Celebrating 20 Years: Curriculum Integration

College of Education and Human Development

"Learning is and always has been a social activity, and thus we learn and grow so much more in new social contexts. In my experience, there is no better way to learn about yourself and others than through international experiences. To make real progress, we need to explore cultural and linguistic disciplinary knowledge and practices across the globe." – Michael C. Rodriguez, Dean, College of Education and Human Development (CEHD)

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 Education & Human Development

In the late 1990s, CEHD and LAC initiated efforts to begin integrating learning abroad into CEHD students' undergraduate experience. However, it wasn't until 2002 that curriculum integration was recognized as a formal initiative for the college and the LAC.

In 2006, the College of Education and Human Development became a newly organized college by incorporating the former General College and two departments of the former College of Human Ecology (now the School of Social Work and Family Social Science). Even prior to being part of CEHD, General College and the College of Human Ecology were active in the Curriculum Integration initiative.

As part of the merger, CEHD established seven priority goals, including "engagement with internationalization infused in teaching, scholarship, and service." To help guide faculty, CEHD added a director for international initiatives position that focused on international collaboration, research, and worldwide partnerships within the college.

Today the LAC continues to work closely with CEHD Student Services and provides administrative support and resources for numerous instructor-led programs. CEHD faculty and staff are actively engaged with the LAC.

Major Advising Pages

Academic departments, student services units, and the LAC continue to collaborate in creating online Major Advising Pages (MAPS), a hallmark of the curriculum integration initiative. MAPS provide specific academic guidelines for students as well as a selection of programs that work particularly well for their major. They also communicate to students that it's possible to study abroad in their chosen major and graduate on time. The LAC has created 10 MAPS for CEHD undergraduate academic programs. CEHD has always actively assisted the LAC in keeping MAPS up to date and providing valuable feedback to better serve their students.

In addition, CEHD has integrated study abroad experiences into their Twin Cities post-baccalaureate teacher education program. These abroad programs focus on undergraduate majors that could lead to a teacher licensure in early childhood education, elementary education, and special education.

CEHD's Role in Maximizing Study Abroad

In the early 2000s, the LAC collaborated with Michael Paige and Gerald Fry to create the *Maximizing Study Abroad* guide and book, published in 2003. These resources were created to, according to the book, "assist in facilitating students' culture and language learning before, during, and after their time abroad, providing students with tools that will enable them to best navigate, interpret, and learn from their own cross-cultural encounters." *Maximizing Study Abroad* led to the 2005 launch of the one-credit, online course also called *Maximizing Study Abroad* for study abroad students. This course evolved into the current version of the course, *Global Identity: Connecting Your International Experience to Your Future*.

This course remains a collaborative effort between CEHD and the LAC. Gerry Fry guided the content changes of the course, which has been taught by many Comparative and International Development (CIDE) Ph.D. candidates as well as a CEHD adviser. *Global Identity* is key to mentoring students in understanding their own cultural identity, as well as gaining a more sophisticated understanding of their host-country culture to enhance their study abroad success. The course also helps students connect their lessons abroad with tangible gains in career skills.

Undergraduate Student Participation in Learning Abroad

CEHD undergraduate student numbers on credit-bearing opportunities abroad grew exponentially from 20 students in 1999–2000 to more than 210 in 2019. One key part of this study abroad growth was identifying and developing good opportunities for CEHD students.

The college continues its serious commitment to increasing the number of CEHD students who study abroad by developing programs and advising resources in tandem with the LAC.

Program Development & Opportunities Based on Curricular Needs

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. Of those, 35 participants have come from CEHD.

The college has prioritized involving a broad range of staff in international opportunities including faculty, academic advisers, and career center professionals.

Locations visited include Australia, China, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, and the United Kingdom.

LAC Program Development

Through site visits and multiple meetings, the LAC has worked with CEHD to identify additional program partners to fill gaps and curricular niches. Some of the most recent program additions include:

- Sports & Culture in France (Kinesiology, Sports Management)
- Teaching Practicum in France (Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education Foundations)
- Youth Development & Psychology in France (Early Childhood Education, Youth Studies)

Evolving relationships between CEHD faculty and staff and LAC staff have drawn upon deep knowledge of degree programs to create additional learning abroad materials and resources.

