

F26.48 Studying the Impact of Place-Based Education on Developing Content and Pedagogical Knowledge

Overview

Faculty from COE, Teaching and Learning Department, Drs. Vezino and Conn, have developed a new course focused on Scientific Literacy that is intended to build content knowledge aligned to Arizona's K-8 Academic Science Standards in the areas of Life, Earth, and Space Sciences through studying elements present in the Colorado River Basin area. The integrates Place-Based Education components and civil discourse through collaboration and teamwork. The course also addresses contributions and perspectives of Indigenous People to science, intellectual traditions and ways of knowing, and their current and ancestral connections to the land and sky.

Place-Based Education (PBE) is focused on developing and enhancing "sense-of-place". PBE includes the following core components. It connects content to a place's features such as landforms or culture, engages students in learning about the diverse meanings that the place holds, and teaches through experiential and service learning. PBE also promotes concepts related to environmental and cultural sustainable practices like "Visit With Respect", a primary message promoted by Bears Ears National Monument.

The following research questions will be investigated:

Does a PBE course and accompanying field experience trip lead to increased science and social studies content knowledge related to Arizona's K-8 Academic Science Standards?

Do students gain more interest in integrating place into the curriculum through taking a PBE course?

What the student will DO and LEARN

The student will support the researchers in conducting a literature review on Place-Based Education. The student will also assist with data collection supporting the development and distribution of surveys and conducting interviewing students agreeing to participate in the study. The student will also have the opportunity to engage in analyzing the survey and interview data collected as well as assist with writing a manuscript reporting the results of the literature review and findings from the study.

Additional benefits

The student will have the opportunity to practice and improve academic writing skills regarding research and summarizing existing literature. The student will also gain familiarity with drafting manuscripts to submit to teacher education journals.

Additional qualifications

Strength in academic writing skills and basic spreadsheet skills.

Time commitment

10 hrs/week for 30 weeks