



College of Continuing and Professional Studies

"The opportunity to study abroad is an exciting and deeply rewarding experience for our students. We regularly send a team of students from different majors to address a community project as a group. They are exposed to a new culture, different resource limitations, and often language barriers. Through it all, they develop solutions by merging expertise from multiple disciplines, communicating with one another and their in-country hosts, and learning how to work on tight deadlines as a team. These study abroad experiences are life-changing for many of our students and help prepare them to be better global citizens." **-Bob Stine, Interim Dean, College of Continuing and Professional Studies**

History of Curriculum Integration at the University of Minnesota

In the late 1990s, the University of Minnesota (UofM) began a pilot project to test new ways to integrate study abroad into the curriculum. It offered a model for interactions with other academic units. Meanwhile, the UofM leadership placed priority on providing international perspectives as part of the undergraduate experience. Past presidents Mark Yudof and Robert Bruininks enthusiastically supported study abroad as one way to integrate international perspectives into the curriculum. Over the last 20 years, undergraduate experience abroad participation has grown from 861 to over 3,000, and learning abroad as a percentage of degrees granted reached 35% in 2019.

Career Integration

In 2012, the Learning Abroad Center (LAC) developed a campus-wide committee to apply the methodology of Curriculum Integration to a specific focus on career planning. Once

again, the LAC partnered with campus colleagues to further integrate studying abroad into career advising structures and articulated individual program outcomes while further assisting students in maximizing career reflection and opportunities on site.

History of Curriculum Integration in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies (CCAPS)

"We are very excited to offer students a unique instructor-led, interdisciplinary learning abroad opportunity that allows them to work with peers across academic disciplines on cross-functional teams, much like they will be expected to do with professional colleagues in their chosen fields. A learning abroad experience can push students outside of their comfort zones, which is often where extraordinary personal and professional growth occurs, and we consistently hear about transformational learning experiences from students upon their return from their adventures. It is critical to support these vital learning opportunities by allowing students to fulfill major requirements through learning abroad experiences, which is why curriculum integration is so important." –**Michelle Koker, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, College of Continuing and Professional Studies**

The curriculum integration efforts in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies (formerly known as the College of Continuing Education) began in 2005. Since then, CCAPS has continued to collaborate with the LAC to integrate learning abroad into the undergraduate student experience. Faculty, academic advisers, and career services professionals have been involved in a broad range of international opportunities.

The following is an attempt to summarize our efforts over the years to both celebrate and reflect on the continued successes and engagement in learning abroad efforts at the UofM.

Undergraduate Student Participation

CCAPS undergraduate abroad participation grew exponentially from 0 students in 2000 to more than 43 students in 2019. The college continues its serious commitment to increasing the number of CCAPS students who study abroad.

The LAC has worked with CCAPS to develop Study Abroad Major Advising Sheets, which outline academic considerations and programs that would work best for students. These resources provide structure to determine program offerings and academic considerations for students planning a learning abroad experience.

Program Development & Opportunities Based on Curricular Needs

CCAPS and the LAC have a strong program collaboration that includes a variety of program offerings:

CCAPS Instructor-Led Programs

The cross-disciplinary Pura Vida Tour to Costa Rica, a CCAPS winter break instructor-led study abroad program, is considered to be a hallmark of the college. Started in 2014 as a Construction Management opportunity, Peter Hilger, CMGT faculty director and tour leader, expanded student engagement in local projects for agencies of need to also include Facility Management, Health Services Management, Information Technology Infrastructure, Integrated Behavioral Health, Addiction Studies as well as students from other programs at the university, including architecture (College of Design), business (Carlson School of Management) and nursing (School of Nursing). Within two weeks, students complete a proposal for social service agencies in need of facility or program evaluation and present their findings to the agency boards—all in the local currency, in metric, and in Spanish. Graduate students engage in community engagement initiatives with these local agencies. In 2016, the student-led proposal to expand a local orphanage was submitted to the federal government and was approved for funding, with the expansion fully constructed significantly in accord with the student proposal. Dustin Dresser ('08), a UofM alumnus of the Construction Management program now living in San Ramon, facilitates the local connection to San Ramon and its agencies of need, as well as cultural immersion activities.

Learning Abroad Center Semester-Based Programs

The LAC has collaborated with CCAPS to develop programs that fill gaps and curricular niches. Some of the most recent program development collaborations include a focus on health-related programs for the newer CCAPS majors including Health Services Administration and Health and Wellbeing:

- Cross-Cultural Health in Spain
- Study & Intern in Madrid
- Virtual Internship opportunities

On-Site Program Engagement Opportunities

Since the late 1990s, the LAC has engaged more than 450 campus partners on program reviews, familiarization visits, and program development opportunities abroad. Of those, three CCAPS colleagues have participated in these visits. Locations have included visits to Germany, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

Scholarships and Funding

CCAPS Learning Abroad Scholarships

All [College of Continuing and Professional Studies \(CCAPS\) Collegiate Scholarships](#) are awarded to students who plan to enroll in study abroad programs, as long as the study abroad program and/or course enrollment for the term works with the students' degree program requirements.

CCAPS Collegiate Scholarships are awarded to both part- and full-time students each term, and recipients are chosen based on academic record, strength of personal statement, extracurricular activities or community involvement, professional development, financial need, and special circumstances. Awards are based on financial need and/or academic merit, and students are matched with the available scholarships for which they meet the eligibility requirements. The scholarships for CCAPS undergraduate students studying abroad typically range from \$500–\$2,500 per term; those for graduate students studying abroad typically range from 0.5–3 credits of tuition per term.

CCAPS also houses two collegiate scholarships specifically for students who plan to study abroad: the CCAPS Fibiger Award and the CCAPS Study Abroad Scholarship. The CCAPS Fibiger Award provides support to full-time undergraduate individualized degree program students with academic merit who plan to participate in an approved study abroad program. The CCAPS Study Abroad Scholarship, established in 2018, provides support for students with financial need and academic merit who plan to participate in an approved study abroad program, with preference given to students participating in a CCAPS-specific program, such as the Pura Vida Tour to Costa Rica.

LAC Scholarships

CCAPS students regularly receive funding from the Learning Abroad Center. Scholarships include the LAC Study Abroad Scholarship, Financial Need Scholarship, and Diversity Abroad Scholarship.

CCAPS students are also eligible to apply for the innovative LAC Bridging Loan Program. "This program has made study abroad possible for underrepresented students and highlights a creative solution to an institutional economic barrier," according to former Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Karen Hanson. Since 2013, more than 240 UofM students have received funds to cover program deposits and flight booking costs. The funds enable students to pay for these pre-departure costs later with their financial aid package without added interest or fees. In addition, the UofM received an honorable mention for the 2015 Heiskell Award by the Institution of International Education (IIE).

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