CEHD Global Campus Partner Programs & Custom LAC Seminar Instructor-led Programs

- Since 2000, CEHD has offered more than 143 instructor-led programs
- A number of faculty and staff members have led multiple groups abroad, including Marina B. Aleixo (CEHD and OLPD), Daheia Barr-Anderson (Kinesiology), Jo Ann Buysse (Kinesiology), Emina Buznik (Youth Studies), Laura Coffin Koch (OLPD), Donald Dengel (Kinesiology), Frances Durkin (Early Childhood Education), Lynn Englund (C&I), Gerald Fry (OLPD), Priscilla Gibson (SSW), Michael Goh (OLPD), Brandi Hoffman (Kinesiology), June Nobbe (Leadership & Development), Catherine Solheim

(FSoS), Michael Stebleton (OLPD), Keisha Varma (Educational Psychology), Ross VeLure Roholt (Youth Studies), and Nate Whittaker (Youth Studies)

Scholarships & Funding

CEHD Scholarships

Over the last 20 years, CEHD has highlighted study abroad opportunities to donors as a focus for giving. As a result, several donors came forward to create scholarships for study abroad opportunities. One of the largest was the Global Engagement and Discovery Scholarships, designed to cover the global experience at high dollar amounts for first-generation college students who had never traveled abroad. Engagement Scholarships were \$10,000 to cover longer experiences (a semester or more) and Discovery Scholarships of \$6,000–8,000 covered shorter experiences over winter break, spring break, or summer session. An anonymous donor established the scholarships in 2012 and gave 33 Engagement scholarships totaling \$328,805 and 35 Discovery scholarships totaling \$192,175. The last funds were given in 2020. That same year, a new anonymous donor stepped up to mirror these scholarships and continue them post-pandemic.

Additionally, new donors established other funds, and CEHD leadership focused on granting more open-agreement scholarships to students studying abroad. Continuing funds include:

- Marrone & Short Global Scholarship (established in 2013; 7 given to date)
- Peyton Global Service Scholarship (established in 2014; 6 given)
- Elton Global Responsibility Scholarship (established in 2014; 6 given)
- Alumni Society Study Abroad Scholarship (established in 2007; 20 given)
- Gordon & Lois Robertson Scholarship (refocused to study abroad giving in 2013; approximately 240 given for study abroad)

Learning Abroad Center Scholarships

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

CEHD 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 predeparture 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).

Additional Faculty & Staff Engagement

Early Curriculum Integration Efforts (2001–02)

- Freshman/Sophomore Advising Group
- Major Advising Group
- Undergraduate Department and Discipline Representatives

Recent & Past Committee Engagement

- Career Integration Partnership Group
- COVID-19 Advising Leads
- Education Abroad Network
- Financial Barriers Group
- Global Health Advising Collaborative
- Learning Abroad Center Advisory Committee
- Multicultural Study Abroad Group
- U-Credit Abroad

Additional Efforts that Support Curriculum Integration

- Global Identity collaboration: CEHD provides oversight of the curriculum, LAC hires CEHD PhD graduate students and staff to teach class
- CEHD Going Global class
- Coordinated tours of the LAC for new UofM advisers

Presentations

"Awareness of Group Dynamics and Student Behavior on Learning Abroad Center Programs."

October 2019 UMTC Education Abroad Network Meeting, Minneapolis, MN Ross VeLure Roholt, Co-Presenter

"Public Engagement in Undergraduate Study Abroad Experiences: Addressing Society's Grand Challenges."

March 2018 Advancing Publicly-Engaged Research, Teaching, and Learning Conference, Minneapolis, MN Ross VeLure Roholt, Presenter

"Internships Abroad: How the Learning Abroad Center Supports and Prepares Students for an Internship Abroad."

October 2017 UMTC Education Abroad Network Meeting, Minneapolis, MN Jeannie Stumne, Co-Presenter

"First-Generation, Low-Income Students & Learning Abroad." February 2017 Excellence in Leading Learning Abroad Series Nate Whittaker, Presenter

"First-Generation, Low-Income Students & Learning Abroad." April 2016 Excellence in Leading Learning Abroad Series Nate Whittaker, Presenter

"Study Abroad as a Mechanism to Promote International Careers for Students with Disabilities."

