

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES (ICS) ~ OBJECTIVES, MEASUREMENTS, & OUTCOMES 2018-2023

Some Intercultural Studies courses are offered only every second year, or twice in three years. Therefore, for some objectives, data is not available every year. Further, enrolment in the program is small, so data is limited. Aggregate data for the past five years is reported.

OBJECTIVE 1 – Intercultural Studies students will have a solid understanding of the biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic perspectives of the involvement of God’s people with God’s mission

A study of the interaction of God’s people with God’s mission begins in the first course in this program, Introduction to Missions (MI 100). Two other courses which address this concept in depth are Biblical & Theological Foundations of Mission (BT 304) and History of World Christianity (HI 404).

Benchmark: 80% of ICS students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in these courses¹

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	85%
Number of courses	3
ICS students enrolled in above courses	27

OBJECTIVE 2 – Intercultural Studies students will be able to analyze contemporary issues and worldviews from a biblical perspective

In addition to a full course examining worldview, students submit assignments in several courses which allow them to address current issues around the world, considering them through the lens of a biblical worldview. These assignments include not only research papers but interactions with those of other cultures, and reflections upon the interactions.

Benchmark: 80% of ICS students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in these assignments²

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	94%
Number of assignments	5
ICS students enrolled in above courses	20

OBJECTIVE 3 – Intercultural Studies students will connect strategic intercultural competence training with cross-cultural ministry practice

Student not only learn the theory of intercultural engagement, but also learn and experience practical cross-cultural ministry. In the Intercultural Competencies (MI 403) course they examine the life and ministry of a missionary or cross-cultural worker as well as case studies about cultural issues.

Benchmark: 80% of ICS students will earn a grade of least of 80% (B-) in assignments in Intercultural Competencies (MI 403)³

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	93%
ICS students enrolled in MI 403	14

OBJECTIVE 4 – Intercultural Studies students will know how to dialogue, proclaim the Gospel, and disciple believers in the context of various world religions and new religious movements

In courses such as Personal Evangelism (CE 209), Oral Communication (EN 203) and Homiletics (MIN 300), students learn about communicating the Gospel. In intercultural studies courses, students move beyond these general principles, and consider how to communicate in more diverse contexts. Assignments include the development of a theology of spiritual conflict resolution.

Benchmark: 80% of ICS students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in assignments related to communication of the Gospel in diverse environments⁴

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	88%
Number of assignments	3
ICS students enrolled in above courses	8

OBJECTIVE 5 – Intercultural Studies students will have experience in ministry of the Gospel and discipleship across cultural boundaries

Intercultural students gain experience through a range of practical experiences within and outside the broader Kingswood curriculum. Requirements of engagement with those from other cultures are included in Intercultural Competencies (MI 403); and form an integral part of the four-month intercultural Supervised Ministry Experience (SME) (MIN 425).

Benchmark: 80% of ICS students will earn a grade of least of 80% (B-) practical experience assignments⁵

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	85%
Number of assignments	3
ICS students enrolled in above courses	20

OBJECTIVE 6 – Intercultural Studies students will be practically prepared for vocational as well as co-vocational cross-cultural ministry, and be able to provide missional leadership for the Church locally and globally

In addition to courses and assignments identified above, Intercultural students learn practical elements which can inform future ministry, including elements such as fund-raising, making presentations, and language study. SME supervisors rate their students on multiple elements at the mid-point and end of the four-month SME, including answering an open-ended question about the students' preparedness for entry-level ministry. Some also provide feedback on areas for student growth. Coded results are provided below.

Benchmark 1: 80% of ICS students will earn a grade of least of 80% (B-) in practical preparation assignments⁶

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%
ICS students enrolled in MI 202	8

Benchmark 2: ICS students will receive affirmative responses from their internship supervisors related to entry-level preparedness for ministry in their field

Data:

	2018-2023
Level of preparedness:	
More than ready	
Ready	
Marginally ready	
Not ready	
Supports/Growth needed:	
Change management	
Interpersonal skills	
Increased leadership capacity	
Balance	
ICS students enrolled in above course	

CONCLUSION

The data addressed in this report comes from the “COVID-19 years,” each influenced by the pandemic and accompanying health and safety regulations in different ways. While this cannot be used as an excuse, it was a contributing factor to the overall student learning experience. Although 2022-2023 was a more ‘normal’ years, at Kingswood, the impact of COVID-19 was by no means over. Canadian border restrictions were not fully removed until October 2022 and some ministry sites only re-opened during the 2022-2023 year. Further, it should be noted that lower enrolment in programs and courses means that one student failing to meet a benchmark can significantly impact the percentage of students meeting a target. For this reason, the analysis of data looks at trends more than minute fluctuations.

For the most part, students are meeting the objectives of the Intercultural Studies major. A comprehensive review of the curriculum in 2024 will ensure this degree is relevant for intercultural ministry around the world.

¹ Introduction to Missions (MI 100), Biblical & Theological Foundation of Mission (BT 304), History of World Christianity (HI 404).

² Research paper (GE 302); Research paper (GE 301); Visit to house of worship of another faith & reflection (GE 301); Interaction reports and Personal interaction encounter (MI 403).

³ Biography & Case study assignments (MI 403).

⁴ Visit to house of worship of another faith & reflection (GE 301); Final paper (GE 301); Theology of spiritual conflict resolution (MI 405)

⁵ Interaction reports, Personal interaction encounter (Intercultural Competencies); Supervised Ministry Experience (MIN 425).

⁶ Language learning assignment; Peka-Chuka presentation assignment (MI 202).