

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GLOBAL STUDIES AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Northern Iowa to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Description of program. The Global Studies major is a complex, interdisciplinary 33-hour major that includes a foreign language requirement, six thematic areas, and five geographic areas from which students select coursework. It requires faculty and department support from all four undergraduate academic colleges at UNI and is administered within the College of Social and Behavior Sciences by a faculty member in the Department of History.

Reason for proposed termination. The major has failed to find and sustain a student audience in recent years, and currently there are only six students in the program. Without an academic department to support and sustain student recruitment and persistence, the major has faltered as an independent program. In the face of significant curricular revisions within departments contributing Global Studies courses and in general education courses and requirements on campus, Global Studies now has an outdated curriculum that cannot be delivered as described in the catalog. Some areas of the program are no longer sustained by current UNI faculty and course offerings. Current students require petitions for substitutions of degree requirements due to the inability to offer courses included in the degree curriculum, and it is no longer an efficient use of resources to sustain Global Studies as an independent major.

UNI is committed to offering students an opportunity to gain preparedness for the 21st-century global environment and to acquire cultural competency. That commitment will not be reduced by the elimination of the Global Studies major. The creation of a Global Studies track within History will make the program more visible, viable and increase the vitality of internationalization efforts and opportunities for students.

Effect on current students. The Department of History, the largest contributor of coursework to the Global Studies major, is restating the History major to include a Global Studies track. It will offer students coursework in areas of the world outside the United States while also maintaining an opportunity for a pared-down selection of courses from outside departments to continue the interdisciplinary identify of global studies coursework. Current Global Studies majors will have the opportunity to complete the major as it is currently defined but also will be offered the chance to switch to the History major. There is one freshman and one sophomore in Global Studies at present, so the transition period could extend three years for them to complete degree requirements.

Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends:

	Applications	Enrollment	Completions
2021	4	8	4
2020	10	14	0
2019	7	11	7
2018	4	15	4
2017	10	13	4

Impact on resources. The Global Studies Coordinator, a member of the History faculty, receives one course reduction per year in part for administration of the program. The termination of the major would end that practice, with the new Global Studies track in History under the supervision of the Head of the Department of History. This will increase administrative efficiencies as well as represent a more effective deployment of resources. History will incorporate the Global Studies Track into recruitment package, meaning the elimination of independent materials to support the program. It will also reduce the line item in the Department of History's budget granted by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences for office, mailing and printing costs for the Global Studies BA.

Impact on workforce. It will not have an impact, as the Global Studies track in the History major will offer UNI students interested in global careers the necessary training and coursework.

Alternative programs. The University of Iowa and Iowa State University each have a global/international studies major, as does Central College. The University of Iowa has 62 students in International Studies, and ISU has 33. Multiple private institutions have International Relations majors (Wartburg, Drake) but not interdisciplinary global/international studies programs that intentionally draw on coursework across the curriculum in multiple departments and colleges.

Effective date of termination. Upon approval by the Board of Regents.