

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University
Proposal 4-22
(Voting Units: Academic)

Proposal to rename the minor in *International Studies*
to a minor in *Global Studies*

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I. Introduction: Description and Characteristics of the Program

The Department of Social Science is proposing to change the name of “International Studies” minor (SSIS) to become the “Global Studies” minor. The SSIS minor has been offered through the Department of Social Sciences since 2000 and was established as a curricular guide for students interested in following a world regional and international focus in their coursework.

II. Rationale

The goal of this minor is to provide students with global social, economic, political, and cultural contexts that allow them to develop their ability to think globally, reinforcing the intent of University Learning Goal Three: Global Literacy. This minor provides a pathway for students to develop skills related to this learning goal beyond the Global Issues course that is required of students. It also aligns with the B.S. in Sustainability Science and Society degree, which focuses on global (and local) integrative knowledge across social and sustainability topics. Given that the courses associated with this minor, currently titled the *International Studies* minor, align with the university’s transdisciplinary “global literacy” goal and department’s focus on the local-to-global nature of sustainability efforts, we would like to update the title of this minor to Global Studies, which more accurately reflects the content of the minor.

More specifically:

1. While International Studies is a typical program within political science, the courses in our minor more accurately reflect the interdisciplinary nature of a Global Studies curriculum, with courses coming from anthropology, geography, history, and sociology, as well as political science.
2. There are no students enrolled in the International Studies minor. A name change can help reinvigorate this opportunity for students.

3. Many of the faculty who teach courses in the International Studies curriculum also teach Global Issues. Aligning the faculty, courses, and the name of the program helps solidify curricular identity, both internally for the department and for students taking our courses.

III. Curriculum Design

We are not proposing any changes to the curriculum of the minor. This request is simply for a change in the name of the minor.

IV. New Course Descriptions

None. All courses currently exist. This is a name change only.

V. Additional Resources

None. No additional resources are required for this name change.

VI. Accreditation Requirements

None.

VII. Planned Implementation

The name change would go into effect Spring of 2022.