

GLOBAL CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM

All students at MPA receive an education that prepares them for the fast-paced, ever-changing world that is theirs—including the ability to think globally, communicate effectively, and contribute responsibly. They are geographically informed: understanding people, places and environments from a spatial, cultural, economic, and historical perspective while also understanding the interdependence of those same places. They are curious and able to evaluate information critically from various sources and perspectives. They communicate proficiently in a language other than their native tongue, as well as through a variety of media forms. And they use their global knowledge to better understand themselves, build relationships, and effect positive change in the world.

Those in our Global Certificate of Distinction program work to grow their global competence even further. They tackle additional time, work, and individual responsibility to advance their interest, knowledge, and skills in global education. In doing so, they better understand their relationship to the world, are able to more effectively communicate across cultural and language divides, and are better prepared to work in solidarity in a world that is simultaneously shrinking and growing.

The following are the components that must be achieved, criteria that must be met, and forms that must be completed in order to obtain a Global Certificate of Distinction.

WHO?

All MPA Upper School students are eligible to work toward a single certificate of distinction, including a Global Certificate of Distinction (GCD).

WHEN?

We encourage you to explore as many courses in a variety of areas in ninth and tenth grades. This is a time to discover new interests and skills that may lead to a focused passion. Since all requirements must be met by spring of senior year to receive a certificate, you must make a decision to pursue the certificate by the fall of your junior year. Portfolio building may begin after ninth grade.

HOW?

If you are interested in pursuing a GCD, you should first discuss your plans with a world language or social studies faculty member who will be able to provide feedback and guidance with the process. From there, you may download a GCD packet from the MPA website. The packet includes all requirements, forms, and information to guide you through the process of achieving a Global Certificate of Distinction.

You are responsible for obtaining the necessary approvals and maintaining your portfolio throughout your Upper School career. Students who complete all requirements submit their portfolio for review to the GCD Committee in the spring of senior year. Additionally, the committee will meet twice a year to check the work in progress of any student who requests a review.

RECOGNITION

While the primary goal of the program is to help students gain skills and knowledge for today's global and interconnected world, students who complete the program will also receive a certificate and academic distinction. While in the process, your transcript will note "Global Scholar Candidate."

REQUIREMENTS

1. Academic

You must take a world language through Level 4, receiving a 3.5 GPA (B+) or higher in each level. In addition, senior social studies and English elective choices must include at least two courses with a global focus. All GCD courses must be passed with a 3.5 GPA (B+) or higher.

2. Global Service

Your senior service project (30 hours) must be global in focus and expose you to another world culture, ideally employing your world language skills.

Complete and submit the GCD Global Service Form to the GCD Committee **before** you start your service for pre-approval. You must include the completed and approved GCD Global Service Form in your GCD Portfolio.

3. International Experience

You must participate in a challenging international experience (one in which you are pushed out of your comfort zone and challenged to see both the mundane and significant in new ways) in which you connect directly to the culture and the people. This can be through international travel supported by the school, hosting an international student, or international travel through approved organizations.

1. Begin by examining programs from the GCD Approved Travel Program List. This list includes travel sponsored by the MPA World Language Department as well as known, reputable organizations whose travel focus is on cross-cultural understanding and growth.
2. Consider hosting an international student for a year, a semester, or any period of time that is a minimum of two weeks.
3. Do you have other challenging international travel opportunities in mind? You may note this when completing the required GCD Travel Experience Form to the GCD Committee. Note: Proposals (written as a two-page document) for non-international intercultural experiences will be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis by the GCD Committee; suitable substitutions for international travel must involve extensive immersion in another culture and must challenge the student's comfort and perspectives.

Complete and submit the GCD Travel Experience Form to the GCD Committee before your travel dates for approval. You must include the completed and approved GCD Global Travel Experiences Form in your GCD Portfolio.

Note: Case-by-case approval for International Experience requirement alternatives will be reviewed by the GCD Committee on a quarterly basis:

- Quarter 1: forms submitted by September 15 will be reviewed by October 1
- Quarter 2: forms submitted by November 15 will be reviewed by December 1
- Quarter 3: forms submitted by February 15 will be reviewed by March 1
- Quarter 4: forms submitted by May 15 will be reviewed by June 1

4. Enrichment Activities

The GCD Enrichment Activities requirement is intended to encourage students to explore areas of interest involving world cultures and their politics, arts, cuisine, history, geography, and language. Although the requirement is fairly open ended, the activities must be outside of the your world travel and academic experiences and be dispersed in multiple categories (see below). The activities should also meaningfully enhance your understanding of global perspectives.

You need to earn 100 hours of outside experience by the end of senior year, spread over three areas: Media Arts, Professional Speakers, and Culture in Your Community. Each area must have at least 20 hours. On the GCD Enrichment Activities Form, you must keep track of all activities including event, date, and description. When completed, a double-spaced, 250–500 word essay, synthesizing what you have learned from these activities and how they contributed to your global awareness, must be submitted as part of your GCD Portfolio.

