



Strategies for Success Advising Guide: Global Studies Major



The **Global Studies Associate in Arts** degree is an interdisciplinary program of study that examines social, cultural, environmental and political issues within a world historical context. The program challenges students to critically evaluate the commonalities and differences within various cultural and social frameworks, and looks at relationships between international and national systems that influence the world community.

This advising guide includes information that will help you to explore your academic and career interests and determine whether the **Global Studies Major** will support your long-term goals.

Exploring Your Options

Before deciding upon a major, you should take some time to explore your interests and develop your long-term academic, career, and personal goals. Periodically throughout each semester, meet with your advisor so that he/she can guide you through a self exploration process that will help you identify your academic and career interests. A list of activities has been provided below to help you identify your academic and career interests. These activities are for your first year or during your first 30 credits at MCC.

___ During the first few weeks of your first semester at Middlesex, schedule an appointment to meet with your advisor and discuss your future plans and how the Global Studies degree can help you to achieve your goals. You and your advisor will work together to build an academic plan in DegreeWorks (an online educational planning tool that can be accessed through MiddleNet (<https://middlenet.middlesex.mass.edu>) that will include:

- Your major and degree requirements
- A map of the courses you will take each semester
- Your academic, career and personal goals, as well as, plans to achieve them

___ Complete the FOCUS2 online career assessment tool which is located on our website at www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices/FOCUS2.htm. After completing FOCUS2, schedule a meeting to discuss your results with a career counselor. Call 1-800-818-3434 or visit the Academic, Career and Transfer Centers in Lowell and Bedford to schedule your career counseling appointment.

___ Review the career biographies which are located on the career services website at: www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices/bios.asp

___ Mid-Semester; schedule an appointment with your advisor to review your academic progress. Also, use this time to discuss your progress toward meeting your academic and career goals.

___ Before the semester ends, schedule an appointment to meet with your advisor to discuss the classes you will take the following semester. (Early November to plan for Spring Classes, Early April to plan Fall and Summer classes)

Is the Global Studies Major the Right Fit for Me?

If you are thinking about a major in Global Studies, consider whether the following statements characterize you:

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- You are looking for a well-rounded education that gives you greater flexibility in your educational and career choices.
- You enjoy reading about international events and are “glued” to the TV when international crisis or humanitarian catastrophe erupts.
- You are interested and aware of what’s going on beyond the borders of your own country and want to broaden your knowledge of world cultures, economic, environmental and social issues.
- You want to learn how to relate your knowledge of a particular part of the world to larger trends and issues that affect all societies.
- You want to become an effective communicator, learn how to critically evaluate different sides of the issues and help to solve complex problems that face humanity.
- You want to know how your country’s economy is interconnected to the world’s economy.
- You are attracted to the challenge of serious research focusing on a world region or on transnational global trends.
- You are interested in investigating how cultural values are expressed across various disciplines.
- You want to learn another language and be able to respond intelligently to what goes on abroad and communicate effectively across-cultural barriers.
- You want to further your education and you find the prospect of working in another country intriguing.

If you agree with most of these statements, then the Global Studies major may be for you!

Global Studies Program Outcomes

Graduates of the program are prepared to:

- Examine social, cultural, environmental and political issues within a world historical context;
- Explain the meaning of globalization;
- Demonstrate knowledge of global issues, including the interdependency among nations, and governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.

-AND-

- Use knowledge acquired at MCC as a foundation for continued study and/or practical application;
- Interpret and analyze information in order to engage in critical thinking and problem solving;
- Communicate, use information, and employ technology effectively;
- Communicate an understanding of the world from a global perspective;
- Demonstrate social responsibility within the college community;
- Demonstrate the capacity for on-going personal and professional development

Advising Notes

It is recommended that students pursuing the Global Studies major take courses that would increase their skills and capabilities in global inquiry. Courses in the disciplines of history, economics, languages, geography, anthropology, philosophy and environmental studies would be appropriate.

Students are also encouraged to complete an internship and/or participate in a study abroad program. To learn more about study abroad opportunities at MCC, students should visit the International and Multicultural Office website at, www.middlesex.mass.edu/internationalstudents/studyabroad.asp.

