processes such as nuclear fission and deep-water oil drilling, manifold health hazards of violent conflict over control of scarce resources in postcolonial states, and other dangers that attend climate change.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Full-tuition scholarships will be available for NNU members, for each course offered.

A short essay (250 to 500 words) is required, describing how the topic of the course will inform your RN patient advocacy. NNU members may apply for a scholarship for more than one course.

For more information on scholarship opportunities, all interested scholarship applicants should email **certificateprograms@nationalnursesunited.com** with the subject line “Scholarship.”

REQUIREMENTS

The Women’s Global Health Leadership Certificate Program is offered entirely online and provides busy nurses the flexibility to enroll in and complete the program on their own timeline. Nurses are not required to be Rutgers University students to take classes nor to enroll in the certificate program.

Completion of the Women’s Global Health Leadership Certificate Program requires seven courses, but courses may be taken individually without enrolling in the program. Rutgers University is an accredited school, and course credit will fulfill general education requirements at most universities and colleges throughout the United States.