



Office of the Provost and  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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**TO:** Richard Koubek, President

**FROM:** Andrew Storer, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs 

**DATE:** March 5, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Senate Proposal 5-26

Attached is Senate proposal 5-26, "Minor in Global Cultures," and a memo stating the Senate passed this proposal at their January 8, 2026 meeting. I have reviewed this memo and recommend approving the proposal.

If you concur with my recommendation, advertising the new minor can begin since approvals from the Board, MASU, and in this case HLC are not required.

I concur   X   do not concur        with the provost's recommendation as stated in this memo.



Richard Koubek, President

3/17/26

Date



DATE: January 08, 2026  
TO: Richard Koubek, President  
FROM: Robert Hutchinson, University Senate President  
SUBJECT: Proposal 05-26  
COPIES: Andrew Storer, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs

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At its meeting on January 08, 2026, the University Senate approved Proposal 05-26, "Minor in Global Cultures." Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

# The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

## Proposal 05-26

Voting Units: Academic

### “Minor in Global Cultures”

#### Basic Program Information

**Primary Contact:** Leyre Alegre Figuero

**Program/Degree type:** Minor

**Program Title:** Minor in Global Cultures

**Planned Implementation Date:** Fall 2026

**Program location/modality:** on-campus

**Target student population:** current students

**Restrictions:** None

#### General description and characteristics of the program

The Department of Humanities is proposing a new minor program in Global Cultures for use in the Essential Education program. This minor is designed to broaden students' perspectives by exploring the critical role of cultural production in shaping the global landscape. This interdisciplinary program fosters global citizenship through the study of cultures, languages, and international connections. By providing exposure to global issues and encouraging study abroad, the minor equips students with cross-cultural competencies essential for evaluating information and questioning assumptions in today's interconnected world. This minor is 18 credits for students who complete an E3 experience course in category 5a; or 19 credits for students who choose an upper-level SHAPE Course in Category 5b. Students who select an upper-level SHAPE course in Category 5b will also complete a 1-credit “Portfolio Requirement.” This minor is designed to meet the requirements of the Essential Education program, and is being submitted with approval from the Essential Ed Implementation Team.

This new minor will be administered by the Department of Humanities and advising support may be provided by the advising staff in the department as needed. Future changes to the minor requirements will be reviewed and approved by the Essential Education Steering Committee.

#### Rationale

This minor theme was selected as a priority area by campus working groups and aligns with Michigan Tech's current initiatives. In an era of increasing globalization, employers seek professionals who can understand and interact effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds and maintain a global perspective. The Global Cultures minor enhances students'

ability to engage with cultural differences in various contexts, providing valuable skills applicable to many fields. As global interactions increase, the ability to communicate across cultural boundaries is becoming more valuable in many career fields. This minor helps students develop these skills, making them better prepared for opportunities in an interconnected world.

## Related programs: within MTU and at other institutions

There are currently no minors on campus that take a specifically broad-based and interdisciplinary approach to Global Cultures. Some minors do focus either on specific cultures, such as the Spanish or the German minors (HUIS, HUS, HUIG, HUG in HU); or through an area of study lens, such as the International Business minor (BGBM at the COB), or the Global Studies Minor (SSGS, in SS). MTU also hosts a Peace Corps Prep undergraduate certificate to prepare for international service (IMGC). This minor is unique in that it allows students with interests across multiple disciplines to broaden their perspectives in an interdisciplinary way, either expanding on different cultures & regions, or focusing on specific cultural aspects

Other universities that offer minors similar to our proposed Global Cultures are: Wayne State University, University of Arizona, Idaho State University, California State University, University of Virginia, San José State University, University of Oregon, or Indiana University.

## Projected Enrollment

Based on current enrollments in minors across campus and in courses associated with this minor, we expect annual capacity will be 200. Comparable enrollments for minors in Business (BGBM: 156 students) Social Sciences (SSGS: 45) and Humanities (HUIS, HUS, HUIG & HUG combined: 250) give us a starting point for considering enrollment, but projected enrollment must be estimated.

We estimate that 20% of students who would typically choose a discipline-specific minor will instead choose an Essential Education minor (total comparable minors  $\times .2 = 44$ ) and that roughly half of future Michigan Tech students will choose an Essential Education pathway minor, and that 10% of those students will choose this minor (1600 incoming students  $\times .10 = 160$ ). Allowing for a contingency error of plus or minus 10 additional students, this suggests that 200 students will enroll in this minor annually.

