



Guidelines for Internationalized Courses



Context

A St. Catherine education calls students to develop a strong ethical character and to imagine and enact strategies for change by applying their knowledge to complex world issues. Included as well in our liberal arts goals is a commitment to teach students the “ability to decipher and honor multiple and global perspectives in creating mutual understanding.” Building upon this foundation, internationalization will incorporate global learning and global experiences into the fabric of our institutional structure at all degree levels and across all the colleges and schools in order to engage students in the active development of global perspectives.

St. Kate’s Learning Goals for Cultural Competence and Global Perspectives will actively engage students, faculty and staff in developing the following areas:

- Knowledge of critical world issues and the ability to analyze and incorporate multiple perspectives
- Awareness of their own cultural values and traditions and understanding that they exist in a complex and interdependent web of cultures and countries
- Effective communication across languages and cultures
- Preparation for global leadership grounded in an understanding of social responsibility

Internationalized Course

Definitions of “internationalization” vary; we find these definitions most useful:

- the incorporation of an international and intercultural dimension into the preparation, delivery and outcomes of a program of study
- an internationalized curriculum will purposefully develop the international and intercultural perspectives (skills, knowledge and attitudes) of all students. (Leask 2009)

A course may be approved as internationalized if its focus is placed on international perspectives in the respective discipline. The course must have at least 3 of the 5 characteristics listed below.

1. ¼ of the content used in the course focuses on international issues;

Examples:

- Course has an international subject, and the focus is included in the course description
- Include texts and other course materials with an international perspective
- Include international films
- Include international case study or studies
- Course broadens a traditional or already existing subject or topic (which currently considers the US perspective) by including an internationally comparative approach
- Course covers more than one region, area, or country

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2. ¼ of the resources and scholarship is by international authors or by U.S. authors writing on an international theme;

Examples:

- Include books and articles written by scholars from other countries
 - Include readings that address writing and research in other countries
 - Require reading of international newspapers or listening to foreign broadcasts
3. Off-campus experience (outside of class experience with an international focus);
- Examples:
- Build in an embedded portion of the course abroad
 - Attend events with international component, such as guest speakers, local international lecturers, music, art.
 - Course contains an internationally-focused CWL or Service-learning component, abroad or within the US

4. The course includes critical analysis of topics about the U.S. in the world;

Examples:

- Include an international case study or studies
- Discuss issues in developing and developed countries
- Opportunity for international students to present in classes and exchange ideas with local students
- Writing assignments require demonstration of global or comparative perspective
- Include cross-border, regional or global trends

5. The course develops skills that are integral to effective global functioning.

Examples:

- Course prepares students for a defined international profession
- Course addresses cross-cultural communication issues
- Course provides training in intercultural skills
- Course leads to internationally recognized professional qualifications
- Opportunity for international students to present in classes and exchange ideas with local students
- Opportunity for international and local students to work together on a project
- Teach course collaboratively with faculty from an institution abroad