



Global Option: A Curricular Enhancement and its Plan for Implementation
Esther E. Gottlieb, gottlieb.26@osu.edu

November, 2012

The Global Option has been endorsed for implementation by the Provost's Council (10-21-2011). It calls for the creation of a defined set of educational activities and experiences that together yield an enhanced learning opportunity for undergraduate students interested in acquiring a documented focus on international issues relating to their program and discipline. The Global Option plan presented here only defines the frame conditions. An academic program that elects to implement such a Global Option will need to define the specific courses, activities, and experiences that are relevant to the discipline. Both the frame conditions as well as any program-specific Global Option plans will follow a standard review process with ultimate CAA approval.

Ideally, the Global Option will be a notation on the student's diploma, or recorded on the transcript. It is essential that students will have a certified documentation that they completed this special effort.

The standards set for any component criteria in a Global Option packet will be significantly above the level of attainment of a major. E.g., the language skills of a foreign language major in the Global Option program will be set measurably higher than for a non-Global Option major. A major in the International Studies Program electing to complete a Global Option plan will take more courses with essential international focus than a non-Global Option major. No discipline offers an automatic advantage for Global Option and all Global Option graduates will have spent considerable extra effort on the international aspects, with the diploma notation guaranteeing an earned achievement.

The Global Option is structured on the model of the Honors curriculum, as a challenge and an enrichment of the standard curriculum, adapted in content to each major that elects to offer this option. Different from the Honors concept, selection for this option is based on commitment and completion of various learning and experiential modes, rather than on academic achievement alone. In contrast to the Honors curriculum, the cost to academic programs is minimal, since no special courses with limited enrollment are mandated.

Goal	Providing an enrichment program resulting in an institutional certificate for students who wish to acquire a meaningful international experience and global perspective as part of their major without adding time to graduation.
Who	Students in participating curricula, committing as soon as they declare a major, and who are in continued good standing with a min. GPA of 2.5.
How	Committing by contract to a career-long challenge curriculum related to international themes and global dimensions (see "Components" for details).
Result	Satisfactory completion of the contract results in a certificate or diploma upon graduation. Non-completion of the contract carries no penalty and will still leave the student with the special experience and credit of the parts completed.
Components	Courses, international experiences, language, and reflection in six areas constituting a special achievement beyond standard requirements for a major:

- A • 1 Freshmen/Sophomore year 4-week Early Immersion Education Abroad program (3 cr) OR
 - 1 discipline-related international experience (3+ cr)
- B • 2 courses with strong international focus, preferably within major (6 cr)
- C Advanced proficiency in one language other than English or native language, at level “intermediate high” (ACTFL scale). Foreign language majors will attain “advanced low” (both measures lower for LCTLs) (6+ cr)
- D • 1 capstone project in discipline on an international theme (research, internship, service learning) (3+ cr)
- E • Evaluation of global competencies on a standardized assessment (pre-evaluation when joining GO; post-evaluation before graduation)
- F • Comprehensive e-portfolio of international activities (documenting a student’s special efforts, accomplishments, attainments and reflections)

Programs will set requirements by defining the departmental specifications for each group A to F that constitute special achievement for a given major.

Purpose

- Combining major with strong international enhancement
- Increasing educational attainment with international experience and global perspectives

Advising

- Developing a set of global skills¹ to a higher performance level
- Preparing for a work environment with transnational and global challenges
- Combining academic achievement with active experience and application
- Part of UAFYE orientation (possibly also a recruiting tool)
- General advising in conjunction with GEC
- Colleges/departments provide curriculum guides and major advising
- Contract can be established up to beginning of Junior standing
- Contract can always be abandoned without penalty

Academic Unit Tasks

- Develops courses that satisfy the Global Option program by focusing on one or more of the observable and measurable competencies (courses are open to all students meeting course prerequisites)
- Develops/identifies discipline-specific international experiences beyond standard expectations (internships, service learning, long-term study abroad programs, oversight of special international research projects, etc.)

Assess

- Career path of graduates including international work/travel/business (longitudinal measure, in collaboration with Alumni Association)
- Input: Numerical goals of participation (units, diversity, students; see above)
- Output: Number of certificates/diplomas (300/yr by 2018)
- Outcome and Impact: Increase in global competencies assessment scores compared to cohort (NSEE scores, Freshmen compared to Seniors)

¹ The **five skills** to be developed are the following:

Ability to work effectively in international settings; • Awareness of and adaptability to diverse cultures, perceptions and approaches; • Familiarity with the major currents of global change and the issues they raise; • Capacity for effective communication across cultural and linguistic boundaries; • Ability to comprehend the international dimension of one’s field of study.