

May 3, 2010

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**Jefferson College Foreign Languages and Global Studies Certificate
Prepares Students for Diverse Opportunities**

With the growing interdependence of international markets like never before, Jefferson College has developed a unique Global Studies program that provides students with cultural competencies to prepare them for employment within the new global economy.

The Global Studies program is a specifically designed curriculum to meet the needs of those who have interests in foreign language development, world cultural geography, and global issues. Students may take internationally focused courses to meet part of their general education requirements for the associate degree.

With the initiative of Geography Professor Lisa Hollander, Jefferson College was the first community college in the state to develop a Global Studies Certificate program. It has been so successful that other community colleges have modeled their global studies programs after it.

In order to meet the requirements for the certificate, students must complete three classes with an international perspective and the three classes that make up the program's core (any foreign language offered at Jefferson College or corresponding CLEP exam score, World Regional Geography, and a special seminar in Global Studies). All of the classes approved for the Global Studies Certificate are applicable to the Associate of Arts degree, with over 30 courses to choose from. Students who earn the certificate and maintain a 3.5 grade point average graduate with the designation Global Scholar.

Nicole Bach, Assistant Professor of Spanish, also encourages students not only to participate in the Global Studies Program but to go beyond the minimum foreign language requirement so they can become proficient in a foreign language while at Jefferson College. "Students who successfully complete three semesters of a foreign language at Jefferson College demonstrate intermediate level interpersonal and presentational linguistic proficiencies; which is just a fancy way of saying that they are able to talk about their daily lives and ask people about theirs as well as read and write in another language. Furthermore, students are introduced to music, food, architecture and other cultural products from the countries where the language they're learning is spoken. Perhaps most importantly, foreign language students learn what is appropriate to do and say in non-American cultures."

Jefferson College currently offers Chinese, French, German, and Spanish. Enrollment for the fall semester is underway.

Transfer institutions welcome students with global and international knowledge, and in the 21st Century business environment, those with a general knowledge of international issues and the basics of second language experience far more success.

Judith T. Irwin, director of international programs at the American Association of Community Colleges, celebrates the increase in global education initiatives at community colleges throughout the country. Although Irwin recognizes the challenge students face in trying to fit global education classes into their academic agenda, she highlights the payoff, noting "In order to be working in a global world you really have to know what it's like to work with people different from yourselves."

For more information about the Global Studies program or foreign languages at Jefferson College, contact Lisa Hollander (lholland@jeffco.edu) or Nicole Bach (nbach@jeffco.edu).



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- Geography
- Guidance
- Health/Physical Education
- Heating, Refrigeration & AC
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Speech & Drama
- Veterinary Technology
- Welding

(Not all classes are available at all locations)

Global Studies

A World of Opportunities

Jefferson College enjoys a solid regional and statewide reputation as a leader in global education and international curriculum!

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