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The Career Path

The Global Studies major prepares you for a variety of career options depending on your level of education and experience. Careful planning with an advisor is essential.

A major in Global Studies is well-suited to students interested in careers in international relations, diplomacy, foreign service, law, higher education, teaching, cross-cultural training, political advocacy, public affairs, homeland security, state and government agencies, international business, travel, international non-profit organizations concerned with human rights, social justice, relief operations, global health, immigration, etc

Many Global Studies students are interested in learning about the world as a whole and may choose to pursue international careers. These positions require you to work across national borders and deal with global issues. Almost any vocation can be “internationalized”, it all depends on your educational training and work experiences as well as your language and cultural skills.

Career Planning Activities:

- ___ Work with your advisor to create a Career Plan. As a student who is on the Career Path, your focus should be on building your skill-set and marketing yourself for a job.
- ___ Work with an MCC career counselor who can help you create a resume and cover letter. Consider looking for an internship to enhance your skills and establish some work experience. Call 1-800-818-3434 or visit the Academic, Career and Transfer Centers in Lowell and Bedford to schedule your career counseling appointment.
- ___ Continue to work with an MCC career counselor who can help you with interview skills and job search techniques. Schedule an appointment with your advisor to follow up on your career plan.

The Transfer Path

The Global Studies major is designed to prepare graduates to transfer and obtain a bachelors degree. The Global Studies major leads students to further undergraduate studies in liberal arts, law, international relations, history, political science, geography, and government. These programs will provide you with a solid liberal arts background for positions that involve decision making and possible employment opportunities in international organizations (government and non-government), multinational civic and economic organizations, and nonprofit humanitarian institutions. The program qualifies for *MassTransfer*, which guarantees credit transfer to Massachusetts state colleges and the University of Massachusetts.

If a college or university does not offer a Global Studies major, consider a major in liberal arts, history, international relations or political science.

- ___ Work with your advisor to create a Transfer Plan. Identifying and applying to a Bachelor’s Degree program will be your focus. You’ll need to research academic programs of interests, colleges that offer these programs and be aware of deadlines for admissions, financial aid, and housing deposits (if you are interested on living on campus). The transfer process can be complex. Your advisor and transfer counselor can help you with this process.
- ___ Schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to learn about the transfer programs that are available to you as an MCC student, such as *MassTransfer*, transfer/articulation agreements with other colleges, and other programs. Also, ask about the Common Application and the benefits of using this form. Call 1-800-818-3434 or visit the Academic, Career, and Transfer Centers in Lowell or Bedford to schedule your transfer counseling appointment.

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- ___ If the transfer institution that you are applying to requires that you write a college essay, make an appointment with a tutor in the writing center to help you edit and review your essay. Remember the essay reflects who you are as a student and is also a sample of your writing ability.
- ___ Look for transfer scholarships that may be available. Consider applying to the MCC Foundation Scholarships. The deadlines for these MCC scholarships are typically at the end of the fall semester.

Listed below are state institutions that are linked to the Global Studies major through the MassTransfer Program:

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts: History, Political Science and Public Policy

Salem State University: Geography, Political Science, Interdisciplinary Studies, Economics, Spanish: Literature/Culture

Worcester State University: Communication, Economics, English, Geography, History, Sociology, Spanish and Urban Studies

University of Massachusetts Boston: College of Liberal Arts/History, Archeology, Political Science, Economics, Languages, Women's Studies

University of Massachusetts Lowell: College of Arts and Sciences/Humanities, History, Economics, Political Science, Languages

Other private institutions that offer Global Studies programs:

Lesley University: Global Studies

Assumption College: Global Studies and World Environment

American International College: International Studies

Boston University: International Relations

Brandeis University: International and Global Studies

Bryant University: Global Studies

Emanuel College: Global Studies and International Affairs

Wellesley College: International Relations

MCC Advising Resources:

- Career Services: www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices
- Transfer Services: www.middlesex.mass.edu/transfer
- MassTransfer: www.mass.edu/masstransfer
- Financial Aid: [/www.middlesex.mass.edu/financialaid](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/financialaid)
- Foundation Scholarships: www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships
- College Board Match Maker: http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/adv_typeofschool.jsp