

**Tulsa Community College**  
**Study Abroad Analysis of Inter-cultural Sensitivity**

December 19, 2012  
Office of Planning and Institutional Research



## Executive Summary

The study abroad analysis of inter-cultural sensitivity includes the results from one group of students on two occasions prior to and after their study abroad experience in May 2012: Pre-Study Abroad (N=70) and Post-Study Abroad (N=26). The pre-survey was administered in person in Spring 2012, using pen and paper; the post-survey was e-mailed to students in Fall 2012 with a link to the same survey through TCC's survey tool, Qualtrics. The pre-survey consisted of 23 Likert-scale questions, three demographic questions, and two questions about previous travel. The post-survey consisted of the same 23 Likert-scale questions and one open-ended question about civic involvement. The comments below are based on the results of the 26 students that completed both the pre- and post-surveys.

- The means on the 23 inter-cultural sensitivity items showed minimal change when comparing the pre- and post-surveys. None of the differences in means between the pre- and post-study abroad groups were statistically significant. Possible explanations for the lack of significance are the insufficient sample size of those completing both surveys (N=26) and the possibility that the two-week study abroad trip did not change the inter-cultural sensitivity of these 26 individuals, especially because students choosing to study abroad may already be culturally sensitive.
- The demographic questions revealed that the median age of the students was 28; 85% of the students were female; and the top three race/ethnicities were white (58%), American Indian or Alaska Native (19%), and Hispanic (12%). These three race/ethnicities comprised 89% of the study abroad students. Forty-two percent of these 26 students had never traveled outside the United States prior to the study abroad trip.
- In the open-ended question about civic or community involvement, students reported that since returning from their study abroad trip they are participating in a myriad of organizations, such as: Tutoring; foster parenting; and a variety of volunteering, such as the homeless shelter; a hospital; Big Brother, Big Sister; OKMOM; student organizations through TCC; church. One student has registered to vote, and another shared his/her trip experience at a TCC event. Desire to travel, learn another language, and culture was sparked in more than one individual. Yet another student reported that needed items were collected and donated to the Just Hope organization to take back to the country visited.

Descriptive statistics for the survey items are presented in the tables and graphs below.

## Mean Ratings for Inter-cultural Sensitivity Questions

Survey Questions on Inter-cultural Sensitivity	Pre-study Abroad <sup>a</sup>	Post-study Abroad <sup>a</sup>
1. I enjoy interacting with people from different cultures.	4.73	4.69
2. I think people from other cultures are narrow-minded.	1.77	1.81
3. I am pretty sure of myself in interacting with people from different cultures.	3.96	4.23
4. I find it very hard to talk in front of people from different cultures.	2.04	2.00
5. I can be as sociable as I want to be when interacting with people from different cultures.	4.00	4.23
6. I don't like to be with people from different cultures	1.50	1.23
7. I respect the values of people from different cultures.	4.62	4.62
8. I get upset easily when interacting with people from different cultures.	1.46	1.58
9. I feel confident when interacting with people from different cultures.	4.19	4.00
10. I tend to wait before forming an impression of culturally-distinct counterparts.	4.00	3.96
11. I often get discouraged when I am with people from different cultures.	1.69	1.77
12. I am open-minded to people from different cultures.	4.76	4.72
13. I am very observant when interacting with people from different cultures.	4.50	4.42
14. I often feel useless when interacting with people from different cultures.	2.15	2.12
15. I respect the ways people from different cultures behave.	4.52	4.56
16. I try to obtain as much information as I can when interacting with people from different cultures.	4.69	4.58
17. I would not accept the opinions of people from different cultures.	1.62	1.42
18. I am sensitive to my culturally-distinct counterpart's subtle meanings during interaction.	3.42	3.81
19. I think my culture is better than other cultures.	1.46	1.77
20. I often give positive responses to my culturally-different counterpart during our interaction.	4.36	4.16
21. I avoid those situations where I will have to deal with culturally-distinct persons.	1.69	1.62
22. I often show my culturally-distinct counterpart my understanding through verbal or nonverbal cues.	4.00	4.08
23. I have a feeling of enjoyment towards differences between my culturally-distinct counterpart and me.	4.38	4.15

Question Options: 1=Strongly disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Uncertain, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly agree

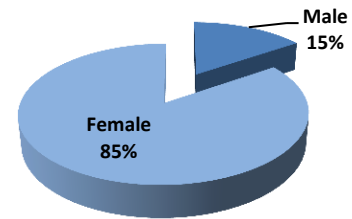
<sup>a</sup> There is no significant difference when comparing the Pre and Post-Study Abroad groups.

