

Frequently asked questions about the International Skills Diploma Seal

1. *Do American Sign Language and Latin count as World Languages?*

Yes, a sequence of three courses in these languages will satisfy the World Languages requirement for ISDS.

2. *Can a second World Language satisfy the International Focus coursework?*

Yes, students need to complete a sequence of at least three years in the world language (including ASL and Latin) of their choice. Any additional world languages or a fourth (or more) course in the first world language can count towards the International Focus coursework.

3. *How long should the rationale be for other International Focus courses?*

Please explain in about a paragraph how the curriculum of the course addresses and supports international issues and/or cross-cultural experiences.

4. *What ESOL courses can satisfy the World Languages requirement?*

ESOL I-IV and the HS courses beginning with 55 (55.02100-55.02700). We will also allow a combination of World Languages and ESOL coursework. Each school/district may suggest additional ESOL courses in the application. Please provide a rationale how each additional course would satisfy the World Languages and/or International Focus requirement.

5. *What should the Capstone Presentation entail?*

Students should give a presentation in the format of their choice to report and reflect on their cross-cultural experiences they have engaged in. We encourage creative ideas for the presentations (e.g., art, performance, journal reading, video, presentation, etc.). Each school may organize the capstone presentations in the format that works best for them. We encourage a question and answer session from teachers or peers that the students will present to. We always welcome invitations to the event!

6. *Can the Capstone Presentation be part of a regular Senior Project presentation?*

Yes, schools just need to ensure that students interested in the seal reflect on international skills, global competencies and cross-cultural experiences during the senior project presentation. Schools might want to consider adding a category of "International Skills" to rubrics evaluating the senior project presentations.

7. *Can students apply individually for the ISDS?*

No, parents and students please reach out to your high school and ask them to apply for the program.

8. *Do personal trips count for extracurricular or community service for the ISDS?*

It depends on the purpose and agenda of the trip: vacation trips will not count but if the trips have a service or an exchange component they would count.

9. *Do memberships to the Alliance Française or the Goethe-Zentrum count as extracurricular activities?*

The membership itself will not count but activities that students undertake with AF or the Goethe-Zentrum may qualify.

10. *Can independent schools apply for the International Skills Diploma Seal?*

No, GaDoE can only award seals to public schools in Georgia. Independent schools are free to modify or develop their own global skills certification.

11. *Why is there no CTAE requirement for the ISDS?*

The ISDS encourages schools and students to engage in international skills in order to support career readiness before and after college. Many CTAE courses satisfy the International Focus coursework. Ideally, students would complete a CTAE pathway and the requirements for ISDS.