The New Global Studies Minor Program

Our Strategic Plan charts a course for the University to become the preeminent public institution for students committed to engagement in the global community and to provide an education that gives our students the knowledge and skills to be global citizens and leaders in the global economy. In pursuit of these goals, we are expanding our undergraduate curriculum to address more topics in global studies throughout the University.

I am pleased to announce the new Global Studies Minor Program, which provides opportunities for students to study how evolving global connections affect the well-being of people throughout the world. Students in the Global Studies Minor Program will develop an understanding and appreciation for how and why interactions across national and ethnic borders are shaped by language, culture, politics, economic development, and conflict.

The Global Studies Minor Program is interdisciplinary in nature and provides opportunities for students from any discipline or major. The program is comprised of a number of specialization tracks, which address issues from the perspective of different disciplines. Requirements in each track allow students to choose from among a set of approved courses from many disciplines. All students must choose one course from a set of “signature” courses outside of their chosen track, providing all students with exposure to major global issues addressed by another track. All tracks provide an opportunity for an experiential learning component within a student’s elective courses, including a study abroad experience. The Global Studies Minor Program will include special activities that involve students across different tracks, such as special speaker forums or participation in major events and experiences in Washington, D.C.

This program reflects the contributions of a number of colleges, in response to a campus-wide solicitation from the Office of Academic Affairs to contribute to the program. Four tracks are included in the inauguration of the program: Global Studies Minor: International Development and Conflict Management (College of Behavioral and Social Sciences); Global Studies Minor: Global Terrorism (College of Behavioral and Social Sciences); Global Studies Minor: Global Poverty (College of Agricultural and Natural Resources); and Global Studies Minor: International Engineering (A. James Clark School of Engineering). The program is designed so that new tracks can be added to meet new student interests.

The Dean for Undergraduate Studies will have administrative responsibility for the overall program, including budgets. The Global Studies Minor Program will have a coordinating committee, chaired by an associate dean in the Office of Undergraduate Studies, which will include the director from each minor as well as student representation.

Nariman Farvardin
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