## Demographics of Student Group

### Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	4	15.4
Female	22	84.6
Total	26	100.0

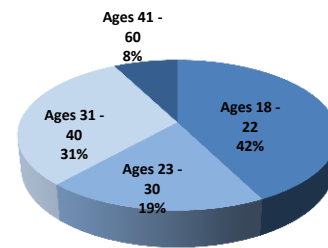
Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding



### Age

	Frequency	Percent
18 - 22	11	42.3
23 - 30	5	19.1
31 - 40	8	30.6
41 - 60	2	7.6
Total	26	100.0

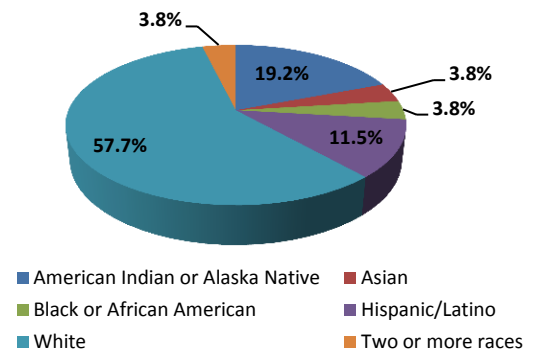
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### Race/Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	5	19.2
Asian	1	3.8
Black or African American	1	3.8
Hispanic/Latino	3	11.5
White	15	57.7
Two or more races	1	3.8
Total	26	100.0

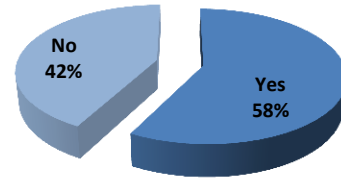
Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding



### Previous Travel Outside the United States

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	57.7
No	11	42.3
Total	26	100.0

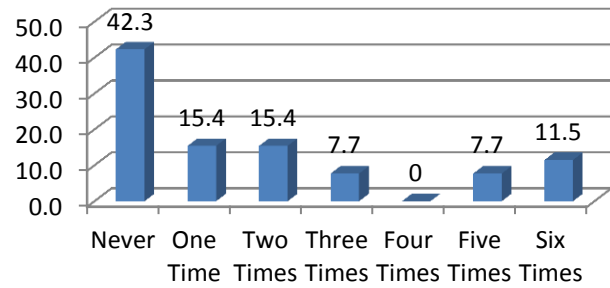
Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding



### Number of Times Traveled Outside the United States

	Frequency	Percent
Never	11	42.3
One Time	4	15.4
Two Times	4	15.4
Three Times	2	7.7
Four Times	0	0.0
Five Times	2	7.7
Six Times	3	11.5
Total	26	100.0

Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding



**Please list some examples of your involvement or volunteering in any area of community or civic activity since your trip.**

- I have become involved in many student organizations at TCC including SGA and SSA. I have registered to vote.
- Took donations to the Just Hope coordinator to take back to Nicaragua; volunteered at the medical clinic at the homeless shelter.
- I am currently taking photography classes in anticipation of more travel in the near future.
- I tutor other French language students.
- Working in the hospital with Hispanic patients and paying special attention to their customs and making them as accessible as possible despite certain rules on the floor.
- I am signed up to volunteer at OKMOM, I volunteered with MercuryOne over the summer in Dallas, TX.
- Homeless shelter, church, and foster children.
- I am working on being accepted into the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization. I will be applying to become a foster parent in March of 2013. I am interested in traveling the world and learning different languages and cultures.
- Spoke at TCC dinner about my Nicaragua trip.
- Asian Student Association – OSU.