



Liberal Arts Council

UNC's IS and MS Designation Competencies

[International Studies](#)

As part of a Liberal Arts Curriculum, the International Studies (IS) competency refers to students' ability to analyze complex, interdependent global systems (natural, physical, social, cultural, economic, technological and/or political, etc.) in order to identify sources of and strategies for addressing conflict, cooperation, inequity, and/or competition in a global context. Courses designated IS introduce students to variations in a range of human constructions including perspectives, ethics, cultures, discipline-based application of knowledge, and intellectual traditions. By building an awareness of the interconnectedness of global systems, courses with the IS designation reveal to students the impact of countries, regions, or non-state actors on global systems individual identities, communities, and the potential for planetary sustainability.

[Multicultural Studies](#)

As part of a Liberal Arts Curriculum, the U.S. Multicultural Studies (MS) competency refers to students' ability to recognize the perspectives of individuals and groups with a range of identities (including but not limited to race, gender, economic class, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion, language, age, and/or national identity) in terms of the greater "American Experience." Courses designated MS introduce students to concepts, theories, and histories of marginalization and inequity and systemic impacts on individuals, groups, and events. By building an awareness of the possibilities and challenges of diversity and inclusivity, courses with the MS designation reveal to students their historically rooted roles in communities and their potential as agents of change.