With the wide range of courses offered, and multiple options within each category, this minor can accommodate up to 200 students per year, assuming seats and enrollments in our current courses remain somewhat consistent.

## Specialized Accreditation Requirements

None required.

## Professional Licensure Requirements

None required.

## Curriculum Details

### Learning Goals

| Aligned Essential Ed Goals  | Program Learning Outcomes   |
|---|---|
| <b>Adapt</b> - Explore Diverse Perspectives                         | Students will demonstrate the ability to adapt to and engage with various cultural perspectives by critically analyzing global issues through multiple cultural lenses, fostering empathy, and applying cross-cultural insights to real-world contexts. |
| <b>Think Critically</b> - Evaluate Information Question Assumptions | Students will critically evaluate information, challenge assumptions, and apply analytical frameworks to assess global issues, fostering well-reasoned conclusions and thoughtful perspectives  |

### Assessment Plan

This minor will be assessed through the ePortfolio submissions. Students will be specifically asked to reflect on the learning goal(s) for the minor.

### Curriculum Design

**Total Credits:** 18 (or 19 if not using E3 course)

| Course   | Credits | Semesters offered | Pre-reqs |
|--|---------|-------------------|----------|
| <b>List 1 Communication Intensive: 3 cr</b>        |         |                   |          |
| AF3001: Leading People and Effective Communication | 3       | Fall              | UN 1015  |
| HU2500: Writing About                              | 3       | Fall              | UN 1015  |

| Course   | Credits | Semesters offered     | Pre-reqs   |
|--|---------|-----------------------|--|
| Literature   |         |                       |  |
| HU2510: Intro to Creative Writing                                    | 3       | Fall, Spring          | UN 1015  |
| HU2810: Research & Writing in Communication                          | 3       | Spring, in odd years  | UN 1015  |
| HU2830: Public Speaking & Multimedia                                 | 3       | Fall, Spring, Summer  | UN 1015  |
| HU2840: Interpersonal Communication and Technology                   | 3       | On Demand             | UN 1015  |
| HU3283: German Composition and Conversation                          | 3       | On demand             | HU3282 or placement test   |
| HU3293: Level II-C Spanish Composition & Conversation                | 3       | Fall & Spring         | HU3292 or placement test   |
| SS3240: Reading the Landscape  | 3       | Fall, in odd years    | UN 1015  |
| SS3420: Imaginary Worlds: Geographies of Science Fiction and Fantasy | 3       | Spring, in even years | UN1015   |
| SS3951: Topics in European History                                   | 3       | On demand             | UN1015   |
| SS3952: Topics in World History                                      | 3       | On demand             | UN1015   |
| SS4001: History of Social Thought                                    | 3       | Fall                  | UN 1015  |
| SS4540: Global Environmental History                                 | 3       | Fall, odd years       | SS 3520 and UN 1015  |
| SS4550: History of Technology  | 3       | Spring, in odd years  | (SS 2500 or SS 2501 or SS 2502 or SS 2503 or SS 3510 or SS 3580) and UN 1015 |

**List 2: Intercultural Competency, Languages, and Cultures: 6 credits  
[Intercultural Competency / SHAPE]**

| Course   | Credits | Semesters offered                        | Pre-reqs   |
|--|---------|--|--|
| <b>List 2a Intercultural Competency (Upper division): 3-6 cr</b> |         |  |  |
| ART3420: World Sculpture Traditions                              | 3       | On demand                                | ART 1100 or ART 1110 or ART 2110 or ART 2130 or ART 2140 or ART 2145 or ART 2190 or ART 2195 or ART 2350 or ART 3130 or ART 3190 |
| EC3100:International Economics                                   | 3       | Fall, Spring, Summer                     | EC 2001  |
| BL3970: Current Health Issues                                    | 3       | Spring, Summer                           |  |
| EC4710: Labor/Human Resource Economics                           | 3       | Spring, in even years                    | EC 2001  |
| FW4111: Indigenous Natural Resources Management                  | 3       | Spring                                   | UN 1015  |
| SS3105: Native American and Indigenous Communities               | 3       | On demand                                | UN 1015  |
| SS3225: Capitalism and the Modern World                          | 3       | Spring, in even years                    | UN 1015  |
| SS3260: Latin American Cultural History                          | 3       | Fall, in odd years                       | UN 1015  |
| SS3612: International Relations                                  | 3       | Spring, in even years                    | UN 1015  |
| SS3750: Social Inequality  | 3       | Fall, in odd years, Spring, in odd years | UN 1015  |
| SS3920: Topics in Anthropology/Archaeology                       | 3       | On demand                                | UN 1015  |
| SS3961: Preparing for Cross-Cultural Immersion Experiences       | 3       | Spring                                   | UN 1015  |
| SS4211: Ethnographic   | 3       | Spring                                   | UN 1015  |

