

Discovery Program World Cultures Requirement Variance Policy

Adopted by the Discovery Committee of the Faculty Senate

May 3, 2017

The assumption for all of the Discovery Program requirements is that the requirements will be met by the courses/activities that have been identified and approved by the Discovery Committee. It is assumed that the student has a responsibility for her/his program of study. This includes reviewing and responding in a timely fashion to the updates received from the Registrar, Advising Center, and the faculty advisor. The burden of responsibility for the completion of all university, college, and departmental requirements remains with the student.

A student requesting a waiver of the policy carries the burden of establishing that the petition for academic variance sufficiently addresses the academic requirements. A lack of timeliness on the part of the student does not support the petition. All cases are decided on a case-by-case basis. An unsuccessful petition for variance may be appealed to the Discovery Program Review Committee.

Exceptions to the World Cultures Requirement

Students may request a variance waiver of the World Cultures requirement for several reasons. These include a course substitution that combines an educational experience in another country or a significant experience living/participating in another culture. Potential exceptions are further defined below. As stated in the general policy, the student carries the burden of demonstrating that the requested variance meets the requirements of the World Cultures category. Documentation of these experiences is required.

Determinations made upon admission to UNH:

1. A Significant Living/Participation Experience Abroad

A student living in a country outside of the United States who has completed at least one year of secondary school within that country may qualify for fulfillment of the WC requirement. Living within a United States-based community (e.g. a military base) in another country without other significant interactive cultural experiences does not meet the requirement.

Please note that speaking a native language and/or engaging in cultural practices with family while living within the US does not qualify. Evidence of language fluency by itself will not qualify for an exemption.

Determinations made on a case-by-case basis:

1. Course Substitution with Significant Experience Abroad

A. This variance request must be based on a minimum of a continuous eight (8) week long university recognized experience in another country. Petitions in advance of academic study experiences in US territories will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

B. Courses that take place in another country but have not been designated as World Cultures (WC) may be reviewed for meeting the WC requirement on a case-by-case basis. Justification for WC credit must follow the specific category criteria as outlined on the Discovery Program website (<http://www.unh.edu/discovery/categories>).

2. Course Substitution – Transfer Courses

Non-UNH courses completed at another college or university may be reviewed for meeting the (World Cultures) WC requirement on a case-by-case basis. Justification for WC credit must follow the specific category criteria as outlined on the Discovery Program website (<http://www.unh.edu/discovery/categories>). Further, all transfer courses must meet the criteria outlined on the Admissions website here: <https://admissions.unh.edu/transfer-credits>

3. Military Experience

Military experiences outside of the United States may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. These requests must include documentation of cultural academic education (e.g. an academic course, not necessarily credit-bearing) and description, in considerable detail, of exposure to the lifestyle, language, food, and customs of the culture in which the student lived while in the military.