

## SDCCD Policy for Courses Taken in a Foreign Country

For courses taken in a foreign country, many factors need to be considered and researched by students if they are wanting these courses to transfer to Mesa College/San Diego Community College District for college credit and for course equivalency. Pre-evaluation of courses is not available. Factors that student should consider when deciding to take coursework outside of the US include:

- **US institutions:** Only course work from colleges/university with regional accreditation is accepted by San Diego Mesa College/SDCCD.
- **Foreign institutions:** Courses must be taught through a foreign college/university in order to be considered for credit. Organizations that offer classes, but do not offer grades, credits or transcripts are generally not educational institutions and the coursework will not be considered. Students who take courses at a foreign college/university that is not affiliated with a regionally accredited US college/university must have that coursework evaluated by a foreign transcript evaluation service, for which there is a fee. Determination of transferability or equivalency for these courses is not available until SDCCD reviews the coursework that has been evaluated by a foreign transcript service.
- **Courses for credit (transferability):** The credits/units and grade earned for the course are generally accepted only as elective course units and the grade is averaged into your GPA.
- **Course equivalency:** The course has been evaluated as equivalent to a course at Mesa College and meets Certificate of Achievement and Associate Degree requirements. A detailed course description may be required to determine equivalency with courses offered at Mesa College/SDCCD.

The best way to ensure that a course is transferable and/or equivalent to a particular course is to be part of a Study-Abroad program offered by the college, as the courses are already part of the college's curriculum.

The next best alternative is participating in a study-abroad or international education program from an American Institution that is regionally accredited. This does not guarantee that the course is equivalent to a class at Mesa College. It does ensure that the coursework has the regional accreditation, which in turns improves the chances that the course, at least, transfers to Mesa College for credit. Additionally, if the institution offering the study-abroad program has an articulation agreement with Mesa College, course equivalencies may already be in place. Examples of this are SDSU's College of Extended Studies or UCSD's Education Abroad Program.

Courses that are taught at foreign institution can only be reviewed for transferability or equivalency after the course is completed, an international evaluation has been completed (by an outside institution) and then submitted to the college. The college will then determine if the course is accepted for credit and/or has equivalency. Pre-evaluation and determination is not available.