

**Proposition:** 02-23/24

**Proposal Type:**  Bill  Resolution  Memorial  Joint Proposition  Other  
*(If Joint proposition, also select type)*

**Title:** Senate Bill Proposing Modification to the Viewing a Wider World Requirement

**Date Submitted:** September 28, 2023

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**Proposed Committee:** TBD

**Prior Approvals:**

**Proposal:** This bill would update and clarify the language regarding activities that count toward a student's Viewing a Wider World requirement.

**Rationale:** Since the Viewing a Wider World (VWW) requirement was originally written, the Office of Experiential Learning has added Faculty-Led International Programs (FLIP) to their offerings, which typically last approximately 2 weeks and often attract at least 100 students per year. FLIP experiences have not consistently been counted for VWW in the current VWW catalog language (see below). The Associate Dean's Academic Council and Center for Academic Advising and Student Support both agree that FLIP courses should count for VWW waivers, so we propose changes to the VWW catalog language as highlighted in the redline version below:

### **NMSU Viewing a Wider World Requirements**

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~~ **three** options that NMSU allows for replacing 3 credits of VWW requirement with another form of educational experience, these are:

1. **Education Study Abroad Experience**- ~~successful completion of an Education consisting of at least four weeks of a Study~~ Abroad program ~~consisting of at least four weeks of~~ successful completion of an Education consisting of at least four weeks of ~~university coursework in a foreign country earning 3 credits.~~
2. **Faculty-Led International Programs (FLIP)**- successful completion of an education abroad course designated as FLIP.
3. **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.