



Membership Application 2025-2026

Spring Break March 2026: Panama

If accepted, you are required to enroll in SOCA 499.

Please complete the following application and submit it by Friday, September 19th at 5:00 p.m.

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

Feel free to submit applications early.

Please type all answers.

Please plan to possibly interview with during the week of September 22-25, 2025

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

Name:

WVU email address:

Major:

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

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

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 major or 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.

Any applications that are perceived to be written by AI will be removed from the applicant pool.

For the following questions, please be thorough and genuine in your responses.

- I. After conducting research on the Global Brigades organization, how do you recognize the sustainability and collaboration Global Brigades uses in planning and conducting a brigade? Explain how the Holistic Model works in the context of GMDB. How does the Holistic model promote sustainability rather than dependency? Why is that so important? Give specific examples you have found during your research of Global Brigades as a global organization and our chapter at WVU.
- II. “If you don't get out of the box you've been raised in, you won't understand how much bigger the world is.” ~Angelina Jolie
 - a. In response to this quote, state why you believe it is important to travel and challenge the ideas and norms that you have been socialized.
 - i. **First time Brigaders:** How do you imagine that you will be challenged on brigade and how will you respond to this challenge on brigade and in the future?
 - ii. **Returning Brigaders:** What was the most significant challenge you managed on a previous brigade and how have you used that to improve your current life?
- III. Pulitzer Prize winner and reporter for the New York Times Nicolas Kristof once said, “I have always been interested in public health approaches, because it seems to me, we have this yearning for silver bullets, and that is not in fact how change comes about. Change comes through silver buckshot — a lot of little things that achieve results.”
 - a. Why is it important to have a sociological understanding of health and medicine? What social factors influence health and medicine across the United States (including but not limited to West Virginia) and how do those compare to the regions where Global Brigades function?
- IV. Many Americans do not have access to healthcare, affordable healthcare, and/or the ability to obtain it. The average life expectancy in both rural Panama and in Appalachia is about 77 years. Why do you think our region of the United States has a similar life expectancy to many resource reduced regions of the world? What are some similar and dissimilar health factors in both regions? Consider how social determinants of health and health disparities impact both regions.
- V. **Only answer this question if you are possibly being accepted to your first brigade.**
 - a. To go on this brigade, it will cost you about \$3,500, you will be expected to attend football cleanups, food pantries, and small group meetings on top of regular class meetings. This is significantly more involvement than all study-abroad programs at WVU.
 - i. Why is it important for you to be a part of this program? What do you hope to gain from Global Medical and Dental Brigades that you could not get from another study abroad?
- VI. **Only answer this question if you are possibly being accepted to return on another brigade.**
 - a. Acclaimed writer and public speaker Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie stated the following in her famous TED Talk, The Danger of a Single Story, “Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity.”
 - i. How does Global Brigades avoid the “danger of a single story” as it relates to the ethical portrayal of resource-reduced regions of the world? If accepted, how will you stray from actions and mindsets that exemplify voluntourism and white saviorism, and instead help to humanize rural Panama?