



Membership Application 2026-2027: Spring Break March 2027: Panama

If accepted, you are required to enroll in SOCA 280 for 2 credits during spring term.

Please complete the following application and submit it by Friday, September 18th at 5:00 p.m.
Interviews will be scheduled for the following week if necessary.

We will host informational sessions on Thursday, September 10th and Monday, September 14th.
We encourage you to attend one of the two sessions.

Email application to Daniel.Brewster@mail.wvu.edu

Feel free to submit applications early.

I am interested in the _____ Medical Brigades _____ Dental Brigades _____ Both Brigades

Name:

WVU email address:

Major/Program of Study:

Please identify your student status (undergraduate, graduate, alumni):

What year did you become a full-time student on campus at WVU Morgantown?

Please read prior to applying. Participating in brigades requires fundraising, volunteering, coursework, preparation meetings, and sacrificing much of your spring break. This brigade will cost you about \$3,500, you will be expected to participate in football cleanups, volunteer monthly with the Pantry Plus More, and join small group meetings on top of regular class meetings. This is significantly more involvement than typical student organizations and more commitments than all study-abroad programs at WVU but those who do it appreciate every minutes spent in the experience.

Spanish is NOT a requirement for GMDB; however, we want to understand your background.

Indicate yes or no to the following questions.

Are you pursuing a Spanish minor at WVU? _____

Are you conversational in Spanish? _____

Are you applying to be a translator? _____

Please visit the Global Brigades website and our website prior to applying.

Global Brigades: <https://www.globalbrigades.org/>

WVU Global Medical and Dental Brigades: <https://medicaldentalbrigades.orgs.wvu.edu/home>

Please type all answers.

For the following questions, please be thorough and genuine in your responses. It is strongly recommended you write personal responses; generic AI generated responses are easily identified.

1. Answer question a. or b. dependent upon your situation
 - a. Answer this question ONLY if you are hoping to join your first brigade.
 - i. Many applicants describe a desire to "help people." After researching Global Brigades, what do you believe students are meant to learn from communities during brigade, and why might that learning be just as important as the service provided? Why do you believe this experience is worth that commitment, and what does your willingness to make those sacrifices reveal about your motivations for applying?
 - b. Answer this question ONLY if you have previously brigaded.
 - i. When you first applied for brigade, you had expectations about the communities we serve, the purpose of Global Brigades, and what you hoped to gain from the experience. Looking back, identify one assumption, expectation, or belief that changed significantly because of your previous brigade experience. Describe the specific moment, interaction, or observation that challenged your thinking. How has that experience influenced the way you approach service, healthcare, cultural humility, or leadership today? Why do you believe this experience is worth applying again, what motivates you to apply again?
2. After researching Global Brigades' Holistic Model (the website is found above) answer the following question.
 - a. What are some ways in which holistic work and the public health projects that GMDB partakes in contribute towards the improved healthcare of a community? Identify a health-related issue that affects your own community/state. Explain how each component of the Holistic Model could be used to address that issue. Which component do you believe would be the most difficult to implement in your community, and why?
3. "Power is the ability to define perception." Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
 - a. Students returning from brigade often share stories and photographs that influence how others understand Panama, healthcare access, and the communities Global Brigades serves.
 - i. Describe a time when your perception of a group of people was shaped by how someone else represented them. How accurate was that portrayal, and what impact did it have on your beliefs?
 - ii. Using Adichie's quote, discuss the ethical responsibilities that come with telling stories about communities that are different from your own. How would you ensure that your experiences on brigade contribute to understanding rather than stereotypes?
4. "Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both." C. Wright Mills
 - a. One of the central ideas of the Sociology of Health and Medicine course is that personal experiences are shaped by larger social forces.
 - i. Describe a challenge, opportunity, or achievement in your own life that people often view as an individual accomplishment or personal responsibility. Then, using Mills' quote, analyze the broader social, cultural, economic, historical, or institutional factors that may have contributed to that outcome.
 - ii. Explain how this way of thinking might influence how you interact with a patient or community member whose life experiences differ significantly from your own while on brigade.