

GLOBAL STUDIES

PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

High School Preparation

Recommended as part of or in addition to UC's "a-g" admission requirements:

English composition,
American government or civics,
American History,
Western civilization or world history.

Transfer Preparation

To make normal progress in the major, complete the following courses prior to transfer:

One course in global history, culture and ideology*

One course in global political and socioeconomic processes*
(* may be taken at UCSB if not available at your college);

One course from: cultural anthropology, principles of microeconomics, principles of macroeconomics, environmental studies, human or cultural geography, comparative politics, international relations, introduction to religious study, women in Western societies, women in the Third World;

One course from: modern art history; Asian, African, Latin American, or Islamic art history; American history (Civil War to the present); history of East Asia, Africa, Latin America, or Middle East;

Two years of college-level modern foreign language or equivalent (very important to do some before transferring); and one additional year of language, either the same language, advanced level, or the first year of another language.

Please see the UCSB *General Catalog* (www.catalog.ucsb.edu) or your school counselor for more information on course preparation. California community college students should see www.assist.org.

The Program

Global Studies was established in 1968 as an interdisciplinary major within the Global and International Studies Program. It provides an undergraduate major that is distinctive in its emphasis on transnational processes and interactions that bring the world together across traditional national boundaries. It is one of the first programs in the nation to offer a degree with contemporary as well as historical globalizing trends as the organizing theme.

The major seeks to provide the student with a way of thinking that is consistent with the world of the 21st century. Global Studies majors are encouraged to become global thinkers—they learn how to relate their knowledge of a particular part of the world to the larger trends and issues that affect the whole globe. Examples of contemporary global trends include: the transnational interactions of peoples, cultures, economies, and politics; the globalizing processes of the communications media; technological and environmental changes; and the sometimes violent political, ethnic and religious responses to the cultural and economic homogenization engendered by these global changes.

The Global Studies major provides a well-rounded liberal arts degree that will help prepare students for a variety of careers in the international arena. It will also help prepare students for further graduate study in international affairs, international business, peace and world order studies, area studies, and the emergent global civil society.

The Major

Preparation for the Global Studies major includes two introductory gateway courses: Global 1 (Introduction to Global History, Culture & Ideology) and Global 2 (Introduction to Global Socioeconomic and Political Processes). Global Studies majors must also complete one course introducing them to methods and theories in the study of society and one course of introductory study to a particular geographic region.

The Global Studies major requires three years of language study, which can be fulfilled either by taking three years of one language or two years of one language and one year of another. This requirement is consistent with the program's belief that language study is essential to the study of the global and the international, whether it leads to greater facility in a single language or broadened familiarity with the way two different languages can open windows on the world.

Students then take 36 upper division units (nine classes) to complete the major in Global Studies. Three core courses are designed specifically for the major and taught by Global Studies faculty. They provide a coherent introduction to global culture and ethics, global ideologies and world order, and global economy and development. Another three classes are selected from courses in other departments that address global themes. Finally, in order to attain an in-depth understanding of a particular geographic region, students take three courses relating to one of the following regions of the world: Africa; the Middle East; South/Southeast Asia and the Pacific; East Asia; Europe and Eurasia; Latin America, or North America.

Special Opportunities and Programs

While not required, Global Studies students are strongly encouraged to participate in the UC Education Abroad Program (EAP), which allows UC students to make normal progress towards their degrees while living abroad and attending a foreign host university. Due to the nature of the EAP application and selection process, students are urged to contact the EAP office as soon as possible for entry requirements and application procedures. For more information about the EAP program, contact the UCSB EAP office at 805/893-2958.

Careers in Global Studies

Most Global Studies majors intend to pursue international careers. But what does this mean? An international job is a position that requires employees to conduct their work across national borders, or deal with global / international issues. An international job can be a short-term job, or it can be a full-time career position. It might be based in the U.S. or overseas. Almost any vocation can be “internationalized”—from accounting to zookeeping. It all depends on training, language, cultural skills, and experience.

Positions most readily available to new graduates without specialized training are with the federal government (Peace Corps, Foreign Service), international service agencies (CARE, UNICEF, Direct Relief International), and English-language teaching jobs. Most international business or technical companies require that you have the same skills and knowledge necessary for jobs in the U.S. The best way to obtain this type of job abroad is to work for a U.S. company that does business internationally (such as a bank, consulting firm or engineering firm), and move into an international job through promotion or experience. It’s important to note that employers often consider actual work experience equivalent to a specialized undergraduate degree. As one recruiter put it, “What does a B.A. in Business mean to us if the person has never worked in the real world?”

For information on jobs or internships, Global Studies students can visit UCSB’s excellent Career and Counseling Center. There, students can find information on job listing sites worldwide, international internship and volunteer organizations, and general information on international careers.

For more information about UCSB’s Global Studies major, please contact the program’s undergraduate advisor:

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