



**CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION IN JOINT PROGRAM COMPETENCY
MAPPING: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DONG THAP UNIVERSITY AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF BATANGAS FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines cross-border collaboration in joint program competency mapping between Dong Thap University (DThU) in Vietnam and the University of Batangas Lipa City (UBLCL) in the Philippines. It identifies key competencies through joint mapping initiatives, analyzes gaps between current curriculum offerings, and proposes collaborative programs to enhance student learning outcomes. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study employed document analysis, stakeholder interviews, and comparative curriculum mapping to examine program offerings and competency frameworks at both institutions.

Findings reveal opportunities for joint program development in teacher education, psychology, and social work. The study identified 25 unique competency areas across five undergraduate programs, highlighting gaps in lifelong learning, research, soft skills, and cultural identity. These findings emphasize the need for contextualized curriculum harmonization and pedagogical alignment.

This study supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by demonstrating that international collaboration enhances educational quality, employability, and institutional capacity building. It contributes to the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework and regional integration goals, promoting globally competent and socially responsive graduates.

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