Costa Rica
Broadening Perspectives on Health Care

This is a one-credit MSU Study Abroad Program offered to pre-clinical College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine students during spring break. The International Health Central American Institute based in San Jose, Costa Rica, is the host institution.

Program Description

Is health care a right? Costa Rica, a developing country, has adopted the view that its citizens have a right to health care. How is an equitable and effective health care system developed? These and other questions drive this program’s exploration of the universal health care system in Costa Rica. Participants will meet with experts, interact with patients, visit public and private hospitals and a rural clinic. In addition, participants will enjoy the beautiful beaches of Tamarindo for two days.

Aspects of the program:
- History and proposal for reform of the health care system; visit to National Museum
- Compare public and private health care; visit public and private hospitals
- Speak to patients about their experiences
- Learn about rural health care clinics
- Explore the impact of globalization
- Tour INBio Institute, a facility for bio prospecting to develop new drugs
- Learn about tropical diseases
- Relax at Tamarindo on the Pacific Coast
- Spanish is a plus, but not required

Program cost of $975 includes home stay with a family, breakfast, dinner, laundry and the trip to Tamarindo. Airfare and spending money are not included.