| Course  | Credits | Semesters offered    | Pre-reqs   |
|---|---------|----------------------|--|
| Methods   |         |                      |  |
| SS4420: Memory and Heritage   | 3       | Fall, in odd years   |  |
| SS4450: Sustainable Tourism and Planning  | 3       | Fall, in even years  | (SS 2450 or SS 2100 or SS 2400 or SS 2700) and UN 1015 |
| SS4710: Geographies of Migrant and National Communities   | 3       | Spring, in odd years | UN 1015  |
| MGT4100: International Management   | 3       | Fall                 |  |
| MKT4300: Global Marketing   | 3       | Fall                 | MKT 3000   |
| PSY4340 Culture and Cognition   | 3       | Fall                 | (PSY 2000 or HF 2000) and UN 1015                      |
| <b>List 2b Introduction to Languages &amp; Cultures (Lower division): 0-3 cr</b>                        |         |                      |  |
| HU2281: Level I-A German Language & Culture   | 3       | Fall, Spring         |  |
| HU2282: Level I-B German Language & Culture   | 3       | Fall, Spring         | HU 2281 or Language Placement German >= 201            |
| HU2291: Level I-A Spanish Language & Culture  | 3       | Fall                 |  |
| HU2292: Level I-B Spanish Language & Culture  | 3       | Fall, Spring         | HU 2291 or Language Placement Spanish >= 131           |
| HU2293: Transitional Level I Spanish Language & Culture   | 3       | Fall, Spring         | HU 2291 or Language Placement Spanish >= 201           |
| <b>List 2C Upper Level Languages &amp; Cultures - Intercultural Competency (Upper division): 0-3 cr</b> |         |                      |  |
| HU3261: Communicating Across Cultures   | 3       | On demand            | UN 1015  |

| Course  | Credits | Semesters offered            | Pre-reqs  |
|---|---------|------------------------------|---|
| HU3263: Topics in German-Speaking Culture           | 3       | Fall, Summer                 | UN 1015   |
| HU 3264: Topics in Spanish-Speaking Culture         | 3       | Fall, Spring                 |   |
| HU3284: Level III German Literature & Culture       | 3       | Fall                         | HU 3282 or HU 3283 or Language Placement German |
| HU3294: Hispanic Literatures and Culture            | 3       | Fall, Spring                 | HU 3293 or Language Placement Spanish           |
| HU3296: Survey of Hispanic Literatures and Cultures | 3       | Fall                         | HU 3293 or Language Placement Spanish           |
| HU3400: Topics in Diversity Studies                 | 3       | Spring                       | UN 1015   |
| HU3401: Gender and Culture                          | 3       | On demand                    | UN 1015   |
| HU3502: Mythology                                   | 3       | Spring, Summer, in odd years | UN 1015   |
| HU3508: Literature and the Environment              | 3       | Fall, in odd years           | UN 1015   |
| HU3545: Literature across Borders                   | 3       | Spring, in even years        | UN 1015   |
| HU3855: Power, Activism, and Technology             | 3       | On demand, in even years     | UN 1015   |
| HU4281: Modern Language Seminar I- German           | 3       | On demand                    | HU 3284 or HU 3285                              |
| HU4282: Modern Language Seminar II- German          | 3       | On demand                    | HU 3284 or HU 3285                              |
| HU4283: Modern Language Seminar III- German         | 3       | On demand                    | HU 3284 or HU 3285                              |
| HU4291: Modern                                      | 3       | On demand                    | HU 3294 or HU 3295 or                           |