The Greater Twin Cities Area, with its colleges and diverse communities, is host to many international and local cultural events and opportunities, including lectures, exhibits, performances, and more. The Global Certificate Committee will provide updates on GCD related opportunities.

REQUIREMENTS

5. GCD Portfolio and Reflection Project

Upon completion of the GCD requirements (spring of senior year), you will present your portfolios to the GCD committee during an oral presentation (15 minutes) that summarizes and reflects upon your wide range of GCD experiences. In addition to the documentation listed earlier in this document, you must also complete a reflective essay (250–500 words) that briefly describes the most important points of your process and journey and what you gained from the overall experience.

The final Portfolio must include:

- Completed and approved GCD Travel Experience Form
- Completed and approved GCD Global Service Form
- Completed GCD Enrichment Activities Form and essay
- Completed GCD Résumé (see format and sample in packet)
- Completed GCD Reflective Essay (250–500 words)
- Transcript
- Oral Presentation
- GCD Checklist

Portfolios reviews are available (but not required) as you progress. They are available twice a year:

- Portfolios submitted by September 15 will be reviewed by October 1.
- Portfolios submitted by February 15 will be reviewed by March 1.

Final portfolios are evaluated once a year, in the spring:

Final portfolios must be submitted by May 1 of your senior year and will be evaluated by May 15. May 1 is the final deadline for submissions.

Case-by-case approval for the following will be reviewed by the GCD Committee on a quarterly basis:

1. Immersion options not included on the GCD Approved Travel Program list
 2. Alternative approaches to satisfying the GCD enrichment requirement
- Quarter 1: forms submitted by September 15 will be reviewed by October 1
 - Quarter 2: forms submitted by November 15 will be reviewed by December 1
 - Quarter 3: forms submitted by February 15 will be reviewed by March 1
 - Quarter 4: forms submitted by May 15 will be reviewed by June 1

Completed GCD Portfolios are to be put in a three-ring binder and brought to the GCD Advisor. Students are advised to keep a copy of their completed portfolio for their own records.

GCD GLOBAL SERVICE FORM

Student:	Year of Graduation:
	Date of Application:
Parent/Guardian:	Parent/Guardian:

Expected Start Date: Expected End Date: Expected Number of Hours:	Name of Group/Organization: Address:
Project Description:	

Service Project Focus (please check):

<input type="checkbox"/> Persistent global issue	<input type="checkbox"/> International relations
<input type="checkbox"/> Disaster relief	<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-cultural education
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental stewardship	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____

Describe how your project will contribute to the development of more just and sustainable world:

Describe how your project will help you to better understand internationally relevant issues from multiple perspectives:

GCD Review Board Approval Yes No Date: ____ / ____ / ____	US Director Signature
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GCD GLOBAL CHECKLIST

Name & Year of Graduation:

Date:

Your Completed Portfolio Must Include:

- Completed and approved GCD Travel Experience Form
- Completed and approved GCD Global Service Form
- Completed GCD Enrichment Activities Form and essay (250–500 words)
- Completed GCD Résumé
- Completed GCD Reflective Essay (250–500 words)
- Transcript
- Oral Presentation
- This Checklist

Important Information Regarding Portfolio Submission

Final portfolios must be completed and turned in by May 1 and will be evaluated by June 1.

Reviews for portfolios in process will be available on two cycles:

1. Portfolios submitted by September 15 will be reviewed by October 1.
2. Portfolios submitted by February 15 will be reviewed by March 1.

Case-by-case approval for the following will be reviewed by the GCD Committee on a quarterly basis:

1. Immersion options not included on the GCD Approved Travel Program list
2. Alternative approaches to satisfying the GCD enrichment requirement

Completed GCP Portfolios are to be put in a three-ring binder and brought to the GCD Advisor. Students are advised to keep a copy of their completed portfolio for their own records.

GCD ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES FORM

The GCD Enrichment Activities requirement is intended to encourage you to explore areas of interest involving world cultures and their politics, arts, cuisine, history, geography, and language. Although the requirement is fairly open ended, the activities must be outside of your world travel and academic experiences and be dispersed in three categories (below). The activities should also meaningfully enhance your understanding of global perspectives.

You must earn 100 hours of outside experience spread over three areas: Media Arts, Professional Speakers, and Culture in Your Community. Each area must have at least 20 hours.

Use this form to keep track of your activities, and, upon completion, write a double-spaced, 250–500 word essay, synthesizing what you have learned from these activities and how they contributed to your global awareness. This form and the essay must be submitted as part of the GCD Portfolio.

Media Arts	Professional Speakers	Culture in Your Community
Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Books•TED Talks•Movies•Documentaries	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Presentations•Lectures	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Museums•Concerts•Galleries•Dances

Note: While the three categories are purposeful, meaningful alternative activities may be considered upon request. If you believe you have such an activity (e.g. volunteering for an international agency, debate topic on an international issue, etc.), you may submit a request using the GCD Enrichment Request Form. Approval of such an exception does not exempt you from the requirement to have at least 20 hours in each of the above three categories.

