

Undergraduate Cultural Diversity Requirement

Cultural Diversity Requirement

~~To expand cultural awareness, students in some academic units may be required to complete a course that emphasizes Asian, African, Middle Eastern, Latin American, Pacific aboriginal, Native American, or a comparable culture. Courses that satisfy this requirement involve substantial material independent of the cultures' interactions with European cultures. If a course focuses on one facet of a culture, it must treat the topic within the context of the culture as a whole. This requirement may be met by one of the following courses:~~

The cultural diversity requirement equips students with knowledge and academic tools to successfully navigate a global world community and diverse American communities. These courses examine cultures outside the United States or marginalized/underrepresented groups with the United States and help students appreciate important differences among cultures of all kinds to enrich the understanding of human interactions.

All undergraduate students are required to complete two courses:

- One that focuses on global populations and cross-cultural experience
- One course that focuses on marginalized/underrepresented groups in the U.S.

Choose one course from each of the following lists:

Global Courses

U.S. Courses

[The lists will be populated with courses proposed by academic departments and approved by the General Education Committee and the UMSL Faculty Senate.]

Justification for request:

The current definition of Cultural Diversity is inadequate. The General Education Committee researched Cultural Diversity definitions and practices at peer institutions to craft a better definition. The proposed definition and requirement were vetted with ODEI (see attached letter), UMSL Global, Transfer Services and Advising Offices on Campus. This was to ensure that including two courses would not impact time to graduation as cultural diversity courses can also

fulfill other general education requirements, college and degree requirements.

UMSL currently has a 1-course graduation requirement for most undergraduate students that intends to expand cultural awareness by requiring students to take one course that emphasizes Asian, African, Middle Eastern, Latin American, Pacific aboriginal, Native American, or a comparable culture. Courses that satisfy this requirement involve substantial material independent of the cultures' interactions with European cultures. If a course focuses on one facet of a culture, it must treat the topic within the context of the culture as a whole. The list of courses is a finite list that is managed by the General Education committee.

The General Education Committee proposes a new definition of cultural diversity supported by a set of student learning outcomes and recommends a two-course requirement. Please note that courses that will fulfill the cultural diversity requirement can also satisfy the Gen Ed requirements and/or degree program requirements where applicable.

