Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Educational Practice

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M.B.A in Business Administration, August, 2015, Benedictine University
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Understanding Chinese Undergraduate International Students' Experiences at the University of Missouri - St. Louis

Date: April 22, 2019
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place: Sigma-Aldrich Science Education Lab (TLC-SA)

Abstract

This study examines the challenges and stressors Chinese undergraduate students face while attending the University of Missouri - St. Louis (UMSL) in relation to their study abroad experience. Surveys were initially used to gather information and to gauge students’ familiarity and use of university support services available to help with specific challenges and stressors. Follow-up interviews were conducted to collect additional in-depth data. As consistent with the literature review, the study found that UMSL students confronted language barriers, academic challenges, and cultural differences when transitioning to UMSL’s academic culture and social environment. Additionally, financial stresses were exacerbated by issues related to filial piety and U.S. policy requirements for international students. This dissertation offers background information on the contexts of UMSL’s Chinese international undergraduates, in order to help the host institution better recruit and retain its Chinese international student population.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Chairperson, Laura M. Westhoff, Ph.D.
Cody Ding Ph.D.
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