

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DIPLOMA PROGRAM (Revised June 2009)

Heathwood Hall's International Studies Diploma Program (ISDP) is an optional program that students may elect to participate in above and beyond the traditional Heathwood curriculum. Specifically designed to prepare our young people for an increasingly crowded, connected and diverse global community, the ISDP encourages students to choose a directed course of study and co-curricular activities that enhance their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Students interested in the program must express their intent before the junior year, although they are encouraged to do so earlier. In order to graduate with the special ISDP seal, a student must successfully complete all of the following requirements.

COMPONENTS OF THE ISDP

1. Coursework—There are certain internationally-focused classes that all Heathwood Hall students must take: World History, European History and English 12 (which has a world literature focus). In addition to completing these courses, the ISDP student must take the following additional courses:

Four of the following six ISDP core classes:

- Comparative Government
- Economics
- Environmental Science
- Global Issues
- World Geography
- World Religions

Level IV of a modern language. An ISDP student may elect to study Latin through level IV, but in such cases, the student must also take at least two years of a modern language (which will be applied towards the student's ISDP elective credits).

Two credits of ISDP electives.

These electives may be met by taking fifth year language, a second language, additional ISDP core classes, or ISDP electives, such as Mideast Studies, Art in Society, Health Issues and AP World History.

Important Note: In order to remain in the program, students must maintain a C (73%) average in every ISDP course, including World History, European History and English 12. In addition, students must pass a geography competency test.

2. International Experience—Each ISDP student must complete an international experience in order to receive the International Studies diploma. For each of the following options, the student must submit a reflection paper of no fewer than 300 words upon the completion of his or her experience. Options for this experience include the following:

Winterim Options

Short-term language immersion trip

Short-term service trip

Short-term cultural immersion trip

Summer Options

Short-term study trip

School-Year Options

Short-term foreign exchange with home stay

Long-term hosting of a foreign exchange student for a semester or more

Long-term foreign exchange with home stay

3. Community Service—A student who wishes to participate in the ISDP must complete an additional ten (10) hours of community service that requires direct engagement with an international culture. The service may take place locally or internationally. The ISDP community service experience must include first-hand encounters with individuals from other countries or cultures. These 10 hours are in addition to the 20 hours per year required by the school and may be earned at any time after the student has committed to pursue the International Studies Diploma.

4. Senior Exhibition—An ISDP student must have an international element to his or her Senior Exhibition. This element must be approved by the Director of International Studies.

5. International Speakers/Activities—Each ISDP student must attend at least two international/cultural events per year. The student should submit a reflection of at least 100 words for each of these events.