



AMBASSADORIAL STUDIES

One Semester Elective High School Credit— Social Studies
120 instructional contact hours

The Washington School of World Studies welcomes delegates of the People to People Ambassador Program. This high school course has been developed to build upon the group and individual student experience, and to reinforce the People to People mission of peace through understanding.

Student Ambassadors in grades 9-12 are enrolled in the tuition-paid course “Ambassadorial Studies.” This high school-level course is the equivalent of one semester or 120 instructional contact hours. To earn high school credit in this course, high school delegates must meet the course objectives by full participation in the program and completion of assignments.

The mission of the Washington School of World Studies is to prepare students for success in the global community by fostering an increased awareness of the world and their role in it. Through course requirements, the school seeks to promote an interest in lifelong learning and citizenship.

High school credit in the Ambassadorial Studies course is granted to students in grades 9-12 based on the comprehensive learning experience prior to and during travel. Participation in the Student Ambassador Program provides a unique educational opportunity in a “global classroom” environment. Each student is evaluated by delegation leaders during the pre-travel and travel components of the program for a combined final grade.

Leaders will provide students in grades 9-12 with a copy of the credit completion report at the program’s conclusion. High school students earning a passing grade will receive a transcript documenting their academic achievements from the Washington School of World Studies eight weeks after travel.

Student Ambassadors in grades 5-8 who complete the course requirements receive an Academic Evaluation and Certificate of Completion. These may be presented to classroom teachers for possible extra credit or as documentation of work to meet state and local school district Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) requirements in reading, writing, social studies, and/or service learning. Schools will often place these documents in a student’s work portfolio as demonstration of subject-specific work samples and experiences beyond the regular classroom requirements.

People to People Student Ambassador Programs strongly encourages parents to take an active role in this process. If a student is performing unsatisfactorily at any time during the course, the delegation leader may request a conference with the student and parent. At that time, areas in need of improvement will be identified and a plan of action will be developed.

Students who fail to uphold the standards as stated in the Student Ambassador Success Contract may be assessed a no pass grade for the academic course, depending upon the infraction, even if it is the first violation. Determination of the final grade is at the discretion of the program office and program leaders.

Please note: Student Ambassadors with disabilities will be given special consideration based on their needs during the evaluation process. The leader will communicate with both the student and his or her parents at the beginning of the program to assess the student’s abilities and adapt their expectations to accommodate the student’s ability level.

THE AMBASSADORIAL STUDIES COURSE

A Student-Centered, Participatory Learning Experience

The Washington School of World Studies emphasizes student-centered and participatory learning with an educational setting in which students are actively engaged in the learning experience. The Ambassadorial Studies course stresses the development of critical-thinking skills with challenges such as analyzing historical events, comparing and contrasting types of governments and cultures, and evaluating individuals' impact as citizens.

The following sections describe the four areas in which each Student Ambassador must demonstrate competency in order to receive the credit: Global Awareness, Citizenship, Ambassadorial Skills, and Communication Skills.

Global Awareness

Goal: To promote knowledge about the world and build cultural awareness

Objective

For the country or countries to be visited, student demonstrates knowledge of:

- Geography—location, terrain, climate, resources, wildlife, vegetation
- Government—type, names of public officials
- History—earliest settlement to modern times
- Culture—art, music, food, traditions, customs

Knowledge is measured by research projects, group discussions, and web-based and Travel Journal assignments.

Citizenship

Goal: To promote civic understanding and responsibility

Objective

Student demonstrates understanding of:

- Local government—names and roles of local government officials, citizens' role in government
- Democratic values—basic structure of the American government, basic ideas in the U.S. Constitution
- The role of the individual in service to the community

Knowledge is measured by civics and other assignments, group discussions, and observation of participation.

