



URSULINE  
EDUCATION NETWORK

## Ursuline Global Scholars Program

### Overview

The Ursuline Education Network (UEN) offers the Ursuline Global Scholars Certificate to graduating high school students who have demonstrated a strong interest in global citizenship by successfully completing curricular studies with a global focus and engaging in co-curricular activities and experiences that foster the development of global competencies.

The Global Scholars Certificate inspires and validates excellent global education learning opportunities (some of which are already in place in many Ursuline schools), encourages students to enroll in courses and participate in activities with a global focus, and prepares globally competent students to be competitive in international careers. This distinction will reward those students who are willing to stretch beyond traditional requirements in order to set themselves apart in the international arena.

The Global Scholars distinction validates a student's deliberate pursuit of a global education. This distinction aims to:

- Encourage students to recognize the value of and emphasize global aspects of their education and, working with their guidance counselor or person designated by the school, to pursue these opportunities
- Serve as a significant selection criterion in the admissions process to colleges and universities
- Serve as an important hiring consideration by prospective employers

### Rationale

In today's global marketplace, it is in the long-term economic and social interests of schools to educate a globally competent citizenry by emphasizing the global character of disciplinary and interdisciplinary studies in the school curriculum and by encouraging and facilitating international connections in the school, local community, and beyond.

***"We must focus on integrating international perspectives into our classrooms. It is through education and exchange that we become better collaborators, competitors, and compassionate neighbors in this global society."***

*-Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education*



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### Benefit to Colleges & Universities

UEN interviewed several colleges and universities about whether or not the Global Scholar distinction would serve to strengthen a student's application to their school. Unanimously, the schools surveyed agreed that such a program would be seen as a positive attribute to an application.

***"As long as the school profile adequately explains the program and why it's distinctive/rigorous, we will take it into account, and it would benefit the student. And of course, the student would still have to satisfy all of our minimum requirements (for admission into the College), but I imagine that wouldn't be an issue with these students."***

- Randolph-Macon College

***"This program fits beautifully with a Global Studies program that we are launching this year. In speaking with admissions, we would be happy to consider the Global Scholars from your school for preferred admission provided that they satisfy all other minimum requirements..."***

- University of Delaware

***"We believe that the Global Scholars Program offered to your students would be extremely beneficial for them in being accepted into the Honors Program and also for scholarships."***

- University of Cincinnati

### Typical Student Profile

Students who receive the Global Scholar distinction will be those students who are enthusiastic about international issues and who strive to include themselves in activities that feed this enthusiasm. Global Scholars will be well-rounded students demonstrating intellectual achievement, a commitment to service, passion for international issues, and a desire to be involved in global change.



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### Parameters

Ursuline Education Network (UEN) will award the distinction of “Ursuline Global Scholar” to students who demonstrate achievement toward global competency. Students who receive this distinction will have the designation “Ursuline Global Scholar” on their high school transcripts, receive seals on their diplomas, and achievement certificates.

Each participating school in the network will develop its own specific “Ursuline Global Scholars” criteria checklist using the guidelines in this document and the sample checklist provided as a model. Schools will submit the checklist to UEN for approval. The checklist should specify the criteria for students to attain the distinction, including a listing of specific classes that would fulfill the requirements. In developing the checklist, it is important that the criteria be sufficiently rigorous and the students’ mastery of the criteria needs to be above-average in quality (e.g. a passing grade of B or higher for coursework completion) in order for the Global Scholars designation to be a meaningful distinction.

To be recognized as Ursuline Global Scholars, students need to complete:

- Coursework in world languages
- Coursework in humanities with strong global implications
- Extracurricular activities and experiences with global themes
- Capstone Project that summarizes experiences

### Criteria

The Ursuline Global Scholars Certificate shall be awarded to students who have demonstrated a dedication to global education by successfully fulfilling the recommended criteria in the following four (4) areas:

#### Coursework

In development of this program, it is recognized that schools in the Ursuline network differ in curriculum and specific course offerings. The following list is presented to provide guidance to individual schools in developing their specific checklist.

- **World Language Coursework**

At least 4 credits in a single world language

*(or 3 years in primary + 1 year in additional language when 4 consecutive courses in a single language is not available)*



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- **Additional Coursework**

At least 4 credits of coursework with a global focus, which may include courses such as:

- World/Non-U.S. History
- World Geography
- International Economics, Business or marketing
- Comparative Political Science/Government
- World Literature
- World Religions
- Human Origins & Archeology
- Arts courses with international perspective

### Cultural Literacy

Each student seeking this certificate shall complete independent reviews/reflections on at least eight (8) works of international/cultural media, including at least four books (fiction & non-fiction). Other international/cultural media may include films, music, and art exhibitions. Students may elect to read books from a recommended reading list to be maintained by the individual school.

