

**Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School**  
**Global Competence Program (GCP) Expectations and Requirements**

The HWRHS Global Competence Program is designed to extend our L.E.A.R.N. expectations for our students in a manner that will increase global awareness. Students who participate in the GCP will build the knowledge and skills that will help them live, learn, and lead in an increasingly global society.

**Specifically, the L.E.A.R.N. expectations apply to the expectations of the GCP as follows:**

**L – Live as lifelong learners: GCP students will develop habits and skills while embedded in a new culture outside the school walls. These skills and habits will empower students to function as effective leaders and problem-solvers.**

**E – Express themselves effectively: GCP students will develop language skills that will allow them to communicate with people from other countries and cultures.**

**A – Acquire essential knowledge and skills: GCP students will build knowledge of world cultures so that they can access, analyze, interpret, and deliver information using a variety of media.**

**R – Respect Themselves and Others: GCP students will demonstrate respect and understanding for others in a diverse world by exhibiting honesty, integrity, personal responsibility, and appreciation for global cultures.**

**N – Navigate a variety of communities: GCP students will work with the members of a global community in the context of a new culture to contribute to the well-being of all community members.**

## **I. Foreign Travel Component**

Approved programs must provide an international experience in which students will challenge themselves to connect and interact directly with the culture and the people.

A financial commitment from students to cover some of the program costs is encouraged so that students will gain awareness of travel costs and develop a level of commitment to the experience from the start.

A degree of student involvement in planning and decision making for the trip is encouraged so that students can gain confidence in their ability to be self-sufficient world travelers.

All students wishing to apply a *travel* experience toward GCP certification must obtain approval in advance of their trip by completing a GCP Travel Experience Form and submitting it to the GCP Review Committee.\* Students are strongly encouraged to select a program from the GCP Approved Travel Program List (available on the GCP website).

Proposals for non-international inter-cultural experiences will be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis by the GCP Review Committee.\* Suitable substitutions for international travel must involve immersion in another culture and/or foster global-awareness.

Students whom participated in an international travel program prior to the launch of the Global Competence Program in September 2011 may submit a proposal for approval retroactively, as long as the travel took place while the student was in high school.

Students must keep a journal during the international experience and will submit the journal as part of the GCP portfolio requirements.

## **II. Global Service Component**

The GCP global service project must expose students to another world culture and should, ideally, employ their foreign language skills. Refer to the GCP Global Service Partners List for pre-approved GCP community service opportunities. The list is available at <insert global partners link>.

Other opportunities will be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis. These requests must be submitted to the GCP Review Committee, prior to completing the service, using the GCP Global Service Form.\* Proposals may be submitted for approval retroactively by students who participated in a global service program prior to the launch of the Global Competence Program in September 2011.

A GCP travel experience that includes at least 30 hours of community service also satisfies the GCP community service requirement.

Students must include the completed GCP Global Service Form in their GCP Portfolio.

### **III. Academic Component**

Students must take a world language through Level 4 and receive a passing grade each semester of C or above.

Alternate approaches may be applied toward satisfaction of the GCP academic requirement on a case-by-case basis. Please submit a completed GCP Academic Alternative Proposal Form to the GCP Review Committee.\*

### **IV. Global Focus Project**

Students must select an aspect of a foreign country or region's culture, political system, history, geography or economy, and in engage in a minimum of three activities that will enable them to explore this area of interest.

The activities must be outside of assigned class work, and in addition to activities that are in conjunction with the GCP travel experience. These activities may include, but are not limited to, reading books from the summer reading list that create global awareness (applicable books are identified on the reading list), watching films, preparing culinary specialties and attending cultural events or lectures.

A double-spaced, 3-4 page essay, synthesizing what they have learned from these activities, must be submitted as part of the GCP Portfolio.

### **V. GCP Portfolio and Reflection Project**

Upon completion of the GCP requirements, each student will present a portfolio to the GCP Review Committee.

Portfolios will be reviewed in four cycles:

- Portfolios submitted by November 1 will be evaluated by November 15.
- Portfolios submitted by December 1 will be evaluated by December 15.
- Portfolios submitted by May 1 will be evaluated by May 15.

May 1 is the final deadline for submissions.

Completed GCP Portfolios may be emailed to Bryan Menegoni, Associate Principal, at [menegonib@hwschools.net](mailto:menegonib@hwschools.net), or left in the GCP mailbox in the Main Office.

Students are advised to keep a copy of their completed portfolio for their own records.

The Portfolio must include the following:

- A GCP Résumé that highlights I-V above – fit onto one page
- The completed and approved GCP Travel Experience Form
- The completed and approved GCP Global Service Form
- A transcript supporting the completion of the academic component of the GCP OR the completed and approved GCP Academic Alternative Proposal Form
- The completed GCP Focus Project Form
- The journal from the travel experience
- The completed GCP Focus Project Essay
- A Reflective Essay of 3-4 pages, reflecting upon the student's travel and/or global service experience(s).

Following the GCP Portfolio Committee's review of the student's portfolio, the student will be informed if they have successfully earned a Certificate of Global Competence. At a student's request, guidance counselors will attach the GCP Résumé to the student's transcript, so college admissions officers will have an overview of the student's activities that resulted in this distinction.

\*Case-by-case approval for the following will be reviewed by the GCP Review Committee on a monthly basis:

- Travel programs that are not included on the GCP Approved Travel Program list
- Global service projects that are not in conjunction with a GCP approved travel/service program or an existing GCP Global Service Partner
- Alternative approaches to satisfying the GCP academic component

Applications submitted by the 15th of the month will be returned to the student by the end of the month. The proposals should be submitted on the appropriate GCP form and left in the GCP mailbox in the Main Office.

All necessary forms, as well as The GCP Approved Travel Program List and the GCP Global Service Partners List are available on the GCP page of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School website.

*HWRHS Global Competence Program (GCP) Requirements 08/19/11*

*This document was adapted from the Needham High School Global Competence Program*