



The Development and Validation of a Study Abroad Assessment Tool



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UD Study Abroad Profile

- approx. 1,300 students abroad/year (undergrads, traditional-age)
- 80% on 60 short-term, faculty-led programs
- 20% on 15 semester/exchange programs
- wide variety of countries and academic disciplines

The Challenge

How to develop an instrument that reliably measures a broad array of general outcomes applicable to all programs, both pre- and post-sojourn?

The Constructs

Knowledge of Host Site:

students' knowledge of the host community and their confidence of this knowledge

"I have sufficient knowledge of my host site to have a discussion about a current social or economic issue of importance to the area"

Ambiguity Tolerance:

ability to feel comfortable with, and competent in, new or novel situations, or handling novel stimuli or information.

"I prefer to have new experiences rather than familiar or routine experiences"

Global Engagement:

captures students' worldview or attitudes toward cultural differences, diversity, and exchanges

includes 3 subscales: cultural pluralism, interconnectedness, and ethnocentrism

"I like trying to understand people's behaviors in the context of their own culture"

Diversity Inclusion:

inclination to accept/embrace diversity

"Imagine you just met a new person who is a potential friend. Could you become good friends with this person if you discovered that the person . . .

. . . . held different religious beliefs than you?

. . . . is from a different racial or ethnic background than you?"



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The Instrument

- 43 quantitative items (4-point scale responses)
- one short-answer
- taken online pre and post

Participant Profile

- 262 UD study abroad students abroad in January 2014
- responded to voluntary pre/post survey request in Nov/Dec 2014 and Feb 2014
- approx. 75% female
- 50% seniors, 25% juniors, 20% sophomores, 5% freshmen
- 93% white

Construct Correlations

p<.05
 * = not sig.

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Global Engagement (Pluralism)	--	.51	.19	.24	.26	.23	.11
2. Global Engagement (Interconnectedness)		--	.12	.33	.40	.14	.30
3. Global Engagement (Opposite of Ethnocentrism)			--	.08*	.08*	.29	-.01*
4. Ambiguity Tolerance (Flexibility)				--	.62	.10	.28
5. Ambiguity Tolerance (New situation preference)					--	.12*	.29
6. Diversity Inclusion							.11
7. Host Site Knowledge							--

Alpha Reliabilities

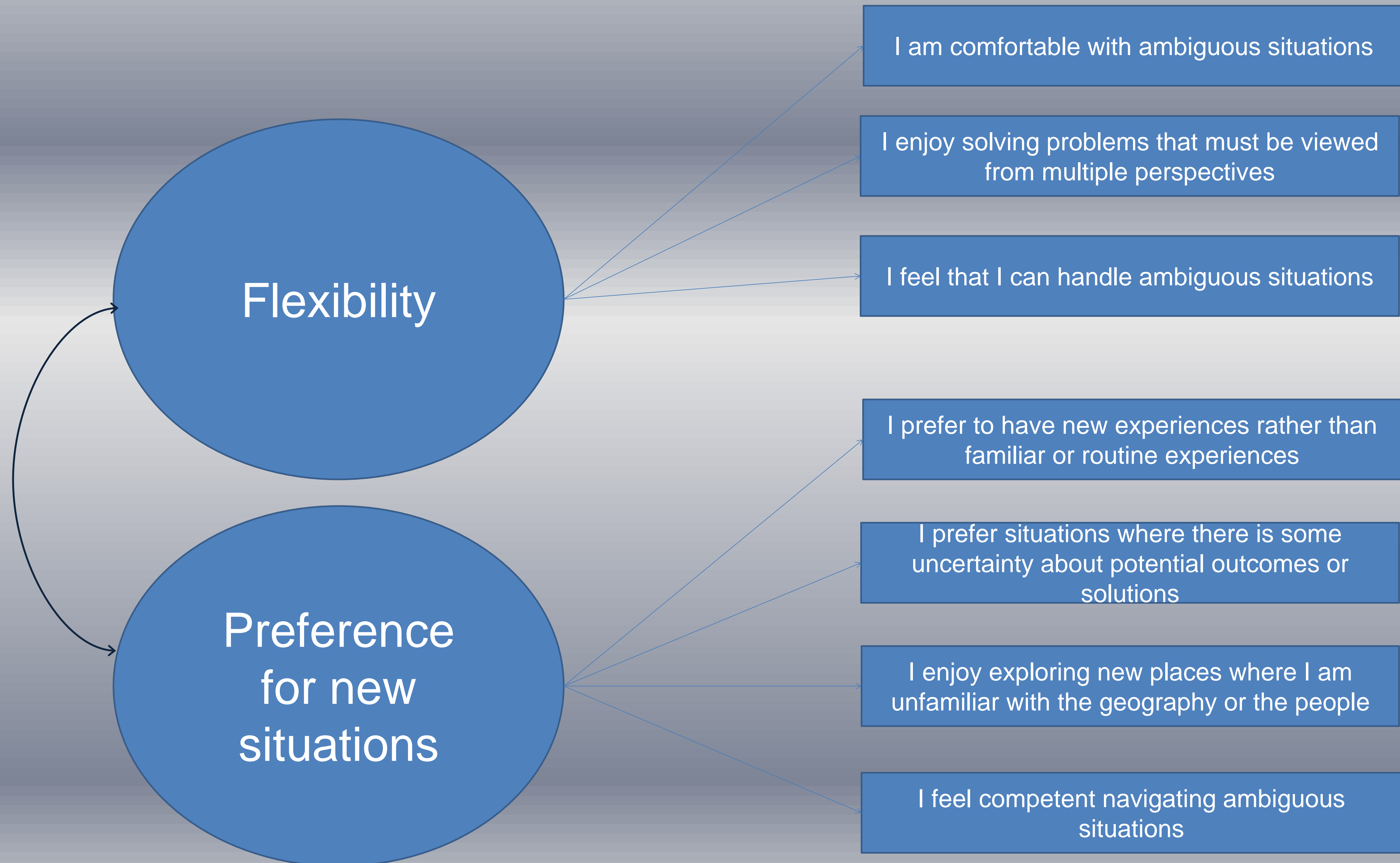
Global Engagement Scale- $\alpha = .77$
 Knowledge of Host Site Scale- $\alpha = .87$
 Ambiguity Tolerance Scale- $\alpha = .84$
 Diversity inclusion (friends) $\alpha = .91$
 Diversity inclusion (siblings) $\alpha = .97$