July 2016 Career Integration Conference, Minding the Gap: Career Integration Strategies for Educators & Employers, Boston, MN Paul Edwards, Presenter

"Incorporating Language Learning into Short-Term Programs." March 2016 Excellence in Leading Learning Abroad Series Gerald Fry, Co-Presenter

"Creating a Learning Abroad Syllabus."

October 2015 Excellence in Leading Learning Abroad Series
Laura Coffin-Koch, Co-Presenter

"First-Generation, Low-Income Students & Learning Abroad." October 2015 Excellence in Leading Learning Abroad Series Nate Whittaker, Presenter "Marketing Your Learning Abroad Program."
September 2015 Excellence in Leading Learning Abroad Series
Tiffany Richardson, Presenter

"The University of Minnesota's Career Integration Initiative." February 2014 LAC Annual Advising Workshop, Minneapolis, MN Jeannie Stumne, Co-Presenter

"More than Coffee, Copies & Cantonese: Helping Returnees Articulate Professional Skills Gained through Education Abroad."

July 2014 University of Minnesota Career Integration Conference, Minneapolis, MN Jeannie Stumne, Co-Presenter

"Teaching Beyond Borders: Short Term/High Impact Learning Abroad Experiences." March 2012 UMTC Education Abroad Network Meeting, Minneapolis, MN Nate Whittaker, Co-Presenter

"Getting to Know You: Working with Underrepresented Students and Learning Abroad." February 2011 UMTC Education Abroad Network Meeting, Minneapolis, MN Ellen Sunshine, Co-Presenter

"Students of Color and Study Abroad."

2004 Curriculum Integration Conference, Minneapolis
Rudy Hernandez, Co-Presenter

Publications

Ellingboe, Brenda. "Learning from Learning to Enhance International Learning," in Internationalizing Undergraduate Education: Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum, Minneapolis, MN: The Learning Abroad Center, Office for International Programs, University of Minnesota, 2005.

Emert, Holly. "Integrating Culture and Language Learning Strategies in the Classroom at Home and Abroad," in Internationalizing Undergraduate Education: Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum, Minneapolis, MN: The Learning Abroad Center, Office for International Programs, University of Minnesota, 2005.

Mestenhauser, Josef. "Learning from Learning to Enhance International Learning," in Internationalizing Undergraduate Education: Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum, Minneapolis, MN: The Learning Abroad Center, Office for International Programs, University of Minnesota, 2005.

Paige, Michael. "Integrating Culture and Language Learning Strategies in the Classroom at Home and Abroad," in Internationalizing Undergraduate Education: Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum, Minneapolis, MN: The Learning Abroad Center, Office for International Programs, University of Minnesota, 2005.

Paige, R.M., Cohen, A.D., Kappler, B., Chi, J.C., & Lassegard, J.P. (2006). Maximizing study abroad: A students' guide to strategies for language and culture learning and use (2nd ed.). Minneapolis, MN: Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition, University of Minnesota.

Stebbleton, Mike, and Jeannie Stumne (2020). "First Generation College Students, Career Development, and International Education: Opportunities for Study Abroad Educators to Make an Impact" in Career Integration: in C. Anderson, J. Christian, K. Hindbjorgen, M. Johnson & M. Woolf, eds., Career Integration: Reviewing the Impact of Experience Abroad on Employment, pps.119-127, Learning Abroad Center, University of Minnesota and CAPA International Education Publications, Boston, MA.

Stumne, Jeannie, et al. (2015). "Career Integration Onsite Workshops," in Career Integration: in C. Anderson, J. Christian, K. Hindbjorgen, C. Jambor-Smith, M. Johnson, & M. Woolf, eds., Career Integration: Reviewing the Impact of Experience Abroad on Employment, pps. 53-56, Learning Abroad Center, University of Minnesota and CAPA International Education Publications, Boston, MA.

Williams, Rhiannon. "Evaluating Campus Efforts to Internationalize the Curriculum," in Internationalizing Undergraduate Education: Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum, Minneapolis, MN: The Learning Abroad Center, Office for International Programs, University of Minnesota, 2005.

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