

Motion re the City Scholars Program

Effective for students on the 2013-2014 Catalog

Motion:

Part A.

At graduation, students who earn a B or better in five 3000-4000 courses with a city perspectives designation will be recognized as City Scholars.

To be eligible to be a City Scholar, students must have an overall GPA of 3.0 when they become juniors. (Students who are juniors when they first enroll at GSU must have a transfer GPA of 3.0.) In addition, City Scholars must have an overall GPA of 3.0 at graduation.

At least two of these five courses must be outside the discipline of the student's major. However, in cases, where a major gives credit for 3000-4000 courses outside its discipline, those courses count as being outside the discipline of the student's major. For example, the pre-law concentration of the major in philosophy (PHIL) allows students to meet some of the requirements of the PHIL major with courses other than those with the PHIL prefix. For example, some courses with HIST or POLS prefixes count towards the PHIL major. For the purposes of the City Scholars program, the courses with HIST and POLS prefixes are outside the discipline of the student's major.

All departments are strongly encouraged to designate appropriate courses as city courses. The city designation must be approved by the Dean of the college offering the course and then by the Undergraduate Council of CAP. Courses with a city designation are designed to help students develop competence in urban issues and thus help them to become leaders in understanding the complex challenges of cities and in developing effective solutions to those challenges.

City courses at GSU are ones that meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Have as a substantial focus the historical, geographical, social, cultural, economic, environmental, political, policy & planning, and/or design dimensions of city life.
2. Provide students with hands-on experience in addressing or investigating problems or opportunities inherent in city life.

Competence in urban issues is defined as “the skills, knowledge, and awareness that enhance the ability to understand and address the problems and possibilities of cities.”

Skills

- Analytical skills: the ability to analyze and synthesize comparative and diverse information about cities with sound judgment
- Communication skills: the ability to communicate with diverse audiences and with people from different backgrounds and learning styles
- Organizational skills: the ability to recognize diverse contributing partners and find ways to integrate other disciplines toward a constructive end

Knowledge

- Recognition of the complex interconnectedness of cities in urban systems
- Ability to think critically about the complex challenges posed by the city as a creative force in society

Awareness

- Interest in new and different thoughts, ideas, and perspectives; curiosity; adaptability; flexibility in ambiguous or unique situations
- Appreciation of and respect for differences and diversity, coupled with a developed sense of openness, empathy, and concern
- Advocacy for effective solutions that contribute to livable communities and sustainable cities

Part B.

The following changes are made to the Global Fellows policy.

1. The name “Global Fellows” is changed to “Global Scholars.”
2. The following sentence of the policy is modified with these ~~deletions~~ and *additions*.

“At graduation, students who ~~pass~~ *earn a B or better* in five 3000-4000 courses with a global perspectives (~~G~~) designation will be recognized as *Global Scholars* ~~Fellows~~.”

Rationale:

For Part A.

Goal 4 of GSU's Strategic Plan calls on GSU to be "a leader in understanding the complex challenges of cities and developing effective solutions." This motion is part of the effort to highlight the many ways that GSU's curriculum focuses on cities and to encourage GSU students to become leaders in understanding the challenges faced by cities and in developing solutions to those challenges.

The 3.0 GPA requirement ensures that student who are struggling to graduate do not burden themselves with extra courses in an attempt to earn the City Scholar recognition.

The requirement that at least two of the courses be outside the major represents GSU's commitment to interdisciplinarity.

For Part B

These changes are made to make the Global Scholars policy parallel to the City Scholars policy. The name "City Fellows" was not adopted because it might be confused with an existing program, the Urban Fellows program.

It is better not to specify the precise code (e.g., "G" or "C") in Senate policy to allow for flexibility in implementation.