



INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

GOAL 1: INCREASE AWARENESS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE BENEFITS OF INTERCULTURAL LEARNING AND DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL FLUENCY

Objective: Increasing Intercultural Awareness and Experiences

Purpose: The University engages in reflection and action to build intercultural aptitudes, create a strong sense of inclusion, and enrich our intellectual and social life. This metric measures how students feel about their own intercultural fluency since being at UBC.

Definition: The metric used to measure goal 1 in the area of intercultural understanding is referred to as “Intercultural fluency”. It was created with responses from the 2015 Undergraduate Experience Survey (UES) that was included on both the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses. It is a combined score that includes 5 related survey items that were measured on a 6-point scale. The items were the following:

- Understanding racial and ethnic differences/issues - Current level
- Respect for cultural diversity - Current level
- Comfort working with people from other cultures or backgrounds - Current level
- Openness to cultural difference - Current level
- Ability to engage with diverse perspectives – Current level

The number presented here is the average percentage of 4th year undergraduate students responding “Good”, “Very Good”, or “Excellent” on the six-point scale. The 4th year cohort was selected as they are students who have had time to develop their intercultural fluency since arriving at UBC.

The items used to compute this metric were new to the UES on both campuses this year, and so individual results for one single item (which has remained constant over time) are also presented below. This item is “Understanding racial and ethnic differences/issues” and the percentage presented below is the percentage responding “Good”, “Very good”, or “Excellent”.

Overall Metrics:

	Okanagan			Vancouver		
	2011/12	2012/13	2014/15	2011/12	2012/13	2014/15
Intercultural fluency (Scale)	-	-	96%	-	-	95%
<i>FOR HISTORICAL CONTEXT ONLY:</i>						
<i>Understanding racial and ethnic differences/issues</i>	96%	94%	94%	90%	91%	93%

Explanation of the Results and Next Steps:

Intercultural fluency: Respondents on both campuses reported high levels of intercultural fluency. Results were particularly strong for the items “Respect for cultural diversity” and “Openness to cultural difference”.

The work of developing intercultural fluency is throughout all aspects of the university. Some key initiatives that support the development of intercultural fluency include curricular approaches, Simon KY Lee Global Lounge and AMS Clubs, experiential learning opportunities, and co-curricular approaches such as the development of the implementation of the Building Respectful and Inclusive Communities module for orientations.

Next Steps: These questions will continue to form part of the UES surveys on both campuses and the results monitored from year to year. The new AVP Equity and Inclusion will also be working on the development and implementation of a strategic approach in partnership across the university.

Summary of Items to Create Metric

