

Name of Assessment Project: Slice of America 2014-2015

Name(s) of Person(s) Responsible for Assessment Project: Program Coordinator (Maria Lourdes Amparo)

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Providing Department: International House

Other Units/Departments Involved in Assessment Project:

Program, Service, or Event Related to Assessment Project:

Slice of America is a program developed and implemented by International House with support from the Non-Resident Student Engagement (NRSE) work group.

The Slice of America program encourages participants to think critically about our roles and interactions with local communities through site visits, service learning projects with local organizations, and facilitated discussions. This program provides domestic and international students with the opportunity to experience different parts of American culture in San Diego and interact with communities beyond the campus area. Slice of America is implemented through full-day excursions offered one time each quarter.

Program participants include international students (4-year international students and exchange students), domestic/U.S. students, staff, faculty, and community members. Program activities can include community service projects, tours, discussions, and presentations.

The I-House Program Coordinator oversees program development and implementation, supervises student staff in marketing strategies, manages the program's budget and expenses, and identifies the program goals and assesses the learning outcomes.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, there were two Slice of America trips, one in Fall 2014 focused on Islamic culture and refugee issues in San Diego (involving 30 participants) and one in Spring 2015 on food justice, community gardens and sustainability (involving 20 participants). 2014-2015 was the first year the program was implemented.

Assessment Project Description: The main purpose of the assessment project was to assess participants' learning and engagement in the Slice of America program. Student participants completed a pre-survey to measure their existing knowledge on the topic for the particular program activity. Students then completed a post-survey after the program activity to capture new knowledge gained from participating in the Slice of America program. Students completed paper surveys before and after the program activity.

Unit/Program Specific Goals and Learning Outcomes: The Slice of America program's learning outcomes are as follows:

As a result of participating in the Slice of America program, participants will

- think critically about their roles and interactions with local communities
- learn about issues that affect local communities in San Diego
- interact with a faculty member in a non-classroom setting
- gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for global issues and diversity
- feel a part of an engaging and inclusive international community
- have a richer educational experience at UC San Diego

Relationship to Student Affairs Learning Outcomes: Think Critically and Solve Problems, Advance a Plan for Personal, Academic, and Professional Success, Promote Social Justice and Community Responsibility

Assessment Project Start: 10/26/2014

Assessment Project End: 6/30/2015

Population/Sample: Out of 30 participants in Fall 2014, 25 students completed the pre and post-surveys. Out of 20 participants in Spring 2015, 13 students completed the pre and post-surveys.

Type of Assessment: Student learning outcomes and/or behavioral outcomes

Other Assessment Type(s):

Assessment Methods: Surveys

Other Assessment Method(s):

Data Collection Tools:

Student participants completed a pre-survey to measure their existing knowledge on the topic for the particular program activity. Students then completed a post-survey after the program activity to capture new knowledge gained from participating in the Slice of America program. Students completed paper surveys before and after the program activity. The data collected from the paper surveys were entered into Baseline.

Data Analysis Methods: Data from the paper surveys were categorized to draw out themes and analyzed to measure the self-reported learning and social engagement of the respondents.

How Your Results Will Be Presented: The I-House Program Coordinator used the findings to evaluate the Slice of America program and to make changes to the format and activities to better meet participants' expectations and achieve the identified learning outcomes. The findings

are included in a report to request funding for the program for the next academic year.

Progress: 100%

**Link Assessment
Project in Campus
Labs Baseline :**

Name	Source
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No items to display.

Summary of Findings: For the Fall 2014 trip to the Islamic Center of San Diego and Somali Family Service, the topics we covered were knowledge of Islam and the refugee communities in San Diego from a global health perspective.

26 undergraduate students completed pre-survey and 20 students completed the post-survey. The pre-survey was designed to gather students' existing knowledge of the topics covered in the activity and to encourage them to think about the topics during the trip. Responses to the pre-survey were compared to the responses in the post-survey to understand what students learned. Some questions were not repeated because students who indicated that they had not previously visited a mosque before the trip visited a mosque during the trip.

