
Santa Monica College Core Value: Global Citizenship

In 2007, Santa Monica College's then-Superintendent/President conceived a vision for the College in which global citizenship should be an institutional priority and believed that all students should have the opportunity to experience at least one culture other than their own. After discussing his goal with the Academic Senate and other members of the College administration, the President/Superintendent and the Academic Senate President initiated what was officially called the Joint Presidents' Task Force on Global Citizenship. The overall objective of this initiative was to develop and promote activities that would prepare students for the 21st Century. In 2008, the College adopted the following definition for global citizenship:

“To be a global citizen, one is knowledgeable of peoples, customs and cultures in regions of the world beyond one's own; understands the interdependence that holds both promise and peril for the future of the global community; and is committed to combining one's learning with a dedication to foster a livable, sustainable world.”

The Strategic Planning Taskforce, under the direction of the District Planning and Advisory Council, identified Global Citizenship as one of the College's Strategic Initiatives, which resulted in the identification of Global Citizenship as an Institutional Learning Outcome, a degree option, and a [graduation requirement](#).¹

The requirement states that for students to earn an associate degree from Santa Monica College, they must complete at least one global citizenship course with a passing grade. These courses fall into four categories: American Cultures, Ecological Literacy, Global Studies, and Service Learning. These courses aim to provide an awareness of the diversity of cultures within the United States and/or an appreciation for the interconnectedness of cultural, ecological, economic, political, social, and technological systems of the contemporary world, as well as prepare students to make a responsible contribution to a rapidly changing global society. The Global Citizenship requirement can also be fulfilled by completing a Santa Monica College Study Abroad experience (if completed Spring 2008 or later).

One recent challenge concerned the application of this requirement to the Associate in Arts for Transfer and the Associate in Science for Transfer. After some discussion and due to legal requirements of SB 1440, students pursuing these degrees to the CSU system are *exempt* from the Global Citizenship requirement.

One of the most important steps of the implementation process was to inform students that the College was expanding the existing American Cultures graduation requirement. College-wide communication of this revised degree requirement went into effect in Fall 2008, and students may be informed of the College's degree requirements at several points in the matriculation process, such as during outreach activities, admissions meetings, and new student advising.

¹ Evidence: [IC10_Articulation_Global_Citizenship_required_Associate_degree.pdf](#)

Counselors address this degree requirement as they work with students to develop educational plans, and the College's new online educational planning tool, [MyEdPlan](#),² requires students to address this requirement as they develop their educational plan. Students who choose not to access a counselor on campus may access the College's online advising tool, known as [Ask Monica](#),³ which also provides an explanation of this requirement if students select the associate degree as a goal.

Information about the Global Citizenship degree requirement is published in the [College catalog](#)⁴ and the [Student Handbook/Planner](#).⁵ It is shared through the College's website under General Education Requirements/Associate Degree and accessible through Programs of Study off the main page by clicking on AA/Certificates/Transfer Major Requirements or through Students Services off the main page by clicking on Articulation. It is also included in the [Online Orientation](#) for all new students.⁶

² Evidence: [IC10_MyEd_Plan.pdf](#)

³ Evidence: [IC10_Ask_Monica.pdf](#)

⁴ Evidence: [IC10_Global_Citizenship_SMCcatalog_excerpt_2015-16.pdf](#)

⁵ Evidence: [IC10_Student_Planner_excerpt_Global_Citizenship.pdf](#)

⁶ Evidence: [IC10_Online_Orientation_Global_Citizenship.jpg](#)