

Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions for obtaining a BA major or minor in Global Studies and/or Geography

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR ME TO COMPLETE A MAJOR IN GLOBAL STUDIES?

Completing a Global Studies major is easier than you may think. A lot of classes that you have already completed most likely count toward the degree; this is especially true for many of the distribution courses that you have taken.

Requirements are:

- 33 semester hours (sh) of credits, including GS 1, GS 2, GS 180, and Geography 1.
- At least 9 sh of electives in Global Politics, Economics and Culture (see courses listed below)
- At least 9 sh of electives in Regional Studies (see courses listed below)
- Please see the full requirements listed in the Bulletin

WHAT IS THE QUICKEST WAY FOR ME TO COMPLETE A MAJOR IN GLOBAL STUDIES?

- Declare the major as early as possible so that you can get customized advice from your departmental advisor.
- Try and **double dip** as many courses as possible. This means that you should try and fulfill your Hofstra distribution requirements with courses that also count toward the Global Studies major or minor. To make it easy for you a full list of courses is supplied later in this document.
- Take your major requirements (except for GS 180) as early as possible.
- Declare your minor or second major as early as possible. We make it very easy to complete a GS major with either a second major (especially in Geography) or with Geography minor (see below).

ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS?

- **No.** We recommend that students study a foreign language but **we have no language requirements** beyond those needed for a regular Hofstra degree.

DO YOU ALLOW INTERNSHIPS?

- We not only allow internships but strongly encourage you to do them. We constantly advertize internship opportunities on our Facebook site and will work with you to help find relevant internships.

I HAVE TRANSFER CREDITS – DO THESE COUNT TOWARD THE DEGREE?

- A lot of these credits may count. You should come and see the Chair and he will look at them and let you know what can be counted. **Remember that the Chair can waive certain requirements and offer substitutions for some classes.**

I AM A JUNIOR WITH A LOT OF DIFFERENT CREDITS, SOME THAT SEEM TO COUNT, HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO DO?

- You should come and see the Chair who will go through your credits with you. A lot of courses that you have already done are likely to count toward the Major.

CAN I DOUBLE MAJOR?

- Yes you can. One of the great advantages of a Global Studies major is how easily it allows you to double major. We have many double majors, in programs as diverse as Drama, Dance, Political Science, Communications and Sociology. Given the way the program is set up, it is especially easy to double major in Global Studies and Geography.

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR A MINOR IN GLOBAL STUDIES?

- 18 sh, including GS 1, GS 2 and Geography 1.
- At least 3 sh of electives in Global Politics, Economics and Culture (see courses listed below)
- At least 6 sh of electives in Regional Studies (see courses listed below)

IF I MAJOR IN GLOBAL STUDIES AND I WANT TO DO A MINOR IN GEOGRAPHY, WHAT IS THE QUICKEST WAY TO FINISH?

- You need 18 sh: You can apply the following GS credits: GS 1, GS2, Geography 1.
- You should then take 2 Regional geography classes that will also count toward your GS degree eg Geog 113C and Geog 145. These must be one hundred level classes.
- You also need to take Geog 2.

SO I CAN GET A MINOR IN GEOGRAPHY BY JUST TAKING ONE EXTRA COURSE?

Correct, Geography 2.

IS IT REALLY THIS EASY TO GET A MAJOR IN GLOBAL STUDIES AND A MINOR IN GEOGRAPHY?

- Yes, that is why our program is so popular. We allow you to build a program based on your own interests and we give you specialized advisement to have you finish your requirements as quickly and easily as possible.
- The key to saving time and money is to declare your major as soon as possible and then choose courses that fulfill multiple requirements at the same time eg GS 1, which is a GS requirement and fulfills your Hofstra IS distribution requirement (and counts toward the major in Geography).

IF I MAJOR IN GLOBAL STUDIES AND I WANT TO ADD A DUAL MAJOR IN GEOGRAPHY, WHAT IS THE QUICKEST WAY TO FINISH?

