

Winthrop University's Quality Enhancement Plan: The Global Learning Initiative

Executive Summary: (Full proposal is available at <http://www2.winthrop.edu/gli/wuPublicGli.pdf>.)

The purpose of the Global Learning Initiative (GLI) is to infuse global content into the Touchstone (general education) Program at Winthrop University. Winthrop University defines "global" as "applying to local, regional, national, and/or international experiences that may differ from one's own culture." The GLI is the product of a two-year process that involved faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, and the Board of Trustees.

Justification: The GLI is consistent with current trends in higher education and the University's mission and values. Moreover, it builds on an existing University commitment to global learning. However, the Winthrop community identified a clear need for further emphasis on global learning to prepare its students to live and work in a rapidly globalizing world.

Student Learning Outcomes: The GLI targets three student learning outcomes (SLOs). They are SLO 1, Accomplished Global Understanding; SLO 2, Favorable Global Attitudes; and SLO 3, Active Global Engagement.

These SLOs are assessed using a variety of measures, including assessment of student writing samples at various times throughout their academic experiences; the Global Learning Assessment Inventory, a survey developed in-house by Winthrop personnel; selected questions on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE); and the assessment of global learning cultural events.¹

Implementation Goals: Winthrop University has identified six implementation goals that it will continuously assess using a variety of measures over the five-year span of the GLI. They are:

- 1) Infuse Global Learning Components into two Touchstone Core Courses that are required for all Winthrop freshmen: Principles of the Learning Academy (ACAD 101) and The Human Experience: Who am I? (HMXP 102);
- 2) Increase the number of courses in the Touchstone Program that contain a global learning component by at least 10% by AY 2015-16;
- 3) Increase the number of global learning cultural events by at least five percent per year through AY 2015-16;
- 4) Identify means whereby students can complete Touchstone Program courses while studying abroad;
- 5) Assess student learning outcomes to determine the GLI's impact, and use these data to improve the program; and
- 6) Plan for the expansion and continuation of the GLI for the next five years (AY 2016-17 through AY 2020-21).

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¹ Winthrop University requires its students to attend a certain number of cultural events as a graduation requirement. Cultural events include dance, theatrical, and musical performances; film showings and discussions; public lectures and forums; guided art gallery tours; and the like.