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## **New Mexico State University Proposal to Faculty Senate**

Proposition: Number added by FS Secretary

Title: Viewing a Wider World (VWW) exception for Military and Veterans (NMSU Catalog language for VWW)

Proposition Sponsors:

Military and Veterans Programs

Proposed Committee: Academic Affairs

Actual Committee: Assigned by FS Vice Chair

Prior Approvals (if appropriate):

First presented to ADAC last spring and was directed to Faculty Senate.

Proposition:

To allow an exception for one of the Viewing a Wider World requirements (not the credits required) for students that have served in the military overseas as part of deployment or assignment.

Rationale:

Military and Veteran students who have served overseas have had international experiences that can take the place of part of the intent of VWW. Prior to deploying overseas, our service members are required to take a variety of courses that help them prepare for deployment. This includes Individual Readiness Training, an 80 hour course that covers cultures, customs and language differences in the foreign country they are deploying to. Additionally, they learn or are retrained in a variety of topics prior to deployment, including gatekeeper training for Suicide Prevention, media training, land navigation/GIS, first aid and combat strategies. Their time and sacrifice should be honored by not requiring them to take another course that may not move them closer to their ultimate goals.

Currently, NMSU allows the requirement of VWW to be fulfilled if a student completes 4 weeks study abroad. Most deployments are for over 6 months at a time, while an assignment can often be for 2 years.

Additionally, most of our military and veteran students come to NMSU as transfer students and on average arrive at NMSU with 3-5 transcripts from other institutions. The majority do not have any elective credits available once they arrive at NMSU. The elimination of one VWW requirement will allow them to select another upper division elective or pursue another course that supports their degree and career aspirations.

#### Appendices:

Current Catalog Language covering VWW: The Viewing a Wider World requirement fosters intelligent inquiry, abstract logical thinking, critical analysis and the integration and synthesis of knowledge; it strives for literacy in writing, reading, speaking, and listening; it teaches mathematical structures, acquainting students with precise abstract thought about numbers and space; it encourages an understanding of science and scientific inquiry; it provides a historical consciousness, including an understanding of one's own heritage as well as respect for other peoples and cultures; it includes an examination of values and stresses the importance of a carefully considered values system; it fosters an appreciation of the arts; and general education provides the breadth necessary to have a familiarity with the various branches of human understanding. All VWW courses can be identified by the V suffix.

Prior to graduating, NMSU students are required to take two courses from separate colleges from the Viewing a Wider World list in the Undergraduate Catalog. These courses are upper-division (300-400 level) General Education courses and should be taken in a student's junior and/or senior year. One of the two courses must be in a college other than their own. The other course may be taken within their home college, but this course (1) must be in a different department from their major department; (2) must not be cross-listed with a course in their home department; (3) cannot be counted as one of the requirements for the student's major.

These courses strongly emphasize the international character and multicultural influences in the fields of study and strengthen information retrieval skills. One of the courses (3 credits) can be replaced by study abroad experience, consisting of at least four weeks of a Study Abroad program or university coursework in a foreign country earning 3 credits.

## New Mexico State University Catalog Statement

The Viewing a Wider World (VWW) requirement fosters intelligent inquiry, abstract logical thinking, critical analysis, as well as the integration and synthesis of knowledge. The program strives for literacy in writing, reading, speaking and listening. It teaches mathematical structures, acquainting students with precise abstract thought about numbers and space. The program also encourages an understanding of science and scientific inquiry, as it provides a historical consciousness, including an understanding of one's own heritage as well as respect for other peoples and cultures. To achieve its goals, the program includes an examination of values and stresses the importance of a carefully considered values system as it fosters an appreciation of the arts and general education. It provides the breadth necessary to have a familiarity with the various branches of human understanding. All VWW courses can be identified by the "V" suffix.

Prior to graduating, NMSU students are required to take two courses from separate colleges from the Viewing a Wider World list in the Catalog. These courses are upper-division (300-400 level) Viewing a Wider World courses and should be taken in a student's junior and/or senior year. One of the two courses must be in a college other than their own. The other course may be taken within their home college, but this course:

1. must be in a different department from their major department;
2. must not be cross-listed with a course in their home department;
3. cannot be counted as one of the requirements for the student's major.

These courses strongly emphasize the international character and multicultural influences in the fields of study and strengthen information retrieval skills. There are two options that NMSU allows for replacing 3 credits of VWW requirement with another form of educational experience, these are:

1. **Study Abroad Experience**- consisting of at least four weeks of a Study Abroad program or university coursework in a foreign country earning 3 credits.
2. **Military Experience**- for students who have served at least four weeks of military service in a foreign country.

The Military and Veterans Programs Office [website](#) provides the instructions on how to request the waiver for Military Experience replacing 3 credits of VWW.

<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/essential-information-students/general-education-courses/#viewingawiderworldtext>

## Effective Undergraduate Catalog 2017-2018, Military and Veteran students may qualify for a Viewing the Wider World (VWW) 3-Credit Waiver for their Military Experience.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

The NMSU undergraduate catalog requires all students to take two 3-credit VWW upper-division courses. These courses strongly emphasize the international character and multicultural influences in the fields of study and strengthen information retrieval skills. One of the two courses (3 credits) can be replaced by Study Abroad Experience or be waived for Military Experience, by students who have served at least **four weeks** of U.S. Military Foreign/Sea Service in a foreign country.

### STEPS NEEDED TO REQUEST A VWW MILITARY EXPERIENCE WAIVER

- Obtain a copy of your DD Form 214 *or* Memo from your Commanding Officer proving your 4-week deployment
- Provide official copy to your college academic advisor to request waiver
- Wait for your college to approve and confirm

**NOTE:** Credits are not being waived, only one of the two courses are being waived within the requirement. You may still need to complete three credits in consultation with your academic advisor. Please contact our office or your academic advisor for questions and concerns.

<http://mvp.nmsu.edu/new-students/military-experience-waiver/>