

# STUDY ABROAD & GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) ISSUES

Courses completed through study abroad can be used to fulfill the General Education Issues requirement. Students must follow the instructions for requesting approval to use study abroad courses to fulfill the Issues requirement. **You do not have to be a junior to take your issues abroad.** Detailed instructions are available on the Padnos International Center website at:

<http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/>.

## STUDY ABROAD ISSUES OPTIONS AND CRITERIA

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>6 or more credits abroad</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>3 credits abroad</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Faculty-Led Program</b>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Students must take <u>two</u> 3-credit courses at the host institution to fulfill their GE Issues requirement. <b>Most 3-credit courses will count.</b> Both courses may be from the same discipline.</p> <p><u>Excludes:</u> independent study, independent research, and independent readings.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Students must submit a written reflection paper with the corresponding form to the General Education Office within 60 days after the end of the study abroad program in order to receive credit for the Issues requirement.</p> <p><b>Courses cannot count for both Issues and Foundation credit.</b></p> <p>One of the courses completed abroad will automatically fulfill the World Perspectives requirement.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Take one 3-credit course abroad</p> <p><u>Excludes:</u> independent study, independent research, and independent readings. <b>xxx399 or xxx499 courses can't be used to satisfy issues credits.</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Students must submit a written reflection paper with the corresponding form to the General Education Office within 60 days after the end of the study abroad program in order to receive credit for the Issues requirement.</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Take one 3-credit Issues course at GVSU from a different discipline.</p> <p><b>Courses cannot count for both Issues and Foundation credit.</b></p> <p>The course completed abroad will automatically fulfill the World Perspectives requirement.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Students participating in a GVSU faculty-led program <b>MUST</b> take <u>two 3-credit courses from two different disciplines</u> to receive Issues credit.</p> <p><u>Excludes:</u> independent study, independent research, and independent readings.</p> <p>If the faculty-led program offers two or more courses from the same discipline, students can use <u>one study abroad course, and one Issues course from a different discipline taken at GVSU.</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Students must submit a written reflection paper with the corresponding form to the General Education Office within 60 days after the end of the study abroad program in order to receive credit for the Issues requirement.</p> <p><b>Courses cannot count for both Issues and Foundation credit.</b></p> <p>One of the courses completed abroad will automatically fulfill the World Perspectives requirement.</p>

## PROCESS FOR SECURING APPROVAL

1. Review the guidelines for the Issues Reflection Essay. Guidelines are available at: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad)
2. Write your reflection essay and complete the Issues form.
3. Email the form and your reflection essay to [gened@gvsu.edu](mailto:gened@gvsu.edu) within 60 days after your return from study abroad. Hardcopy submissions will not be accepted. If it is past the 60 day period, please contact [gened@gvsu.edu](mailto:gened@gvsu.edu).

If you have questions, please email: [studyabroad@gvsu.edu](mailto:studyabroad@gvsu.edu)

# Study Abroad & General Education Issues FAQ's

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**1. If I have already completed 1 Theme course, can I combine that with 1 study abroad course to fulfill my Issues requirement?**

Students who entered GVSU prior to the 2016-2017 academic year are allowed to use a Theme course in combination with a study abroad course to fulfill the Issues requirement. Students who enter GVSU during the 2016-2017 academic year and beyond will not be able to use a Theme course towards the Issues requirement.

**2. Am I required to secure the GVSU course equivalency from each academic department for my study abroad courses before submitting my Study Abroad Issues Reflection Form to the General Education Office?**

Yes. You must secure the departmental approval for each course you complete abroad before you can complete the Study Abroad Issues Reflection Form. All courses completed abroad are assigned a GVSU course equivalency by the relevant academic department. The course equivalency is a required field on the Study Abroad Issues Reflection Form. If the course you complete overseas has already been reviewed by the academic department, and the course equivalency is listed on one of the course equivalency charts available on the PIC website, you do not have to get that course approved by the department.

**3. Can I secure approval for my Study Abroad Issues prior to departure?**

No. Students will not receive approval for the Issues requirement prior to studying abroad. The *GE Issues Reflection Form* requires a written study abroad reflection essay to be attached when you are requesting approval to earn credit for the Issues requirement.

**4. Can I get credit for Issues and my major with the same course?**

Yes. If the course you complete abroad meets major or minor requirements, it can also be used to meet the General Education Issues requirement.

**5. Is it possible for me to earn credit for World Perspectives, Issues and my major with one course abroad?**

Yes. With the appropriate approvals, you can earn credit for all three requirements with one course.

**6. Can I submit my Study Abroad Issues Form electronically or by hardcopy?**

You will be required to scan your completed documents, and send them by email to: [gened@gvsu.edu](mailto:gened@gvsu.edu). Hardcopies will NOT be accepted.

**7. How will I know if the course I complete abroad will fulfill the Issues requirement if I cannot request prior approval?**

The requirements for the Study Abroad Issues requirement are:

- The course(s) you complete abroad must be approved as a minimum of a 3-credit course at GVSU. It can be more than 3 credits, but it must be a minimum of 3 GVSU credits.
- The course cannot also fulfill a General Education Foundations requirement.
- If you are participating in a faculty-led program, or are taking less than 6 credits abroad, your two Issues courses must be from two different academic disciplines.
- Independent study, independent research, and/or independent readings are not eligible for Issues credit.
- Your Reflection Essay and Study Abroad Reflection Form must be submitted to the General Education office within 60 days after you return from your program.

**9. If I am completing a course abroad that will transfer back to GVSU as 6 or more credits, will this overseas course fulfill my two Issues course requirements?**

Yes. As long as the overseas course is at least 6 US credits, you can use this course towards 2 Issues requirements.

**10. I studied abroad through a previous institution before transferring to GVSU. Can I request approval for the study abroad courses from my previous institution to count towards the GE Issues requirement?**

Yes. You can request approval for these courses to meet the GE Issues requirement, provided you complete the required Study Abroad Issues Reflection Essay and Form.

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Please send any additional questions you have to: [studyabroad@gvsu.edu](mailto:studyabroad@gvsu.edu).

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