- You need 30 SH: You can apply the following GS credits: GS 1, GS2, and Geography 1.
- You can apply two other Geography classes from the GS major toward the Geography major: eg Geog 60, Geog 145.
- You will then need 5 additional geography classes, including Geog 2, Geog 60, Geog 180.

SO I GET A DOUBLE MAJOR BY TAKING JUST 5 EXTRA GEOGRAPHY CLASSES?

- Correct. We make it as easy and cost effective as possible for you to complete a double major.

IF I MAJOR IN GEOGRAPHY, IS IT POSSIBLE TO DO A MINOR IN GLOBAL STUDIES OR A JOINT MAJOR WITH GLOBAL STUDIES?

- Yes it is. Most of the information supplied above, applies equally to Geography major who wants to do a dual major in Global Studies.
- Our advice is that you should choose courses carefully and double dip as much as possible.

IS THERE ANY BENEFIT TO A DOUBLE MAJOR?

- Yes, a **double major shows potential employees that you are a serious student** with a good grounding in more than one area of study. It also obviously enhances your own knowledge of more than one discipline. Anything that give you an edge in the workplace is to your advantage.

I HAVE HEARD THAT THE JOB MARKET IS REALLY TOUGH, WHAT IS THE POINT OF PURSUING A MAJOR IN GLOBAL STUDIES AND/OR GEOGRAPHY?

- No BA degree in any subject guarantees you a job. Within an increasingly globalized world, employers are looking for motivated and talented students who can think independently and are able to write well, present oral arguments and have a wide knowledge of the world around them. Both Global Studies and Geography provide our majors with the type of skills that should allow you to demonstrate your ability in the work place. We place particular emphasis on developing critical and independent thinking, and building your writing skills. The knowledge you gain about global processes and of other societies and cultures will be a major asset in the work place.

WHAT EXACTLY DO GEOGRAPHERS DO?

- Contrary to popular opinion, geographers do not just look at maps. It is a very diverse discipline that straddles the Natural and Social Sciences. Some geographers study climate change, others work as cartographers, some study cultural changes, other's economic processes, while still others model population shifts. Geographers work in occupations as different as the US military, county government, GOOGLE, educational fields, the US Census Bureau, and in various types of computer modeling and mapping firms. The fastest and most lucrative area of growth is in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which is in great demand and offers very lucrative careers (and we offer courses in GIS).

FOR SOME GEOGRAPHY CAREER OPTIONS:

- Career Guide and Options: <https://communicate.aag.org/eseries/scriptcontent/custom/giwis/cguide/>
- Environmental Career Opportunities: <http://www.ecojobs.com>
- ESRI (GIS) Jobs: <http://careers.esri.com/>
- Geo Job Source: <http://www.geojobsources.com/regionindex.htm>

To help you make the correct choices, we have provided a list of all the classes that count toward the major and minor in Global Studies. To make it easier we have also provided a list that highlights which Hofstra distribution courses also count toward a major or minor

in Global Studies. If you are advised properly a large proportion of your distribution requirements will also count toward your Global Studies major or minor.

THE ABOVE IS A GUIDE AND YOU NEED TO SPEAK TO THE CHAIR OR AN ADVISOR FOR MORE DETAILED ADVICE.

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT THE CHAIR OR OUR FAUCLTY MEMBERS AT ANY TIME IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS: CHAIR: Professor Grant Saff, EMAIL: Grant.Saff@Hofstra.Edu

VISIT OUR DEPARTMENT AT 209 ROOSEVELT HALL

For an Appointment, phone the Department: (516) 463-5826

If you need to speak to a University Advisor about your options, please contact our specialized advisor: Bert S. Binder, Associate Dean, Center for University Advisement
Office: 101G, E-mail: Berthold.Binder@hofstra.edu, Voice: (516) 463-6779

For a student Perspective on our Department watch this YOUTUBE interview: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25pEE4V9Kf8>

ALSO SEE OUR VERY ACTIVE FACEBOOK SITE FOR INTERNSHIPS AND DISCUSSIONS



Graduating Majors, Spring 2010



Anna Rawlins and Nhaomie Douyon (Global Studies), Adrienne Gillespie and Ashley Hughes (Geography).