

Collaborative Online International Learning

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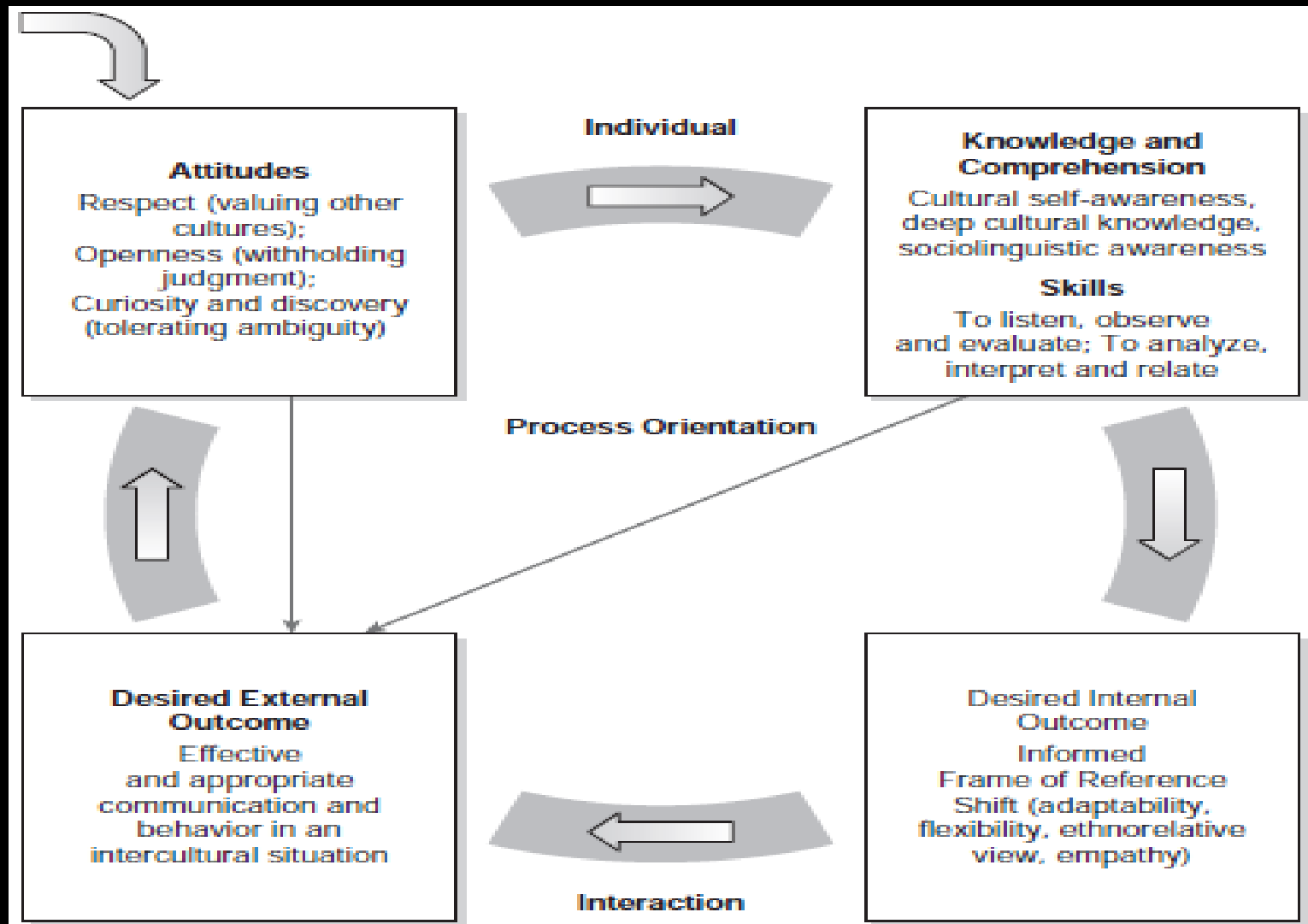
Introduction

- It is critical that agricultural professionals have a global perspective and an ability to appreciate human differences.
- Many postsecondary institutions are focusing on international learning opportunities for students which help to prepare them to work in the global market of ideas and innovation.

Introduction

- However... the costs associated with international experiences can be prohibitive and students are often unsure if they want to invest the extensive amount of time required for study abroad.

Deardorff Process of Model Intercultural Competence



Purpose

- The purpose of this activity was to provide U.S. and international agricultural students an introduction to international experiences and to create opportunities to access the perspective of students from different cultures.

Methodology

- A Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) component was developed and integrated into an agricultural course of study by an instructor at SUNY Oswego and an instructor at the University of Nigeria Nsukka.
- The COIL course component is supported by [lore.com](https://www.lore.com) a free social networking platform that is designed specifically for education.

Methodology

- $n = 24$
- Cross Cultural Assignments and Activities
 - Link and resource sharing
 - Discussion of readings
 - Paper editing pairs
- Data was collected with a researcher constructed survey instrument and through written reflections

Findings

- Within the Lore platform, static posts and links were the most common form of communication between students from different countries.
- Cross cultural paper editing partners utilized the chat feature most frequently (80%) and most students (88%) transitioned into using Skype when working with editing partners.

Findings

- Data reveal that the U.S. students developed a deeper understanding of hidden assumptions and how they affect interpersonal interactions.
- Student feedback indicates participating students are more interested in completing an international experience

Recommendations

- Start small
- Create flexibility into assignments and activities for student challenges and decisions
- Patience is important
- Guide your students to an understanding of the purpose of COIL

Questions