Pre/Post Significance

All pre- to post-scores were significant by construct (mean differences, paired T-tests, p<.05)!

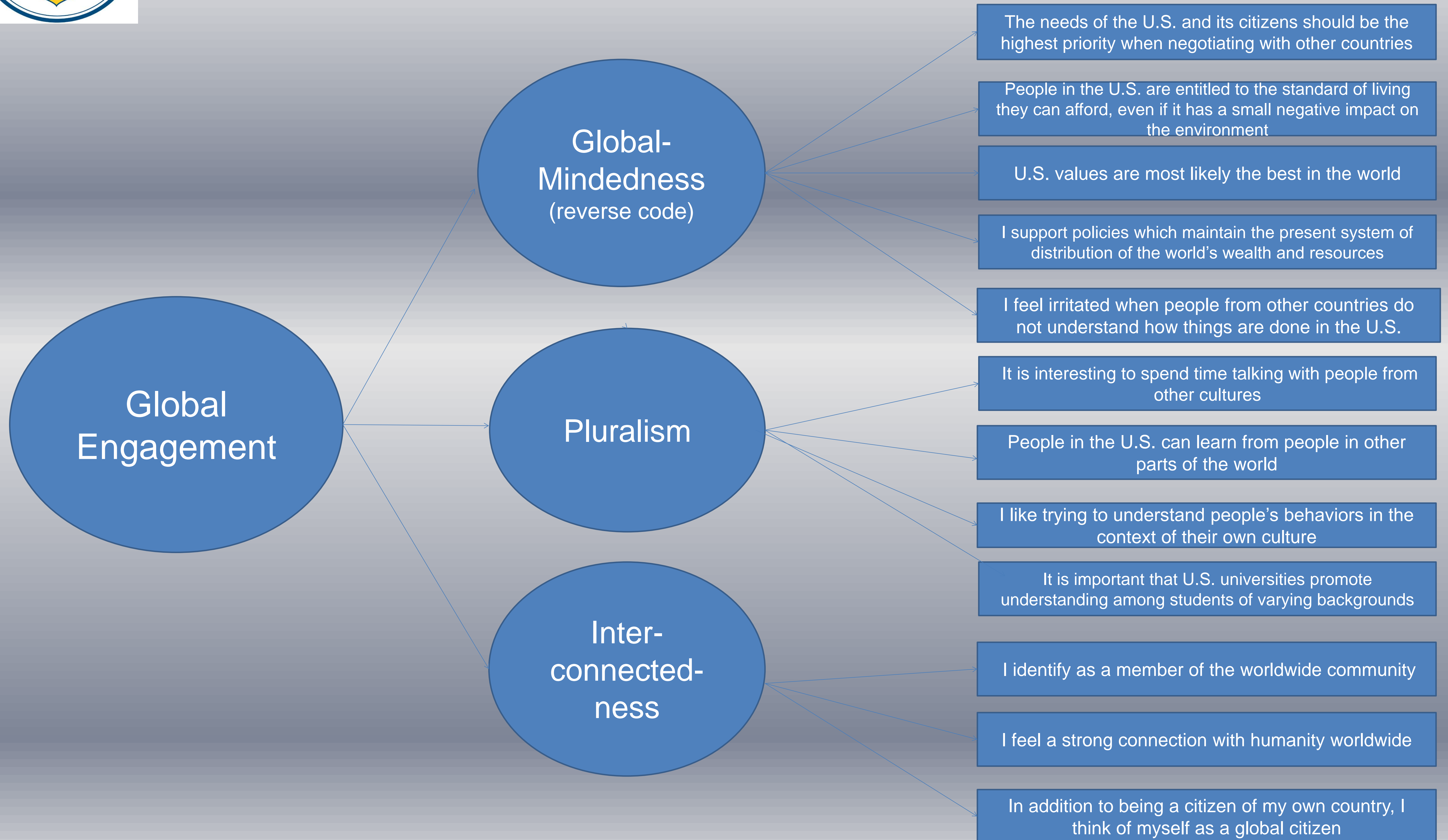


Tolerance for Ambiguity





Global Engagement





Knowledge of host site



I can discuss with confidence at least two historic events that are important to the population of my host site

I can discuss with confidence the system of government and politics in my host site

I have sufficient knowledge of my host site to explain a current issue there to a friend or family member who has never been there

I have sufficient knowledge of my host site to have a discussion about a current social or economic issue of importance to the area

I can explain with confidence what the community is like at my host site