Understanding Global Competence

Seeking out interdisciplinary international experiences
Introductions

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Today’s workshop

• Defining global competence
• On-campus opportunities
• Off-campus opportunities
• Competencies → skills
• In small groups:
  – Take a few minutes to list three to five activities you are currently involved in that contribute to your global competence.

• Discuss:
  – What is global competence?
“Global competence refers to the acquisition of in-depth knowledge and understanding of international issues, an appreciation of and ability to learn and work with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, proficiency in a foreign language, and skills to function.”

- National Education Association
Getting to global competence on campus

• **Join a student organization**
  – Learn more about yourself and others by joining one of the 200+ student organizations we have on campus
  – Gain leadership experience and intercultural development

• **Prioritize your co-curricular learning**
  – Diversity speaker series
  – Get connected to (free!) professional development opportunities

• **Build different networks for yourself**
  – Peer and professional network
Getting to global competence off-campus

- **Study abroad for credit**
  - Any term: Minimester, Spring, Fall, Summer or Academic Year
  - Many locations: Over 60 countries worldwide
  - Short-term program after completing one semester at TU. Long-term program after completing 30 credits at TU.
  - Students may earn TU credit in their major or minor as well as earn Core or elective credits.
  - All Honors students may earn Honors credit for their study abroad experience.

- **Intern abroad for credit**
  - Typically summer programs from 8 to 12 weeks
  - Available in many locations, and in many academic disciplines.

- **Volunteer** with a globally focused organization like Students Helping Honduras
Why bother?

Where the magic happens

Your comfort zone
Why bother? Those skills, though.

Intercultural/communication skills

• Gain a greater capacity to accept differences in others and to tolerate other people’s actions and ideas that may be different from my own.

• Understand that there are many ways to accomplish the same task and that those approaches are only “different,” not necessarily better or worse.

• Think more critically: I am more discriminating and skeptical, particularly of stereotypes.
More skills

World view

• Have the ability to see situations and issues from more than one perspective.
• Value human diversity and respect others from a variety of backgrounds different from my own.

Personal capabilities

• Be more confident and assertive when facing new situations.
• Evaluate advantages and disadvantages of my own culture and society more objectively (i.e., from the perspective of an outsider).