



GLOBAL STUDIES

Assumption's Global Studies Pathway offers students a rich, interdisciplinary experience that fosters cultural awareness, global citizenship, and academic excellence. Through four years of French or Spanish, students build language fluency while exploring diverse perspectives in courses like AP Human Geography, AP/DC World History, DC World Religions, and AP Art History.

Beyond the classroom, students can participate in international exchange programs, study abroad opportunities, and immersive experiences like the Seeds of Change Costa Rica Research Trip and Mission Week. With involvement in the Foreign Language National Honor Society and the Future Problem Solving Club, students develop leadership skills and a deeper understanding of global issues, preparing them to thrive in an interconnected world.

FOUNDATIONAL COURSES includes two years of either Spanish or French.

PATHWAY COURSES:

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surfaces. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to analyze human social organization and its environmental consequences. Students also learn about methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

AP OR DC WORLD HISTORY

The course surveys world history, focusing on major historical eras of world history, as well as the politics, philosophy, socioeconomic conditions, and arts of various ages. Students learn to assess historical materials and to weigh the evidence and interpretation presented in historical scholarship. Geography and current events are integral parts of this course.

DC WORLD RELIGIONS

This course introduces the major religions of the world including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Taoism, and Confucianism. Students investigate the ways in which other systems of belief and practice both differ from and are in harmony with the Catholic faith.

AP ART HISTORY

In the AP Art History course, students explore painting, sculpture and architecture from cave paintings to 21st century art. Students learn about European art, as well as art from around the globe, as they discuss such topics as the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, art making, and responses to art. Students prepare for the AP Art History exam through which college credit can be earned.

***Students may elect to advance their proficiency in a previously studied language or initiate the study of a new language at the introductory level to broaden their linguistic and cultural competencies.**

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE IV & V

These two yearlong courses prepare students for the AP Spanish Language and Culture exams and are equivalent in difficulty to a fifth- or sixth-semester college Spanish course. Students develop their proficiency by interpreting and responding to a wide range of authentic aural and written sources in Spanish, all centered around the six core themes: beauty and aesthetics, contemporary life, families and communities, global challenges, personal and public identities, and science and technology. Through both interpersonal and presentational speaking and writing tasks, students strengthen their communication skills while learning grammar essential for success on the AP exam.

AP FRENCH LANGUAGE & CULTURE IV & V

These two yearlong courses prepare students for the AP French Language and Culture exams and are equivalent in difficulty to a fifth- or sixth-semester college French course. Students develop their language proficiency by interpreting and responding to a variety of authentic aural and written sources in French, all centered around the six core themes: beauty and aesthetics, contemporary life, families and communities, global challenges, personal and public identities, and science and technology. Students engage in both interpersonal and presentational speaking and writing tasks based on these themes, while also learning grammar essential for success on the AP exam.

PATHWAY COURSES:

THE HOLOCAUST AND MODERN ATROCITIES

This course examines the root causes and events of the Holocaust. Anti-Semitism and the nature of prejudice will be studied along with other examples of 20th and 21st century genocide and modern atrocities.

AP SEMINAR

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

AP RESEARCH

This course is the second course in the AP Capstone Diploma Program. Students design, plan, and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation using a variety of research methods from multiple perspectives. The project can build on a topic, problem, or issue covered in AP Seminar or on a new topic of the student's choosing. At the end of the project, students will submit a 4,000-5,000 word academic paper as well as complete a presentation and oral defense of the research findings to a panel. Students complete research ethics training and employ ethical practices in their research processes. The academic paper and presentation and oral defense components contribute to the overall AP Research score.

MERCY AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Assumption's Argentine Exchange Program offers students a transformative opportunity to broaden their global perspective through a month-long reciprocal exchange with a Mercy school in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Participants host an Argentine student during the winter and, in turn, travel to Argentina in June to live with the same host family. This immersive experience allows students to engage fully in the daily life, language, and traditions of another culture.

While abroad, students attend school, participate in family and community activities, and explore the rich cultural heritage of Argentina. The program fosters independence, adaptability, and intercultural communication skills, while also deepening students' appreciation for global diversity and Mercy values. Many participants describe the exchange as one of the most meaningful and life-changing experiences of their high school years.

Applicants must have completed Spanish II and be enrolled in Spanish III. The program includes a modest participation fee and travel expenses, with financial assistance options available.

CLUBS & INVOLVEMENT

- Participate in the Seeds of Change Costa Rica research trip.
- Choose to study abroad in the various school sponsored international trips.
- Join the Foreign Language National Honor Society in French or Spanish.
- As a senior, attend the immigration field trips during Mission Week.
- Join the Future Problem Solving club or Spanish Scrabble.
- Complete a job shadow experience with a professional working in global affairs—such as international relations, diplomacy, humanitarian work, global business, or cultural exchange—to gain firsthand insight into global issues, cross-cultural communication, and international career opportunities.
- Attend career-related RTI sessions that expose students to the diverse fields within global studies, including international policy, human rights, global economics, and cultural diplomacy.