Non-Credit Education Abroad (NCEA): Redefining Education and Building Capacity

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WHAT IS NCEA?

“Any type of educational activity abroad that does not result in academic credit but is driven by learning goals.”
WHAT IS NCEA?

Research or Field Work
Travel Seminar or Study Tour
Volunteering or Service Learning
Internship or Work Abroad
Language Study
Other

Icons made by David Gandy, Freepik, & Rawpixel from www.flaticon.com
EXPERIENCES RECOGNIZED AS NCEA BY U.S. HEIs | 2014/15

- 84.9%
- 68.3%
- 67.2%
- 59.1%
- 47.8%
- 45.7%
- 38.7%
- 34.9%
- 5.4%
- 17.7%
Defining Non-Credit Education Abroad

Annmaries Whalen
BENCHMARKING NON-CREDIT
Using NCEA Data

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER
University of Minnesota
Overview of BTAA

Purdue University
The University of Iowa
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
The Ohio State University
Rutgers University
University of Maryland
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Indiana University
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
The Pennsylvania State University
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

BTAA International Learning Mobility Benchmark
PUBLIC REPORT - 2016
November 2016  Developed by Studymove Consultants

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER
University of Minnesota
Why do our own Benchmarking?

Compare to Peer Institutions
(…and competitive type A personalities)

IIE Open Doors is a great ‘yardstick’
but not representative of our office outputs

Advocate for resources where we lag compared to peers
Non-Credit Data within the BTAA

Definition...vague. Activity you want to count that did not directly result in credit.
Non-Credit Data at the UofM

- **Official UofM Definition:** Any documented non-credit activity abroad that meets one of the following criteria:
  - An activity that fulfills a University of Minnesota academic degree requirement, such as research for a senior project.
  - A work, intern, or volunteer experience of at least three weeks in duration.
  - A work, intern, or volunteer program that includes systematic reflection/processing and is at least one week in duration.
  - Travel of at least a week’s duration within the context of an educational program that includes systematic reflection/processing. Individual travel (unless linked to credit) does not qualify.
  - Sponsored research abroad (e.g., UROP-funded).
  - Other experiences abroad that the student’s parent college has defined as educational and related to collegiate internationalization.
  - Systematic reflection/processing includes journaling, reflective writing, reading and discussion sessions, etc. To determine whether a program includes enough of these kinds of activities, the responsible education abroad office will refer to the program’s website or catalog, or contact the program provider directly for more information.
  - Examples of qualifying educational travel programs include Y Immersion or Augsburg Center for Global Education travel seminars.
  - The sponsor may be a University of Minnesota faculty member, a faculty member at another accredited institution of higher education, or a staff member at an in-country organization.
Non-Credit Data Capture

Main challenge was; and is; capturing the data in the first place.

Four pronged strategy;

- Insurance reports
- Provider survey (ask our WIV affiliates)
- On-campus data sweep (ask staff/faculty)
- Self-reporting Portal (Travel Registry)
Taxonomy & Vocabulary

MDABRO
Taxonomy & Vocabulary

M | D | A | B | R | O

May Session  Dept/College Sponsored  Credit-bearing  Global Campus Partner Model  Resident Credit  Open to Non-UofM Students
Taxonomy & Vocabulary

US|SH|IN|C

Summer LAC Sponsored No-Credit Internship No-Credit Closed to Non-UofM Students
Taxonomy & Vocabulary

F | S | A | U | T | C

Fall | LAC Sponsored | Credit-bearing | Uni/Center | Transfer Credit | Closed to Non-UofM Students
Question #9:

How many of your total reported U.S. study abroad students received academic credit for an internship, volunteer or work abroad experience (paid or unpaid) as part of their study abroad experience?
Taxonomy & Vocabulary

F | S | A | U | T | C

- Fall
- LAC Sponsored
- Credit-bearing
- Uni/Center
- Transfer Credit
- Closed to Non-UofM Students
Taxonomy & Vocabulary

F | C | A | U | T | C
Fall | Affiliate Sponsored | Credit-bearing | Uni/Center | Transfer Credit | Closed to Non-UofM Students
1.3. NUMBER OF LEARNING ABROAD STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN NON-CREDIT PROGRAMS

All thirteen participating BTAA member universities were able to report on the number of learning abroad students in non-credit programs. There was an aggregate of 5,372 students reported as participating in non-credit Learning Abroad Programs. On average, each university had 413 students participating in non-credit Learning Abroad Programs in comparison with 451 reported in the previous period (See Table 1 and Chart 6).

The quality of the data reported in the non-credit area varies considerably and this data should be used with appropriate explanations.
Chart 6

Students participating in learning abroad non-credit programs

[Note: due to data limitations, this graph is likely to understate the actual participation levels in non-credit programs]
Resource Advocacy

UofM Open Doors numbers last 3 years:
13/14: 2,636
14/15: 2,707
15/16: 2,490

In each of these years once we include international students, non-UofM students and students on NCEA programs;

*We top 4,000 students going abroad* - excludes almost 40% of our abroad activity

I love Open Doors to get a national picture and longitudinal/big picture look but not to advocate for what we do on campus.
Tracking Non-Credit Abroad

The Long View

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>12-13</th>
<th>13-14</th>
<th>14-15</th>
<th>15-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>1,018</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>1,292</td>
<td>1,418</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Suzanne Droleskey
Executive Director, Public Partnership and Outreach
The Forum on Education Abroad, March 2017

http://accountability.tamu.edu
Why Track?

• They are going to do it anyway
• Parents don’t distinguish between “university sponsored” non-credit and credit bearing
• How will an emergency play out on Twitter, Facebook, and the other various news mechanisms?
Selfless Service

“A&M encourages volunteerism, encourages being one of a thousand points of light, helping others . . . And it comes naturally to Aggies.” – Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush

Why track non-credit activities at Texas A&M University?

– Funding model for the Study Abroad Programs Office
– Availability of online and other digital resources and workflows
– Core institutional value of “Selfless Service”
– Aggies Commit to Learning for a Lifetime
Tools To Track Non-Credit Activities

“The Rule”

• Report student travel to Student Affairs
• Report student travel abroad to Study Abroad Programs Office
• Purpose: facilitate emergency management

Campus Partnerships

• Student Affairs
  – Critical Incident Response Team
  – Student Organizations
• Academic Departments
  – Field trip approvals
  – Employee travel requests
  – Faculty briefings
Insurance for Travel Abroad

Travel abroad insurance is not limited to credit bearing activities or even to students. It is available to all students, faculty, and staff.
Passport Acceptance Agency

The Study Abroad Programs Office gains revenue and broad awareness of its services among faculty, staff, students, parents, former students, and throughout the local region.
Desire to track high impact experiences

Aggies Commit to Learning for a Lifetime is an institutional commitment that must be reported for accreditation purposes, so academic departments encourage students to report travel for any high impact experience abroad to the Study Abroad Office.
Student Portal for Self-Reporting

Students register their own activities online. These data feed into the Study Abroad Programs Office student information system.
It won’t happen overnight . . .

- Bite off only what you can chew; swallow before biting off more
- Go for the low hanging fruit
- Find champions and capitalize on opportunities
- Whatever you do, do it WELL
Questions? sdroleskey@tamu.edu
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