

**Proposition: 05-15/16**

**Title: Modification of the University's Viewing a Wider World requirement.**

**Date Submitted: September 24, 2015**

**Sponsor(s): Rolfe Sassenfeld, Faculty -College of Engineering,  
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**Proposed Committee:**

**Assigned Committee:** University Affairs

**Prior Approvals: Associate Dean's Academic Council 10/12/15**

**Proposal:** Reduce the University required number of VWW credit hours from 6 to 3. The remaining 3 hour VWW course must be in a different college from their major department, with the exception of majors in the College of Arts and Sciences who will be allowed to take 3 credits of VWW from another department within the College of Arts and Sciences, and must not be cross listed with a course in their home department.

**Rationale:** The state legislature has voiced intent for bachelor's degrees to have a maximum of 120 hours of required coursework with the goal of increasing graduation rates. The faculty senate and the university recently approved the change of the total credit hours to a minimum of 120. Although it is not currently required, many programs are reviewing their curriculum to reduce their total credit hours count to align with the new minimum. This proposition will assist these programs in reaching their goals. Compared to peer institutions, NMSU ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the highest total number of student credit hours required for a degree. This is owing to the General Education requirement where 6 additional credit hours of VWW classes are part of the curriculum; no peer universities currently require 6 credit hours of VWW courses.

**Suggested Catalog Changes:**

Prior to graduating, NMSU students are required to take ~~two a~~ courses ~~from separate colleges~~ from the Viewing a Wider World list in the Undergraduate Catalog. These courses ~~are~~ **is an** upper-division (300-400 level) General Education courses and should be taken in a student's junior and/or senior year. The ~~other~~ course may be taken within their home college, but must be in a different department from their major department; ~~(2)~~ **and** must not be cross-listed with a course in their home department; ~~(3) cannot be counted as one of the requirements for the student's major.~~

These courses strongly emphasize the international character and multicultural influences in the fields of study and strengthen information retrieval skills. ~~One of the~~ *The* VWW course (3 credits) can be replaced by study abroad experience, consisting of at least four weeks of a Study Abroad program or university coursework in a foreign country earning 3 credits.