

Frequently Asked Questions Page

Will this Distinction show up on my transcript?

Yes, it will!

What are the learning outcomes of the GSD?

At the completion of all requirements for the Global Scholars Distinction, students will:

1. Understand and experience a place outside of their home country, using a complex set of skills and knowledge that represents the diversity of learning taught at St. Mary's. "Place" may be defined broadly as a city, region, ecosystem or other geographic entity, and it includes the people who reside in that location;
2. Understand their home or home country in global terms—specifically the relationships between the home country and other places in the world;
3. Navigate distinct societies, work within foreign cultures, and/or understand and speak languages other than their own; and
4. Identify a topic, issue, practice, custom, idea and/or historical debate on which people in distinct parts of the world have varying opinions or attitudes and ways of expressing them, and then be able to explain the reasons behind these differences.

What are some hidden benefits for earning the GSD?

Along the way, Global Scholars will be provided more opportunities for reflection, growth, articulation of takeaways, and goal-setting for future personal, academic, and professional goals. Employers will be impressed, and the skills and personal growth for GSD students will skyrocket!

What type of courses on campus are GSD-designated?

These classes may include ILC language classes (required of all St. Mary's students as part of the Core), all Cultural Literary courses (including study tours), courses across multiple disciplines with global learning components that would reflect any of the outcomes above (e.g., in History, Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Political Science, English, Art History, Theater, International Languages and Cultures, etc.), and all classes taught in semester-long international exchange programs.

What sort of participation do I need to have for on-campus events?

Either before and/or after a St. Mary's student studies abroad, they will attend at least one international campus activity hosted by the IE office and/or the ILC Department.

I participated in Verto, can that count?

Yes, partly! Incoming Verto students and any transfer students who have earned SMCM-approved transfer credit from a study abroad experience or internationally focused coursework at a previous institution may count their international experience towards earning this distinction. These students will be required to take one additional internationally focused four-credit course while at SMCM, as well as fulfill the other requirements of the Global Scholars Distinction by enrolling in the one-credit GSD Workshop course.

What if I participated in a non-SMCM program, either over the summer or for a semester?

If you have participated in a non-SMCM program abroad and yet worked with the Office of International Education (OIE) to set up that experience, it should count toward your GSD credits! If you're not sure, reach out to the OIE for clarification.

Do I have to take the GSD workshop immediately after my return from a study abroad program, or just before I graduate? What if I still have to take other GS-designated courses too?

Global Scholars are required to enroll in the GSD 1-credit Workshop within two semesters after you return from your international education experience. Please plan ahead in your course registration to allow for this 1-credit course! This workshop is built to help you academically contextualize your experience abroad immediately after you return to the SMCM and U.S. cultures, while also helping you to integrate your time abroad into your professional goals.