

Paper Selection Writing Assignment

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HIED 596: Individual Studies

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Paper Selection

I have chosen to expand on a paper from HIED 846: Input Environment Outcome (IEO) Model: International Student Engagement as an Outcome. The driving argument of this paper is that meaningful student engagement is directly related to student success and persistence to graduation. Focusing on international students as a subpopulation provides focus to the broad and somewhat abstract topic of “engagement” allowing many aspects of student assimilation into the institutional environment to be explored.

This topic is integral to what I want to do as a professional because I want to work with international students as either an international student affairs advisor or as an institutional researcher. The more I can understand and explore the obstacles to international student engagement, the more likely I will be able to accurately analyze situations where students are struggling to integrate into their new environment. Since engagement is strongly correlated to student retention and success, this knowledge should also help me support my advisees in persisting to graduation.

I want this paper to identify research questions surrounding the what, why, and how administrators can increase meaningful student engagement in a heterogeneous population like international students. Hopefully, these questions can be answered in further studies by utilizing available data from databases like NSSE or IPEDS. I also hope to identify and summarize actions that institutions have taken in the past that could be adapted to suit the student populations at other institutions.

Finally, I’d like to identify and investigate some of the maladaptive outcomes from students who struggled to adapt. I enjoyed HIED 849 because it connected the theoretical applications of the IEO model and the Model of Multiple Dimensions of Identity (MMDI) to

litigations involving international students. Most of the time the litigations stemmed from instances of perceived discrimination, sexual harassment, academic integrity, or cultural misunderstandings. Students who are more engaged in campus activities often have stronger social groups and connections to more faculty members, so it is possible that more engaged students could avoid common legal problems through being more integrated into the campus culture.

I hope to conduct additional research into what programs are already available to help international students assimilate into their campus cultures. I would also like to learn about how international students benefit the United States Economy as students and post-graduation.

I think others might be interested in this paper because analyzing barriers to student success, regardless of the subpopulation being analyzed, is beneficial to all higher education professionals. Likely, issues that are common in international student engagement are also present as obstacles in other students' integration. Also, gaining a global perspective is an important part of a liberal arts education, so encouraging cooperation between local and international students could have far-reaching benefits.