Program: UW Global Health Field School in Thailand, Summer

Bridget’s Major: Nursing

Academic Life: Our team of interdisciplinary healthcare students traveled to various sites in Bangkok. We received short lectures from professors and knowledgeable professionals to gain greater understanding of the Thai healthcare system. During the second week, our team traveled to rural Saraburi province and participated in a home stay while performing various community assessments using interview and walk along methods. At the end of this week, we presented the findings and recommendations of our community assessments to faculty at Mahidol University. The final week was solely for nursing students where we traveled to Khon Kaen and visited village and provincial health centers as well as a labor and delivery ward, diabetic clinic utilizing traditional Thai medicine, and youth health clinic that counseled teens experiencing unplanned pregnancies.

Benefits of Field Work: The fieldwork allowed me to develop critical career skills such as patient interview, data analysis, and professional presentation. I also gained greater insight into the management of chronic non-communicable diseases such as diabetes. All this information is directly applicable to my future nursing career, and I feel I will be a better nurse because of this experience.

Advice for Someone Considering Studying Abroad: I would highly recommend this program. It was well organized and allowed students to gain a greater understanding of the Thai healthcare system within the cultural context. The study abroad experience itself not only makes you a more knowledgeable healthcare professional, it makes you a more compassionate, globally aware human being.