

## **OBJECTIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

### **Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences Fall 2007**

The following program objectives were identified by the Eastern Illinois University Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Science (LCBAS) Ad-Hoc International Programs Learning Objectives Committee (Co-chairs Roann Kopel and Lisa Taylor; committee members David Boggs, Julie Chadd, Rigoberto Chinchilla, and Lisa Brooks) and revised by additional faculty members with an involvement in international programs. The learning objectives were developed to strengthen current and future LCBAS study abroad programs, to provide guidelines for program and curriculum designers, and to inform students and parents.

The committee identified five skill areas that can be enhanced through the participation in study abroad programs. The skill areas were identified after assessing program objectives from study abroad programs at top American research universities (as distinguished by the Lombardi Program on Measuring University Performance, 2000).

We encourage study abroad program directors to use as many objectives as are appropriate to promote consistency and quality; however, it is recognized that not all objectives will be met by all programs, and longer programs generally facilitate more complete achievement of the objectives.

#### **Academic**

- Reflect and relate experiences to discipline-specific course content
- Develop an awareness of global issues related to discipline
- Increase problem-solving abilities through exposure to people who process information differently
- Observe and examine different political & economic structures
- Learn and increase interest in the history of a different area of the world
- Encourage research on international topics
- Improve ability to work effectively in a group

#### **Professional**

- Gain exposure to different professional practices, environments, institutions, and technologies
- Develop understanding of globalization through personal experience
- Interact with international professionals
- Identify career opportunities in international settings, and gain career direction
- Provide positive representation of EIU and the USA
- Form professional and personal contacts
- See individual and group projects through to completion

#### **Culture and Language**

- Within a different cultural context, acquire and improve foreign and functional verbal and nonverbal communication abilities
- Observe differences and similarities among people related to local customs and cultural contexts
- Develop more culturally sensitive attitudes and behaviors
- Develop an awareness of cultural differences to understand how culture affects area of study and how others view the USA
- Interact with individuals, programs, and institutions that serve foreign communities and families

**Personal and Social Development**

Produce continued communication between participants and host

Strengthen sense of personal identity and confidence

Increase levels of independence, tolerance, and curiosity

Strengthen the ability to adapt to new circumstances and deal constructively with differences

Identify and apply social skills in an international environment

**Experiential**

Gain exposure to different physical environments (weather, topography, architecture, infrastructure)

Provide service learning experience(s) for students

Cultivate responsible and safe behavior among students