Each school will utilize the UEN Resource Rubric for reviews and reflections. All reviews/reflections should be submitted with the student's application.

### Co-Curricular Activities

Each student seeking this certificate shall demonstrate interest in global citizenship through active participation and leadership in at least four (4) co-curricular and other school-sponsored or endorsed activities in grades 9-12. These may include participating in:

- International exchange program as exchange student and/or host
- Holding a leadership position in a Language club
- Internationally focused clubs (e.g. Multicultural Club, Junior World Affairs, etc.)
- Internationally themed programs/competitions (e.g. Model UN, DECA International Competition, etc.)
- Organizing & running internationally themed events (e.g. International Fairs, Language Days, etc.)
- Lectures on international topics and/or speakers in the community or at a college/university with accompanying documentation and reflection.
- Participation in a conference with a collaborative focus (e.g. Student Leadership Conference, etc.) with accompanying documentation and reflection.



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### **Community Service**

Each student shall complete a global/cross-cultural community service project, involving at least twenty (20) hours of work, connected to a global community (different from his/her own) or to a global issue. This project may include:

- Raising awareness about a global issue
- Fundraising for an international non-profit service agency/organization
- Working on an international project with a service club (e.g. Rotary, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, etc.)
- Tutoring a child who is an English Language Learner
- Volunteering with a cultural/linguistic group in the community

### **Capstone**

Each student shall complete a capstone presentation on how their participation in this program impacted them and how they anticipate this will help them in the future. Capstone projects can include: digital or print portfolio, multi-media presentation, video, art show, etc.

The purpose of the capstone is to (a) synthesize student learning and global experiences and (b) promote the significance of the Global Scholars Program to inspire other students to seek to attain the distinction.

Capstone projects should be presented by students to their school community prior to the deadline for submission to UEN. Capstone presentations shall be evaluated using the UEN Capstone Rubric.

### **Documentation**

The Ursuline Global Scholars distinction shall be entered on the student transcript upon completion of all requirements. Certificates and diploma seals shall be sent to schools prior to graduation provided that all documentation has been submitted to UEN prior to published deadlines.

## **Steps for Participation in the Ursuline Global Scholars Program**

Each participating school shall follow the steps below in order to participate in the Ursuline Global Scholars Program:

### **Application Process**

The school must submit an application and school-specific program criteria to UEN for approval. The application must include the faculty designee for the Global Scholars Program,



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program requirements specific to the school, and relevant dates for school participation (e.g. graduation, deadline for submission of capstone project, etc.)

### **Approval of the Application**

The application and school criteria will be reviewed and approved by the Global Scholars Committee of UEN.

### **Effective Date**

The effective date for awarding certificates will begin with the graduating class of 2017.

## **Approval of Student Certificates**

### **Nomination Process**

Each school shall have the authority to nominate those graduates whom it deems have successfully completed the requirements for the Global Scholar Certificate. UEN will review student applications & capstone projects in April of each school year and will award the Global Scholar distinction to students who have met the program requirements.

### **Student Transcript Endorsements**

Schools approved for participation in the Global Scholars Program may enter “Ursuline Global Scholar” distinction on eligible student transcripts at the time of graduation.

### **Preparation of Certificates**

Schools shall submit the application packets of students whom it is nominating for the Ursuline Global Scholars honor. Once a student has been approved as an Ursuline Global Scholar by the Ursuline Education Network’s Validating Committee, UEN will prepare a Certificate, suitable for framing, attesting to the fact that the named student has successfully completed a program in Global Education and is named an Ursuline Global Scholar. Schools may also have the option of affixing a seal indicating attainment of the Global Scholar distinction to the student’s diploma at the time of graduation. Seals will be provided by UEN.

## **Ursuline Education Network Mission**

The mission of the Ursuline Education Network (UEN) is to foster collaboration among educational institutions sponsored by or affiliated with Ursuline congregations within the United States and Canada. The organization promotes the preservation and development of the Ursuline charism and fosters educational excellence, innovation and global connectedness. In the spirit of global citizenship, UEN has established the Ursuline Global Scholars Program in order to recognize students for outstanding achievement in the global arena.