Responses to the pre-survey are as follows:

Pre-survey Question	Yes	No
Have you ever visited a mosque?	9	17
Do you know anyone who identifies as Muslim?	23	3
Are you in any way afraid, concerned or worried about Muslims?	2	24
Are you in any way afraid, concerned or worried about Islam?	2	24

Question	Practically None	Very Little	Basic Awareness	General Understanding	Thorough Understanding
Rate your knowledge of Islam	1	5	10	9	1
	4%	19%	38%	37%	4%

Question	1 item	2 items	3 items	4 items	5 items
Name the 5 pillars of Islam	17	18	13	7	5
	65%	69%	50%	27%	19%

- Hajj/Pilgrimage to Mecca (12 responses), Prayer (10 responses), Ramadan/fasting (7 responses), Zakat/Alms (7 responses), Belief in one god Allah (5 responses)

Question	8 months	12 months	3 years	5 years
For how long are newly arrived refugees eligible for cash assistance from the U.S. government?	8	11	2	0
	30%	42%	8%	0%

- Only 30% of respondents selected the correct answer.
- Responses to the open-ended question "Name 3 countries from where major refugee groups in San Diego come from." include: Somalia (18 responses), Iraq (7 responses), Ethiopia (3 responses), Mexico (6 responses), Syria (3 responses), Vietnam (2 responses), and Ethiopia, Haiti, Israel, Myanmar, China, Ecuador, Iran, Uganda, Cambodia, Congo, Cuba, Honduras, Nigeria, Venezuela with 1 response each.

Question	1 item	2 items	3 items
Name 3 programs that the Somali Family Services provides for newly arrived refugees.	26	10	7
	100%	38%	27%

Question	Provided Answer	No response or did not know
What condition(s) qualify someone to seek refugee or asylee status in the U.S.?	14	12
	53%	46%

After the trip, 20 students submitted responses to the post-survey. Responses to the post-survey are as follows:

Pre-survey Question	Yes	No
Are you in any way afraid, concerned or worried about Muslims?	1	19
Are you in any way afraid, concerned or worried about Islam?	1	19

Question	Practically None	Very Little	Basic Awareness	General Understanding	Thorough Understanding
Rate your knowledge of Islam after your visit	0	0	4	13	3
	0%	0%	20%	65%	15%

- 70% of respondents reported having a general understanding or thorough understanding after the Slice of America activity, which is an increase from 41% based on the same question from the pre-survey.

Question	1 item	2 items	3 items	4 items	5 items
Name the 5 pillars of Islam	20	20	19	19	18
	100%	100%	95%	95%	90%

- The number of responses to this question increased from 19% of respondents that listed 5 items on the pre-survey to 90% on the post-survey.
- Belief in one god Allah (18 responses), Prayer (18 responses), Hajj/Pilgrimage to Mecca (13 responses), Ramadan/fasting (12 responses), Zakat/Alms (12 responses). There were 13 more responses for Belief in one god Allah, 11 more responses for Prayer, 5 more responses for fasting/Ramadan, and 5 more responses for Prayer than the pre-survey.

Question	8 months	12 months	3 years	5 years
For how long are newly arrived refugees eligible for cash assistance from the U.S. government?	8	0	0	0
	30%	0%	0%	0%

- 100% of respondents selected the correct answer on the post-survey compared to 30% on the pre-survey.
- Responses to the open-ended question "Name 3 countries from where major refugee groups in San Diego come from." include: Somalia (20 responses), Iraq (11 responses), Burma/Myanmar (9 responses), Ethiopia (3 responses), Syria (4 responses), Vietnam (2 responses), and Mexico, Nigeria, Kenya, Korea, and Libya with 1 response each.

Question	1 item	2 items	3 items
Name 3 programs that the Somali Family Services provides for newly arrived refugees.	20	18	15
	100%	90%	75%

Question	Provided Answer	No response or did not know
What condition(s) qualify someone to seek refugee or asylee status in the U.S.?	17	3
	85%	15%

- There was an improvement from 53% to 85% in the percentage of students that answered this question.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I was able to interact with a faculty member in a non-classroom setting.	0	1	3	12	4
I learned about issues that affect local communities in San Diego.	0	0	0	14	6
I thought critically of my interaction with the local San Diego community.	0	0	2	14	4
I have a greater understanding of global issues.	0	0	1	12	7
I have a richer educational experience at UC San Diego.	0	0	0	11	9

- 80% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they were able to interact with a faculty member in a non-classroom setting as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.
- 100% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they learned about issues that affect local communities in San Diego as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.
- 95% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they thought critically of their interactions with the local San Diego community as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.
- 95% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they have a greater understanding of global issues as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.
- 100% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they have a richer educational experience at UC San Diego as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.
- The themes that came out of responses to the question, "What did you learn during this trip that you did not know before?" include: Refugee issues (12 responses), Islam (7 responses), San Diego community of City Heights (2 responses), and health (1 response).
- The themes that came out of responses to the question, "What aspect(s) of this program were most valuable and/or interesting to you?" include: Presentations/Presenters (8 responses), Islam (7 responses), interacting with different people (4 responses), San Diego community of City Heights (3 responses), and health (1 response).
- The themes that came out of responses to the question, "Do you have any suggestions to improve the Slice of America program?" include: more interaction and/or discussion (6 responses).