| Course   | Credits | Semesters offered    | Pre-reqs   |
|--|---------|----------------------|--|
| Language Seminar I- Spanish  |         |                      | HU 3296  |
| HU4292: Modern Language Seminar II- Spanish                                      | 3       | On demand            | HU 3294 or HU 3295 or HU 3296                          |
| HU4293: Modern Language Seminar III- Spanish                                     | 3       | On demand            | HU 3294 or HU 3295 or HU 3296                          |
| <b>List 3 Supporting Electives [SHAPE]: 3 credits minimum, not already taken</b> |         |                      |  |
| Choose from List 2a OR any course below:   |         |                      |  |
| EC3003: Macroeconomic Theory   | 3       | Fall                 | EC 2001 and (MA 1135 or MA 1160 or MA 1121 or MA 1161) |
| EC4050: Game Theory/Strategic Behavior   | 3       | Fall, Spring         |  |
| EC4640: Natural Resource Economics   | 3       | Fall                 | EC 2001 or EC 3002 or FW 4080                          |
| EC4650: Market failure and the Environment                                       | 3       | Spring, in odd years | EC 2001 or EC 3002                                     |
| MGT3800: Entrepreneurship  | 3       | Fall, Spring         |  |
| MGT4300: Developing Entrepreneurial Ventures                                     | 3       | Spring               | MGT 3800   |
| MKT3000: Principles of Marketing   | 3       | Fall, Spring, Summer |  |
| MKT3200: Consumer Behavior and Culture   | 3       | Fall                 | MKT 3000   |
| MUS1100: Western Music Fundamentals  | 3       | Fall                 |  |
| MUS2000: History of Classical Music  | 3       | Spring               |  |
| MUS2030: History of  | 3       | Fall, in odd years   |  |

| Course  | Credits | Semesters offered     | Pre-reqs  |
|---|---------|-----------------------|---|
| Jazz  |         |                       |   |
| SS3200: Archaeology of the Modern World   | 3       | Spring, in even years | UN 1015   |
| SS3230: Archaeology of Industry   | 3       | Spring, in odd years  | SS 2200 and UN 1015   |
| SS3815: Energy and Society  | 3       | Summer, in odd years  | UN 1015   |
| SS4120: Sustainable Development and Communities   | 3       | Fall                  | UN 1015   |
| SS4390: Seminar in Sustainability   | 3       | On Demand             | UN 1015   |
| <b>List 4 Upper-level Global Cultures Courses [SHAPE]: 3 credits minimum, not already taken</b> |         |                       |   |
| Choose from List 2a or 2c OR any course below:  |         |                       |   |
| HU3281: Level II-A German Language & Culture  | 3       | Fall, Spring          | HU 2282 or Language Placement German >= 321   |
| HU3282: Level II-B German Language & Culture  | 3       | Fall, Spring          | HU 3281 or Language Placement German >= 441   |
| HU3285: Level III German Film & Media   | 3       | Spring                | HU 3282 or HU 3283 or Language Placement German >= 561 or CEEB German Language >= 3 |
| HU3291: Level II-A Spanish Language & Culture   | 3       | Fall, Spring          | HU 2292 or HU 2293 or Language Placement Spanish >= 321                             |
| HU3292: Level II-B Spanish Language & Culture   | 3       | Fall, Spring          | HU 3291 or Language Placement Spanish >= 401  |

| Course   | Credits                                   | Semesters offered                        | Pre-reqs   |
|--|---|--|--|
| HU3295: Level III Advanced Spanish for Literacies                  | 3   | Fall, in odd years, Spring, in odd years | HU 3293 or Language Placement Spanish $\geq$ 631 or CEEB Spanish Language $\geq$ 4 or CEEB Spanish Literature $\geq$ 4 |
| HU3702: Philosophy of Religion                                     | 3   | Fall                                     | UN 1015  |
| HU3802: Media and Globalization                                    | 3   | On Demand, in odd years                  | UN 1015  |
| SS3580: Technology and Society in History                          | 3   | Fall, in even years                      | UN 1015  |
| SS3581: History of Science   | 3   | Spring, in even years                    | UN 1015  |
| SS4200: Environmental Anthropology                                 | 3   | Fall                                     | SS 2100 and UN 1015  |
| <b>Choose ONE option: List 5A or 5B (3 to 4 credits)</b>           |   |  |  |
| <b>List 5A Essential Ed Experience: 3 cr minimum</b>               |   |  |  |
| ART3950: International Arts Immersion                              | variable to 3.0                           | On Demand                                |  |
| SS3210: Field Archaeology  | variable to 8.0                           | Summer                                   | UN 1015  |
| SS3960: Cultural Immersion   | variable to 3.0; Repeatable to a Max of 9 | On demand                                | UN 1015  |
| HU3289: HU Experience: German Abroad                               | 3   | Summer                                   | UN 1015  |
| HU3298: Experience Spanish Language & Culture through Teaching     | 3   | Spring                                   | HU 3292 or Language Placement Spanish $\geq$ 480   |
| HU3299: Exploring a Hispanic City by Analyzing its Film Production | 3   | Summer                                   | UN 1015  |

