

**Virtual Global Health Experience
Demonstrates Interprofessional and
Intercultural Gains**


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 MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

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Disclosures

No Relevant Financial Conflicts: Relevant to the content of this educational activity, we do not have any relevant financial conflicts with commercial interest companies to disclose.


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About Des Moines University

- Graduate Health Professions University
 - 2nd oldest Osteopathic Medical School
 - 9 programs
 - 2 online programs (MHA and MPH)
- Located in Des Moines, IA
- 1600 graduate students





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Objectives for Presentation

- Discuss how to develop an interprofessional and intercultural virtual activity
- Demonstrate assessment methods for the activity
- Discuss the benefits and limitations of the activity

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Global Health at DMU

- 16 international partner sites in 12 countries for student rotations or internships
- Short-term trips – spring break or summer
- Distinguished Global Health internships
- Courses
- Hosting international medical students in Des Moines

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Our Global Partner

- Partnership began in 2018 with international rotations in Rwanda
- Vietnam added in 2020
- Virtual rotations and internships began in 2020
- Virtual Vietnam Experience – March 2021

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTE



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Virtual Vietnam Experience

- 16 DMU students participated, from 5 academic programs
 - 6 DO
 - 6 DPM
 - 2 MPH
 - 1 MHA
 - 1 MSA
- DMU students worked with MD students from Can Tho University in Vietnam
- March 15-19, 2021
- Synchronous meetings in the morning and evening (to accommodate the time difference)
- Independent or small group work throughout the day
- Students learned about the health care system and culture of Vietnam
- At the end of the week, students gave presentations on important global health issues

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Purpose of the Experience

- Provide an interprofessional and intercultural experience
 - Virtual due to COVID-19 travel restrictions
 - Learn about health care and culture in Vietnam
 - Opportunity to collaborate with students from other programs

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Assessment Methodology

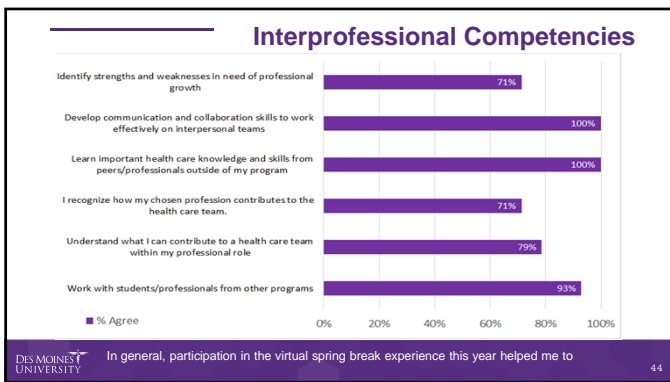
- Pre- and Post-Experience surveys
 - Self-assessment of interprofessional and intercultural competencies
 - 5-point Likert Scale
 - IRB approval for study
- 13/16 (81%) students completed pre-experience survey
- 14/16 (88%) students completed post-experience survey

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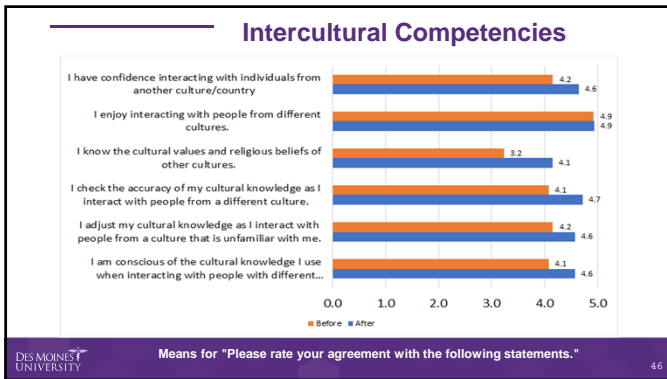


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Interprofessional Competencies

- Did not measure before and after
 - Roles/Responsibilities
 - Communication
- Students perceived the experience increased communication/collaboration skills

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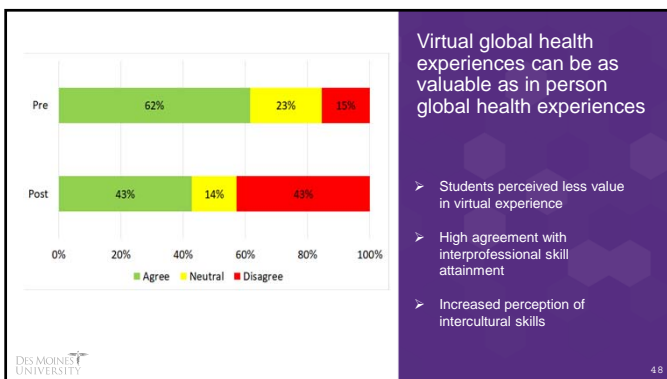
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Intercultural Competencies

- I know the cultural value and religious beliefs of other cultures
 - Increased from 31% agreement to 93% agreement
- Increase in all statements but one (which remained the same before and after)
- Shows a perceived increase in intercultural competency

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Benefits and Limitations

- **Benefits -**
 - Increase accessibility to students who may not be able to travel internationally for a variety of reasons
 - Increased interprofessional experiences
 - Allowed international engagement to continue during pandemic

- **Limitations -**
 - Small sample size
 - Time zone difference limiting student interaction during experience
 - Technology issues


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Looking Ahead

- Virtual opportunities will continue even after travel resumes
- Global experiences can also provide interprofessional opportunities to students
 - Be more intentional with interprofessional goals

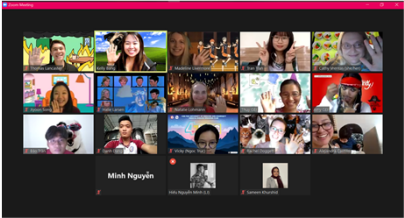

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