The Spring 2015 pre and post survey was completed by 13 students. A comparison of the responses revealed the following information:

Question	Practically None	Very Little	Basic Awareness	General Understanding	Thorough Understanding
Rate your knowledge of community gardens before this trip.	1	3	7	0	1
	8%	23%	54%	0%	8%
Rate your knowledge of community gardens after this trip.	0	0	1	7	5
	0%	0%	8%	54%	38%

- 92% of respondents reported having a general understanding or thorough understanding after the Slice of America activity, which is a significant increase from 8% based on the same question from the pre-survey.

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I was able to interact with a faculty member in a non-classroom setting.	0	0	1	5	7
	0%	0%	8%	38%	54%

- 92% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they were able to interact with a faculty member in a non-classroom setting as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I learned about issues that affect local communities in San Diego.	0	0	0	5	8
	0%	0%	0%	38%	62%

- 100% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they learned about issues that affect local communities in San Diego as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I thought critically of about a local project in the San Diego community.	0	0	0	4	9
	0%	0%	0%	31%	69%

- 100% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they thought critically of their interactions with the local San Diego community as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am encouraged to get more involved and informed on this issue.	0	0	0	3	10
	0%	0%	0%	23%	77%

- 100% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they have a greater understanding of global issues as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I got to leave campus and experience a part of San Diego that I would not have otherwise visited.	0	0	0	2	11
	0%	0%	0%	15%	85%

- 100% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they have a richer educational experience at UC San Diego as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I have a richer educational experience at UC San Diego.	0	0	2	4	7
	0%	0%	15%	31%	54%

- 92% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they have a richer educational experience at UC San Diego as a result of participating in the Slice of America program.
- 100% of respondents replied Yes to the question "Do you want more university-sponsored events that get students engaged in the community?"

Impact of Assessment: The assessment has shown that most of the learning outcomes are being achieved while some others can be improved. Responses from the first program activity indicated that many students did not have an opportunity to interact with the faculty member leading the trip, which was one of program's intentions. Responses from the post-survey and from the Program Coordinator's own observations resulted in incorporating more time for discussion and faculty interaction in the second trip.

Lessons Learned: In Fall 2014, of the 17 respondents who had not previously visited a mosque before the program activity, all 17 had the opportunity to visit a mosque during the trip. Of the 3 respondents who did not know anyone that identified as Muslim, all 3 met students and community members who identify as Muslim. In Spring 2015, of the 6 respondents who had never visited a community garden before the trip, all 6 had the opportunity to visit a community garden during the trip. Of the 10 who had never visited Southeastern San Diego before the trip, all 10 had the opportunity to visit Southeastern San Diego during the trip.

Including questions specific to Islam and refugees on both the pre and post-surveys helped us to compare students' knowledge before and after the trip. Each question indicated a change and improvement or increase in knowledge based on data collected before the trip and after the trip. The responses to these questions as well as the responses that the presentations were valuable showed us that students gained new information and enjoyed the speakers. 60% of students expressed that they learned something new about refugee issues and 35% that they learned something new about Islam. These are valuable findings to show how much and what students learned from the program. In Spring 2015, students were better able to articulate what a community garden and food forest are after the trip. They learned more information by participating in the program.

An assessment of program learning outcomes shows that we are meeting all of our learning outcomes after only two activities. 92% of Fall 2014 and 100% of Spring 2015 participants Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they thought more critically of the topics discussed during the trip. 100% of respondents in both Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they learned about issues that affect local communities in San Diego. 95% of respondents in Fall 2014 Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they gained a better understanding of global issues. 100% of Fall 2014 and 92% of Spring 2015 respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they have a richer educational experience at UC San Diego by participating in this program.

Survey responses from Fall 2014 helped the Program Coordinator improve the program to make it more interactive. In Fall 2014 80% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they were able to interact with a faculty member in a non-classroom setting as a result of participating in the Slice of America program. In Spring 2015, 92% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they were able to interact with a faculty member in a non-classroom setting as a result of participating in the Slice of America program. Communicating our learning outcomes to the faculty and having more conversations about the program design and activities helped to create a more interactive and engaging experience for students.

Students strongly value and appreciate the opportunity to engage in off-campus community activities. Survey comments, casual conversations, and random polling of students on the trip showed that students want to participate in more programs that connect them to the San Diego community. 100% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed that participating in the activity gave them the opportunity to leave campus and experience a part of San Diego that they would not have otherwise visited. Programs like Slice of America give students opportunities to learn about global issues affecting local communities, visit different places in San Diego, interact with faculty outside of the classroom, and enrich their educational experience at UC San Diego. With more visibility across campus and collaborative support, the Slice of America program can involve more students and cover a broad range of topics and themes.

Supplemental Information:

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