

Why Global Competence?

As economies and cultures become more interconnected, and technology creates instantaneous links across the globe, cooperation, success and peace in the twenty-first century will increasingly require knowledge and understanding of the world beyond our borders.

Over the past decade, the Needham Schools have pursued a number of initiatives aimed at offering our students a broader, more multi-cultural and international experience. Our goal is for students to gain interdisciplinary experience and knowledge of the world, and concurrently develop the communication and self-awareness skills to be flexible, respectful, and creative as participants in, and contributors to, a globalized society.

In 2005, a task force was formed to develop international competency definitions to guide the many decisions we make as educators in the classroom, school and district. With those competencies defined, in 2007 Needham High School developed the Global Competence Program.

NHS Graduates Will Need The Following Skills In Order To Participate In And Contribute To A Globalized Society:

Think Globally

- Be a geographically informed person- understanding people, places and environments from a spatial, cultural, economic and historical perspective
- Understand the interdependence of the world
- Participate in international experiences
- Think about issues from a global perspective
- Evaluate information critically from various sources

Communicate Effectively

- Converse proficiently in a foreign language
- Communicate through a variety of media

Contribute Responsibly

- Use global knowledge to build relationships with people from other cultures
- Seek knowledge to shape one's own values and perspective and creatively imagine a world of possibilities
- Interact with people of other cultures with respect and flexibility in behavior and thinking
- Be able to analyze one's own motivation in relation to others, reflect and adjust
- Help others embrace multiple perspectives

Needham High School

GLOBAL COMPETENCE PROGRAM



**A collaborative initiative of the
Needham Education Foundation
and Needham High School**

*“By learning more about their world, students
learn more about themselves.”*

Needham High School is pleased to offer an enriching opportunity for students who are interested in increasing their global awareness. Through their participation in the Global Competence Program, students will develop the necessary skills for contributing responsibly and successfully in an increasingly globalized world.

Global Competence Program (GCP)

Who?

All Needham High School students are eligible to work towards a Certificate of Global Competence.

When?

Students may begin to fulfill the program requirements as early as 9th grade.

How?

Students may pick up a GCP packet at the Guidance Office at any time, or download the packet materials from the GCP website. The packet includes all requirements, portfolio forms, and information to guide students through the process of achieving GCP certification.

Students are responsible for obtaining the necessary approvals and maintaining their portfolio throughout their high school career. Students who complete all requirements may submit their portfolio for review. All portfolios MUST be submitted for review by May 1 of senior year.

Portfolios will be reviewed by a committee, consisting of a teacher, a guidance counselor and a community member, in the fall and spring of each year.

Recognition

While the primary goal of the program is to help students gain skills and knowledge for today's global and interconnected world, the students will also receive a certificate and academic distinction for completing the program.

What are the Requirements?

1. Foreign Travel

Students must participate in a challenging international experience in which they connect directly to the culture and the people, preferably practicing foreign language skills.

2. Academic

Students must take three years of a world language, and receive a passing grade each year of C or above.

3. Global Service

The equivalent of one Community Classroom credit (30 hours) must be GCP related. The GCP community service project must expose the student to another world culture and should, ideally, employ their foreign language skills.

4. Global Focus Project

Through participation in a minimum of 3 extra-curricular activities, students explore an aspect of a foreign country or region and write an essay synthesizing what they have learned.

5. GCP Portfolio and Reflection Project

Upon completion of the GCP requirements, each student will present a portfolio to the GCP Portfolio Committee. The portfolio must include:

- The completed and approved GCP Travel Experience Form
- The completed and approved GCP Global Service Form
- The completed GCP Global Focus Project

- A GCP Resume

- A Reflective Essay of 250-500 words, reflecting upon the student's travel experience and/or other GCP experiences.

Selecting Travel and Global Service Opportunities:

To assist students in finding eligible travel and community service options, the GCP has identified travel and service "partners" which are available on the GCP website.

Additional Information

The requirement for foreign travel may be changed and a domestic option that has a strong international/multicultural engagement substituted with permission of the Global Competency Director.

The language requirement may be changed with permission of the World Language Director at Needham High School.

Contact Information

General questions: Tom Denton, Director of Guidance Tom_Denton@needham.k12.ma.us

GCP community service questions: Gretchen Ayoub, Community Classroom Coordinator, Gretchen_Ayoub@needham.k12.ma.us

Academic questions: student's guidance counselor

Website GCP

All GCP forms and information can be found at: <http://nhs.needham.k12.ma.us/core/Global-travel>, click on GCP