



## Assessment of Students' Global Perspectives

### **Global Perspectives at Miami**

Miami University's emphasis on intercultural and global awareness is evident throughout the curriculum and co-curriculum. Students admitted in Fall 2010 and after follow the [Global Miami Plan for Liberal Education](#), which requires 6 to 9 hours in Global Perspectives. Miami students study abroad at higher rates than students at comparable institutions; Miami is currently ranked #3 among public doctoral universities for undergraduate participation in study abroad ([Open Doors, 2013](#)). The [Miami University 2020 Plan](#) also emphasizes the value of cultural and global awareness. One of the plan's foundational goals is to "promote a diverse culture of inclusion, integrity, and collaboration that deepens understanding and embraces intercultural and global experiences."

Presented below are the results of two separate assessments of students' global perspectives, one that includes all students (NSSE) and one focused on students studying abroad (GPI).

### **Global Perspectives Inventory (GPI)**

Beginning in the fall of 2010, the Global Initiatives Study Abroad office led an effort to use the Global Perspective Inventory (GPI) tool to assess every student traveling in a Miami faculty-led study abroad program. The initial results from the pre- and post-study abroad GPI data collection indicated that, overall, students did not change before and after study abroad, suggesting that the program had little influence on global perspectives and intercultural competencies. This data is being used to support faculty leaders abroad in developing curricular, co-curricular, and programmatic interventions that will enhance intercultural knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

### **NSSE - Global Perspectives Assessment**

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) has been administered to over 4 million students nationally. In 2013, NSSE offered institutions the opportunity to participate in the Global Perspectives question set. The Global Perspectives items assess how students think about culture and how they relate

to people from other cultures, backgrounds, and values. In the spring of 2013, 515 Oxford campus first-year students and 547 Oxford seniors participated in NSSE's Global Perspectives questionnaire.

On nearly half of the Global Perspectives items, Miami seniors demonstrated greater global and cultural awareness than did first-year students. Miami seniors were significantly more likely than first-year students to agree with positive statements such as:

- I am informed of current issues that impact international relations.
- I consider different cultural perspectives when evaluating global problems.

Miami first-year students, however, were significantly more likely than seniors to agree with items suggesting less global awareness, such as:

- When I notice cultural differences, my culture tends to have the better approach.
- Some people have a culture and others do not.

### **Future Plans and Assessments**

Current results suggest that seniors demonstrate greater global and cultural awareness than first-years, but this development does not necessarily appear during the course of one semester of study abroad. The GPI project is ongoing, and will be expanded to international student global competency assessment. Recommendations emerging from this project include:

- Develop a multi-tiered, coordinated, longitudinal assessment plan that will include multiple measures of intercultural competence and mechanisms for student self-assessment.
- Develop an academic enhancement plan for education abroad and international education designed to increase Miami University students' view of the importance of the cultural context in judging what is important to know.
- Audit and adapt institutional alignment among all global perspective and intercultural competency assessment.

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