

CULTURAL AWARENESS OF TEACHER CANDIDATES: A SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

Dr. Paula Griffin

Dr. Susan Reily

Fall 2016 Teacher Education Conference

Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education

San Marcos, Texas

INTRODUCTION

- Study Abroad in Higher Education
 - University of Delaware 1923
 - Promote cross-cultural understanding
 - Intellectual maturation through intensive cultural immersion
- Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Commission 2000
 - Develop framework for collegiate international study abroad programs

Today's realities, which are not all that pleasant, we can tolerate, but the fear of the unknown casts a shadow over today's certainties. We sense a need to move beyond bandaging to healing our wounds. Is there a way for us as a people to bring more stability, peace, and harmony to our world?

Senator Richard Durbin 2006

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How does short-term study abroad affect the cultural awareness of pre-service teachers?
 2. How does short-term study abroad affect the cultural identity of pre-service teachers?
 3. How does short-term study abroad affect the ability of pre-service teachers to apply cultural competency?
-

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- Cultural Identity
 -continually evolving, a living breathing entity, created and redefined as lives and experiences interact..... Skulj (2000), Hall & du Gay (1996)
- Cultural Awareness
 -proficiency grounded in knowledge of self and their own culture and the ability to learn and experience other cultures..... Caraway (2009)
- Cultural Competence
 -using cultural characteristics, experiences, and perspectives of ethnically diverse students as conduits for teaching them more effectively. Gay (2002, 2013)

METHODOLOGY

- Participants
 - Junior and Senior Level
 - Females
 - 8 Caucasian, 3 Latina
 - Pre-Service Teachers – Secondary, Middle Level Grades, Early Childhood – 6 Grade
 - Setting
 - 12 day study abroad program May 2015
 - Italy (Pontassieve, Reggio Emilia, Rome, Frascati)
 - Mixed Methods Case Study
 - My Cultural Awareness Profile (MyCAP) Pre and Post
-

MY CULTURAL AWARENESS PROFILE

To access the complete MyCAP survey, use the QR Code below. You will need access to Dropbox.



REFLECT

The best way to come to know other cultural groups is through international travel.

My cultural identity will impact my teaching or professional work.

I am knowledgeable about global and international issues.

FINDINGS

RESEARCH QUESTION 1

MyCAP Items Related to Cultural Awareness 16 total (13 Forced-Choice Statements and 3 Open-Ended Prompts)		
Forced-Choice Statements Significant Change/Shift	Significant Change in Number of Responses ≥ 50%	Significant Shift in Level of Responses ≥ .5
I look for courses that focus on international and global issues and topics.	YES	NO .4
Globalization has not directly affected my life.	YES	NO <-.1
The best way to come to know other cultural groups is through international travel.	YES	YES .5
I go to cultural events on campus or in my community.	NO	YES .5
Curriculum should be culturally neutral so it appeals to all children.	YES	YES .5
Deep down, most people have similar ideas about what is good and right.	NO	YES .5

Knowing and Understanding Diverse Cultures - ongoing process
Necessary for future educators

FINDINGS

RESEARCH QUESTION 2

MyCAP Items Related to Cultural Identity 13 Total (10 Force-Choice Statements and 3 Open-Ended Prompts)		
Forced-Choice Statements Significant Change/Shift	Significant Change in Number of Responses ≥ 50%	Significant Shift in Level of Responses ≥ .5
My cultural identity does not really influence how I perceive the world and how I behave.	NO	YES -.8
My cultural identity will impact my teaching or professional work.	YES	NO .2
I've been misunderstood because of cultural differences.	YES	YES .9
My cultural identity does not really impact how I communicate with most other people.	NO	YES -.9

Knowing oneself as cultural reaches beyond holidays and belief systems.

Global citizenship: an awareness of how one “fits” in the world and includes more than geography.

FINDINGS

RESEARCH QUESTION 3

MyCAP Items Related to Cultural Competence 10 Total (9 Forced-Choice Statements and 1 Open-Ended Prompt)		
Forced-Choice Statements Significant Change/Shift	Significant Change in Number of Responses ≥ 50%	Significant Shift in Level of Responses ≥ .5
I am knowledgeable about global and international issues.	YES	YES .8
I will teach and assess curricular units that explicitly address global issues.	YES	NO .2
I get involved in activities/organizations concerned with global issues.	YES	YES .6

Introducing global/international issues

Integrating economics of various cultures into math instruction

Adding literature and music to teach about diverse cultures

Authentic dialogue and age appropriate research

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Paula Griffin

Assistant Professor

Department of Elementary Education

Stephen F. Austin State University

Nacogdoches, TX, 75962

griffinp@sfasu.edu

Dr. Susan Reily

Assistant Professor

Department of Elementary Education

Stephen F. Austin State University

Nacogdoches, TX, 75962

reilys@sfasu.edu