Global health nursing is an important component of nursing practice. In developing nations, global health nurses work in a unique sphere that links the fundamentals of public health nursing with a broad range of specialty nursing skills. Nurses working overseas often find themselves poorly equipped due to lack of supplies and familiar resources. They must confront the vast differences in conceptions of health and nursing practice that may be prevalent in different cultures.

This senior honors project explores the profound experience of global health nursing in a narrative format, examining culture shock, nursing ethics, health beliefs, and the emotional impact of witnessing unrelenting suffering and poverty.

The accompanying discussion guide invites readers to further consider the relationship of a biomedical model of healthcare and nursing practice in a third-world country, with a focus on the nurse’s preparation to work in a developing nation as well as the personal and professional skills required.