Final portfolios must be completed and turned in by May 15 and will be evaluated by June 1.

Note: Case-by-case approval for Enrichment Activities requirement alternatives will be reviewed by the GCD Committee on a quarterly basis:

- Quarter 1: forms submitted by September 15 will be reviewed by October 1
- Quarter 2: forms submitted by November 15 will be reviewed by December 1
- Quarter 3: forms submitted by February 15 will be reviewed by March 1
- Quarter 4: forms submitted by May 1 will be reviewed by June 1

GCD ENRICHMENT REQUEST FORM

Student:	Year of Graduation:
	Date of Application:
Parent/Guardian:	Parent/Guardian:

Date(s) of Activity:	Location of Activity:
Activity Description:	

Describe how the activity will contribute (or has contributed) to your global competence and understanding:

GCD Committee Approval Yes No Date: ____ / ____ / ____	US Director Signature
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GLOBAL CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION RÉSUMÉ (TEMPLATE)

Student Name

Student Address, Phone Number, &
Email

Global Academic Study

- World Language Study (list languages studied & the years you studied them)
- Additional Global Courses

Global Service

Project's Focus/Title

Organization

Location

Dates:

In 2-3 sentences, explain your service project.

Travel Experience and/or Travel Equivalent Experience (Please list all programs that you participated in.)

Travel Destination and/or Alternative Experience Title:

Dates:

Description of Program (2-3 sentences):

Global Enrichment

List up to ten of the most meaningful enrichment activities you participated in. Make sure to have items from each category:

Media Arts, Professional Speakers, and Culture in Your Community. Category: Event, date, location (if pertinent)

- Short phrase or sentence description, bullet pointed

Additional Global Activities

List any additional significant activities that you participated in (e.g. globally-focused school clubs, programs you attended outside of school, etc.). Include dates.

GLOBAL CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION RÉSUMÉ (SAMPLE)

Gertrude McBertrude

1555 White Bear Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55109 651-777-2555
gmcberttrude14@moundsparkacademy.org

Global Academic Study

World Language Study

- French III, IV, and AP (2011-2014)
- Spanish 1 and II (2012-2014)

Additional Global Courses

- World Literature (2013-14)
- World Religions (2013-14)
- Environmental Science (2012-13)

Global Service

Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response
American Refugee Committee
615 1st Ave NE #500 Minneapolis, MN 55413
Sept. 2013 – April 2014

Working with the American Refugee Committee (ARC)—a non-profit whose mission is to provide opportunities and expertise to refugees, displaced people, and host communities—I learned about how violence against women and girls is one of the challenging issues for populations affected by armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies. After much research and education, I designed and created materials including brochures and infographics for ARC to use to create better awareness of this issue.

Travel Experience

Peru: March 2012

This two-week trip with a group from MPA involved backpacking through the Andes, student-directed travel and budgeting, and a community service component.

Student Host: July 10–30, 2013

Hosted an international student from Spain and helped him understand American culture and education.

Global Enrichment

Culture in Community: Art Installation, April 17 2014, Hmong Community Center

- Viewed exhibit of 12 Hmong artists

Speaker: Nelson Mandela, July 17 2012, Macalester College

- Listened to Mandela speak on the importance of respect in society

Media Arts:

Approved: Nothing but Nets Charity Soccer Tournament, October 2012, Blaine Soccer Fields

- Participated in a two-day soccer tournament that raised money for Nothing but Nets, a malaria prevention charity

Additional Global Activities

Youth United for Global Action, Participant, July 2013

Spanish Club, member 2011–2013

Amnesty International, member 2012–2013

GCD TRAVEL EXPERIENCE REQUEST FORM

Student:	Year of Graduation:
	Date of Application:
Parent/Guardian:	Parent/Guardian:

Option 1: Travel

Destination:	Travel Dates:
I will be traveling with: <input type="checkbox"/> MPA <input type="checkbox"/> Organization <input type="checkbox"/> organization: Family	
Check all that apply to your selected travel program: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Homestay <input type="checkbox"/> Language immersion <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Study <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Study </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political Study <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Study <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific Study <input type="checkbox"/> Service </div> </div>	

Option 2: Hosting

Host Student Home Country:	Hosting Dates:
I will be hosting through: <input type="checkbox"/> MPA <input type="checkbox"/> Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Family	
Name of group: Name of organization:	

Note: Proposals for non-international intercultural experiences will be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis by the GCP Committee; suitable substitutions for international travel must involve extensive immersion in another culture and must challenge the student's comfort and perspectives.

Describe how you will connect and interact directly with the culture and the people:

Describe how you will increase your global awareness as a result of this travel experience

GCD Committee Approval Yes No Date: ____ / ____ / ____	US Director Signature
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