

Welcome to Global Business Brigades (GBB)! The intent of this document is to provide a structure for pre-brigade preparation with your campus chapter. GBB will provide materials where appropriate, but there is significant material available on the topics covered on a business brigade, and we have provided links to outside resources that may prove useful. Ultimately, the chapter president will be responsible for organizing meetings, teaching fellow chapter members, and distributing further information.

Students will be working in two different types of communities, those who have working savings and loans cooperatives (co-ops), and those who are still taking first steps to form a co-op. This education and training plan will help prepare student brigades for both situations, as they may likely encounter individuals and questions about both topics, no matter the community's current situation.

8 week lesson plan

- Lesson 1
 - Intro to the GB class room
 - Role of the education chair and task force
 - Role of Staff Education Ally
 - Role of advisor
 - Educational timeline: From Pre-Brigade to On Brigade curriculum

- Lesson 2
 - Country specific general history and how development organizations play a role in the country
 - History of Brigades in country
 - Asset based community development

- Lesson 3
 - Global Business Brigades background, introduction to Panama and Darien
 - Introduce students who have participated in past brigades to speak about experiences, 5 – 10 minutes each
 - For new chapters, show GBB-provided student testimonials
 - Country specific differences of program

- Lesson 4
 - The types of communities GBB works with in each country along with profiles of different typical professions/enterprises
 - Introduction to rural community co-op operations
 - a. What is a savings and loans cooperative?
 - i. Basics of a loan

- b. How are co-ops formed?
 - i. Role of community members
 - ii. Role of COOP
- c. Why are co-ops needed?
- d. Who participates in the co-op?
 - i. Leadership structure

Lesson 5

Review of microfinance and how to apply those concepts to GBB Panamanian communities through education

- e. Financial literacy concepts
- f. Challenges in teaching financial literacy

Lesson 6

- Pre-departure webinar
 - Confirm group has necessary travel documents, vaccines, emergency contact information, medication labels, and other necessary brigade documents
- Review of learning objectives completed
- Assign On-Brigade Learning packet