

Motion re the Global Fellows Program

Effective for students on the 2013-2014 Catalog

Motion:

At graduation, students who pass five 3000-4000 courses with a global perspectives (G) designation will be recognized as Global Fellows.

To be eligible to be a Global Fellow, 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, Global Fellows 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-education concentration of the major in African-American Studies (AAS) allows students to meet some of the requirements of the AAS major with courses other than those with the AAS prefix. Courses with HIST, POLS, GEOG, ECON, and EDUC prefixes count towards the AAS major. For the purposes of the Global Fellows program, the courses with HIST, POLS, GEOG, ECON, and EDUC prefixes are outside the discipline of the student's major.

All departments are strongly encouraged to designate appropriate courses as "G" courses. The G designation must be approved by the Dean of the college offering the course and then by the Undergraduate Council of CAP. Courses with a G designation are designed to develop globally competent students.

Global competence is defined as **"the skills, knowledge, and awareness that enhance the ability to function in a global environment."** Each of these aspects of global competence can be further subdivided as follows:

Skills

- Foreign language skills: the ability to communicate in a language other than English
- Communication skills: the ability to communicate with diverse audiences and with people from different backgrounds and learning styles
- Analytical skills: the ability to analyze and synthesize comparative and cross-cultural information with sound judgment

Knowledge

- Comparative grasp of political systems, histories, religions, cultures, literatures, economies, etc.
- Recognition of global interconnectedness and conflict
- Ability to think critically about the U.S. and see it in a global context

Awareness

- Openness to different thoughts, ideas, and perspectives; curiosity; adaptability; flexibility in ambiguous or unfamiliar situations as well as in international or intercultural environments
- Willingness to stay abreast of international current events and seek out new intercultural opportunities at home or abroad
- Appreciation of and respect for difference and diversity and a highly developed sense of empathy, awareness, and concern

Rationale:

Goal 5 of GSU's Strategic Plan calls on GSU to "achieve distinction in globalizing the University." Under Goal 5, Initiative calls on GSU to "enhance the global competency of students, faculty and staff." This motion, coupled with GSU's global perspectives requirement in Area E of the core curriculum and the Globalizing Education Initiative, are part of the effort to globalize GSU's curriculum and to encourage GSU students to have a global perspective.

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 Global Fellows recognition.

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