| Course   | Credits | Semesters offered | Pre-reqs |
|--|---------|-------------------|----------|
| <b>OR List 5B Upper Division SHAPE Courses: 4 cr total</b>                                     |         |                   |          |
| UN3023 Advanced Portfolio for Essential Ed   | 1 cr    | all               | None     |
| <b>AND</b> any course (not already taken, 3 cr minimum) from the following lists: 2a, 2c, or 4 |         |                   |          |

### New Course Descriptions

No new courses are required to launch this minor.

### Model Schedule

The model schedule below shows an idealized sequence where the minor courses are completed in years 2 and 3, which is a recommended practice. Two examples are provided.

Example 1: A student of any major, who is interested in both the environment and global cultures. This student takes a collection of courses that engage their global curiosity in multiple areas of interest.

| Semester        | Year 1 | Year 2   | Year 3  | Year 4 |
|-----------------|--------|--|---|--------|
| Fall            |        | SS4540: Global Environmental History<br>List 1: Communication Intensive                    | HU3508: Literature and the Environment<br>List 2: Intercultural Comp.   |        |
|                 |        | EC3100: International Economics<br>List 2: Intercultural Competency                        | EC4650: Market failure and the Environment<br>List 3: SHAPE   |        |
| Optional Summer |        |  | (optional) SS3815: Energy and Society<br>List 5a: Essential Ed Experience   |        |
| Spring          |        | SS3581 History of Science<br>Lit 4: Upper Level Arts & Culture (unrestricted minor course) | (if no summer course taken)<br>SS4120: Sustainable Development and Communities/<br>List 5b: Upper division SHAPE] |        |

| Semester | Year 1 | Year 2    | Year 3   | Year 4 |
|----------|--------|-----------|--|--------|
|          |        |           | (if no summer course taken)<br>ePortfolio submission |        |
| Totals   |        | 9 credits | 9 credits  |        |

Example 2: A student of any major, who is interested in both language and global cultures. This student takes a collection of courses that engage their global curiosity with a focus on anthropology and language.

| Semester | Year 1 | Year 2  | Year 3  | Year 4 |
|----------|--------|---|---|--------|
| Fall     |        | HU2500: Writing About Literature<br>List 1: Communication Intensive                           | SS3200: Archaeology of the Modern World<br>List 3: SHAPE  |        |
|          |        | HU3296: Survey of Hispanic Literatures & Culture<br>List 2c: Upper Level Languages & Cultures | HU3295: Level III Advanced Spanish for Literacies<br>List 4: Upper Level Arts & Culture (unrestricted course) |        |
| Spring   |        | SS3612: International Relations<br>List 2: Intercultural Competency                           | HU3294: Hispanic Literatures and Culture  |        |
|          |        | ePortfolio submission   | List 5b: upper division SHAPE   |        |
| Totals   |        | 9 credits   | 9 credits   |        |

### Faculty Qualifications

Courses will be taught by faculty determined to be qualified by their respective home units and other university review, where appropriate. Faculty qualifications will be available upon request.

### Resources Needed

At this time, current space and faculty are sufficient to support the minor at its anticipated capacity. Programs involved in the minor will reassess the program after three years, when we have data to review regarding enrollments.

### Library and other learning resources needed

No new library resources are needed to support this minor.

## Suitability of existing space, facilities, and equipment

Current space is sufficient at this time to support the minor at its anticipated capacity.

## Program Costs

No additional costs are expected in the first three to five years. At that time, programs involved in this minor will assess the data they have collected and propose new resources if needed. For example, we may find that certain courses are exceedingly popular and would benefit from additional sections. If this is the case, we will discuss how to add or allocate resources (faculty, space) to accommodate growth.