Ambassadorial Skills

Goal: To understand and develop Ambassadorial skills

Objectives

Student understands the role of a Student Ambassador:

- History of People to People—the effects of World War II, its aftermath, and the role of the Cold War in Dwight D. Eisenhower's establishing Ambassadorial programs
- People to People's mission—contributing to international understanding and world peace

Student demonstrates Ambassadorial behavior by showing:

- Respectful, polite, and appropriate conduct according to the Standards for Success prior to and during travel. Following dress code and other guidelines.
- Cultural sensitivity and tolerance for the foreign culture, embracing new cultural experiences such as food with a positive attitude, and refraining from insulting or derogatory comments.
- Proper behavior toward people encountered on the program, and promoting friendship and understanding with host nationals.

As measured by group discussions, observation of behavior, and Travel Journal assignments.

Communication Skills

Goal: To develop effective and confident communication skills

Objective

Student demonstrates ability to:

- Communicate clearly and effectively when discussing current events, government, and topics of global significance
- Speak with confidence
- Interact with host nationals with maturity and cultural sensitivity

Measured by group discussions and observation by leaders.

Additional Requirements

Along with showing competency in the above areas in order to meet a passing grade, students must also:

- Read Standards for Success, sign, and follow terms as stated in the Success Contract
- Participate in all pre-travel program activities
- Actively participate in group discussions
- Complete all pre-travel and travel assignments

Orientation Meeting Make-Up Assignments

Attendance at orientation meetings is required to receive pre-travel credit. In situations where a student is unable to attend the meetings, students must communicate with the leaders. A student can be excused from a meeting for excessive travel distance or family, religious, or personal reasons provided they have communicated with the leaders in advance. In such cases, the student is responsible for all information covered at each meeting. Students must contact another delegate or the leader(s) for information on make-up work.

A student may be excused from up to two pre-travel meetings without incurring additional make-up work. Students may miss one meeting unexcused without additional work. The purpose of make-up assignments is to ensure that the absent delegate still has the opportunity to become a part of the group by making up a small part of the experience he or she missed by not attending the orientation meeting. Leaders may use discretion in making these assignments.

Delegates who are not in the local area should also be asked to do a special project to help introduce themselves to other members of the delegation. In most cases, they should create a biography to share with the other students, which can be presented in a website, letter, video, personal introduction, or other media. The student may propose an alternate assignment, which must be approved by the leader in advance.

Service Learning Through Applied Leadership

Ten service-learning hours will be granted to students who have successfully participated in the Student Ambassador Program. Students must have received a final passing grade in the Ambassadorial Studies course to earn the service-learning hours.

Students who have received a no pass score for a final grade will not be granted the service-learning hours. In addition, students who are removed from the program due to violations of the People to People Standards for Success will not receive service-learning hours.



2009 CREDIT COMPLETION REPORT

Course: Ambassadorial Studies

Delegate name _____ Travel group _____

Address _____

Delegate ID# _____ Program name _____

PRE-TRAVEL

Global Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> No Pass	Comments _____
Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> No Pass	_____
Ambassadorial Skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> No Pass	_____
Communication Skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> No Pass	_____

DURING TRAVEL

Global Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> No Pass	Comments _____
Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> No Pass	_____
Ambassadorial Skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> No Pass	_____
Communication Skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> No Pass	_____

Final Course Grade Pass No Pass*

Six out of eight "pass" grades = "pass" for the course. Students receiving a "pass" will also be granted 10 service-learning hours.

Comments are required for any student who has not passed the course. In addition, please indicate what work the student may complete to receive a passing grade. _____

Leader name (please print) _____ Delegation ID#: H _____ Date _____

Leader signature _____ Student signature _____

Please note that credits cannot be awarded until program tuition is paid in full.

**Note: Students receiving a grade of "no pass" will not earn high school credit but may be allowed to improve work and resubmit to the Washington School of World Studies for reconsideration. Students with severe discipline problems and/or removal from the program will not pass the course and will not have an opportunity to resubmit. To ensure a fair grade assessment, all leaders must initial here only if a delegate receives a "no pass."*

Leader Initials _____

Original: Submit to program office at conclusion of program Pink: Return to student prior to travel Yellow: Return to student at end of program