

Global Perspectives Experience

Policy:

A Global Perspectives Experience is required for completion of the CCS diploma program. Normally students who have completed three theme years will be eligible to do a GPE. The GPE requires participation in an experience approved by CCS Program Staff and engagement in the academic and reflective follow-up to that experience required by the CCS curriculum.

Guiding Principles Underlying the GPE

We believe that...

- the mission of the church universal is to partner with God in redemptive processes that reconcile people to God, to each other, and to the environment, while promoting the integrity of all.
- the mission of the church will be better realized as Christians worldwide - individually and corporately - participate in God's redemptive activity on both a local and global level from their distinctive insights and gifts.
- as people share in this mission, there needs to be mutual trust and accountability and that both the sending and receiving partners benefit from the experience.
- exposure to various global and cross cultural contexts has the potential to foster:
 - increased awareness and understanding of issues that affect the quality of life in those various contexts through experiencing life in a context outside one's personal comfort zone.
 - increased commitment to making lifestyle choices that will have a positive impact on the challenges others are experiencing.
 - increased commitment to engage in activities that address such challenges wherever they are manifested.
 - increased commitment to encourage others to engage in such activities, while offering them support and guidance in their efforts.
 - a greater understanding of the interrelatedness of the world-wide community
 - unity through increased respect for diversity.

Purpose

To enhance our gifts for ministry by deepening our understanding of ourselves through reflection on our theological convictions and our participation in marginalization, oppression and justice-making in the global context.

Assumptions:

1. That the GPE is a requirement for completing the Diploma Program

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2. that any major changes in the delivery of the GPE would need significant lead time
3. that consideration of the environmental impact of global travel on program requirements is important
4. that students will have a diversity of learning and personal needs which require flexibility in relation to meeting the GPE requirements
5. that CCS needs to ensure that students have tools/resources for orientation, reflection and analysis during the GPE, and following their return
6. that the actual GPE experience will always be different in some way than what is anticipated

Expected Outcomes

Social/Economic

- increased understanding of social and economic policies and how they affect our lives and the lives of others.
- an improved ability to make connections between personal lifestyle choices and broader social/economic issues
- increased ability to experience and examine the complex effects of domination and privilege on a minority group
- to deepen our understanding of the effects of globalization

Personal

- increased awareness of one's own strengths and vulnerabilities
- increased commitment to making lifestyle choices that will have a positive impact on the challenges that others face.
- increased ability to identify ways in which one *has* and *represents* significant power as a member of a dominant culture

Theological/Spiritual

- increased ability to reflect on contextual realities in light of the Gospel message.
- increased ability to reflect on various liturgical practices, their historical contexts, and how they may be used in other contemporary contexts.
- increased ability to engage in biblical and theological reflection through an enhanced awareness of the enduring legacy of colonization and oppression and to learn from these perspectives
- deepened understanding of solidarity and accompaniment, their meaning and expressions
- increased ability to make connections between belief and practice - from the perspective of the individual, the church and the community
- transformed theological understanding
- increased knowledge of practices which help foster and maintain spiritual integrity while encountering challenging realities

Pastoral

- integration of the global experience into our practice of ministry
- increased awareness of culturally-appropriate ways of doing ministry in various contexts
- increased commitment to engaging in activities that respond to challenging situations whether related to people or the environment.
- increased commitment to encouraging others to engage in such activities, while offering them support and guidance in their efforts.
- ongoing commitment to maintaining a relationship with those in the hosting community.
- covenant to continue nurturing one another and a new, expanded vision of ministry.

Protocol

1. Students must have completed the three theme years prior to doing the GPE. Having met this criterion, students could meet the GPE requirement during a Reflection Year or during the Integrating Year.
2. Students submit a GPE proposal on the appropriate form for approval by the CCS Program Staff person responsible for the GPE.
3. CCS may provide a list of organizations whose trips meet the criteria for the GPE requirement. CCS will also consider proposals for GPE experiences sponsored by organizations not previously approved with CCS staff determining the suitability of the organization and the trip being proposed using the learning criteria and outcomes listed above.
5. Where possible, students will be encouraged to do the GPE with at least one other CCS student. (Feedback has indicated that this practice significantly enhances the learning experience and contributes to ongoing reflection and analysis during the trip and integration following the conclusion of the trip.)
6. CCS will provide resources currently available for theological reflection during the GPE experiences, and will continue to discern and respond to needs for appropriate orientation prior to travel, and debriefing and integration following the GPE experience.
7. GPE proposals for learning experiences in Canada will be considered if they meet the approved criteria and if the goals are clear and appropriate.
8. Students will be encouraged to participate in experiences led by justice-based organizations with expertise in global study and travel.
9. That, on a case by case basis, proposals for self-designed GPE experiences can be considered. Factors influencing a decision to approve a self-designed GPE include: health needs; other pertinent personal circumstances; agreement, on the part of the student, re expectations and work

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involved in organizing a self-designed GPE (including local arrangements - contact people for visits to individuals and groups; accommodation, meals, travel, etc.; background reading, confirming expectations re hospitality and cultural norms; assurance of a person/group that is accessible before, during, and after the GPE for debriefing reflection, and analysis.

11. CCS staff will continue to maintain contact with Christian Peacemakers Teams, Compañeros Inc, Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministries, other theological schools offering global trips, etc. to ensure, to the extent possible, a range of meaningful learning opportunities for CCS students.