

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES PROFICIENCY CREDIT GUIDELINES  
University of Colorado Denver  
Core Curriculum Oversight Committee

International Perspectives Philosophy

The objectives of the International Perspectives (IP) requirement in the CU Denver general-education core is to ensure that our graduates have an appreciation for and understanding of the history, culture, social characteristics, and/or economy of any nation or region of the world that is *not* the United States. CU Denver seeks to prepare students to better understand and succeed in a dynamic, globally interactive world. Thus, the focus of the IP courses must be a country/region other than the United States.

Proficiency Credit

The Core Curriculum Oversight Committee (CCOC) encourages students to use a study abroad experience to satisfy the IP portion of the core curriculum. Students who successfully apply international experiential learning to the IP core requirement will receive proficiency credit, rather than academic credit. Proficiency credit satisfies the IP requirement but does not result in academic credit on a University of Colorado transcript or produce a letter grade that influences a student's CU GPA.

Process for Seeking Approval

The decision to award proficiency credit for the IP requirement lies either with the student's undergraduate advising office or with the CCOC, depending on the nature of each case. Students must demonstrate that they meet the guidelines provided below for IP proficiency credit either through written documentation provided to the academic advisor or through completion of the written petition to the CCOC as described in "Guidelines for Student Petitions to the CCOC for Prior Learning."

Cases that May be Decided by the Advising Office

1. Foreign Origin: International students, defined as any student with a F1 visa, or a student who graduated from high school in a foreign country are exempt from the IP core requirement. Colleges have some discretion to waive the IP core requirement for students who have substantial international primary and secondary education, even if they technically graduated from a US high school.
2. Substantial Foreign Residency: Students who live in a country that is not part of the United States for at minimum six months or more generally are eligible to receive IP proficiency credit.
3. Traditional Study Abroad: The study abroad experiences considered for IP core curriculum proficiency credit:

- a. must occur post high school and, typically, taken during the student's college career, though the program does not have to be taken while a matriculated CU Denver student;
- b. must be an official full semester/term, including shortened terms such as summer or Maymester, and must deliver the required number of contact hours for a full semester/term as defined by the Colorado Department of Higher Education;
- c. must be overseen and mentored by a faculty person who is present in the foreign country with the student(s); and,
- d. must be independently verified by written documentation, generally by an official academic transcript supplied to the CU Denver Office of Admissions.

Study abroad experiences may be sponsored by any University of Colorado campus, a consortium of study abroad programs to which CU Denver belongs, or an international experiential learning program independently arranged by the student. CU Denver strongly encourages that study abroad be experienced in a country where the primary language is different than the native language of the student. Trips that do not have explicit and documented academic intention and oversight do not qualify, nor do trips primarily motivated by an ideological or religious agenda.

#### Cases that Require Petition to the CCOC

All cases that do not conform to any one of the preceding three numbered requirements must be petitioned to the CCOC by the student. Petitioning students should follow the "Guidelines for Student Petitions to the COCC for Prior Learning."

#### Appeal of Non-Approval

The appeal process is to prepare a petition to the CCOC following the "Guidelines for Student Petitions to the COCC for Prior Learning," with one exception: in place of the supporting statement from the academic advisor, there should be an advisor statement outlining the reasons for the original denial or the reasons why the advisor wanted CCOC input concerning the decision. The appeal decision of the CCOC is final and not subject to further appeal.