

Gathering Cultural Attitudes Towards Indigenous Peoples at Douglas College

We acknowledge that Douglas College is located on the traditional unceded territories of the Kwikwetlem and Qayqayt First Nations.



Purpose

The purpose of the present study is to honor the actions requested in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015) by better understanding the current cultural attitudes towards Indigenous peoples at Douglas College.

Hypothesis 1: Those whose responses suggest high cultural competence would score low in racial color-blindness and modern prejudice.

Hypothesis 2: Faculty would score the highest cultural competence compared to student and staff responses.

Results

Hypothesis 1: Small but reliable relationship between CCSC and CoBRAS $r = -.252$, and CCSC and MPATAS $r = -.254$. Between MPATAS and CoBRAS was $r = .754$

Hypothesis 2: Students had the highest CCSC scores, however, Faculty had the lowest CoBRAS and MPATAS scores.

Explorative Analysis:

Age: Small but reliable negative relationship between age and CCSC scores; $r = -.131$.

Gender: Females consistently had higher cultural competence, and also lower color-blindness and modern prejudicial attitudes compared to males.

Department: Applied Community Studies responses were the most culturally safe, with Science and Technology and Commerce and Business were lower. Health Science had high MPATAS and CoBRAS as well.

Cultural training also predicted more respectful responses regardless of training specificity.

Method

Participants were asked to fill out 3 scales and several demographic questions via an online survey.

Scales

Cultural Competency Self-Checklist (CCSC; Flower, 2012)

Color Blind Racial Attitudes Scale (CoBRAS; Neville et al., 2000)

Modern Prejudicial Attitudes Towards Aboriginals Scale (MPATAS; Morrison et al., 2008)

Participants

Survey was open to all current staff, faculty and students at Douglas College. The sample included 399 students, 98 staff and 75 faculty members ($n = 572$).

Over half of participants were under 30 years old. ~ 4 / 5 respondents were female.

~ 1 / 5 respondents had previous cultural competency training.

