

# Seeking Answers

Understanding the academic performance  
of international students through an  
intercultural lens

# Welcome

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# Our questions for you:

- 1) What is your experience with the term “academic success” within an intercultural context?
- 2) What does “intercultural effectiveness” mean to you?



# Background

- 1) Who?
- 2) What?
- 3) Why?

ENG 115 Grade	AP5	IELTS/TOEFL /CAEL	EXEMPT
A+	0	0	0
A	1	0	0
A-	3	4	0
B+	5	0	1
B	2	6	1
B-	8	8	0
C+	9	1	1
C	2	2	0
C-	3	3	0
D	2	0	0
F	1	4	0
ENR S15	1	1	0
Did Not Complete	1	2	0
Total	38	31	3

# Preliminary Research Question

- 1) Is there an identifiable link between the *academic success* of international students and their level of *intercultural effectiveness*?
  - a) Do students with greater intercultural effectiveness have greater academic success and inversely do students with lower intercultural effectiveness have lower academic success?

# Definitions

## Academic Success

“...inclusive of academic achievement, attainment of learning objectives, acquisition of desired skills and competencies, satisfaction, persistence, and post college performance” (York, Gibson, & Rankin, 2015, p. 5).

## International Student

First semester, first Canadian educational experience, studying full-time, paying international student tuition at respective institution.

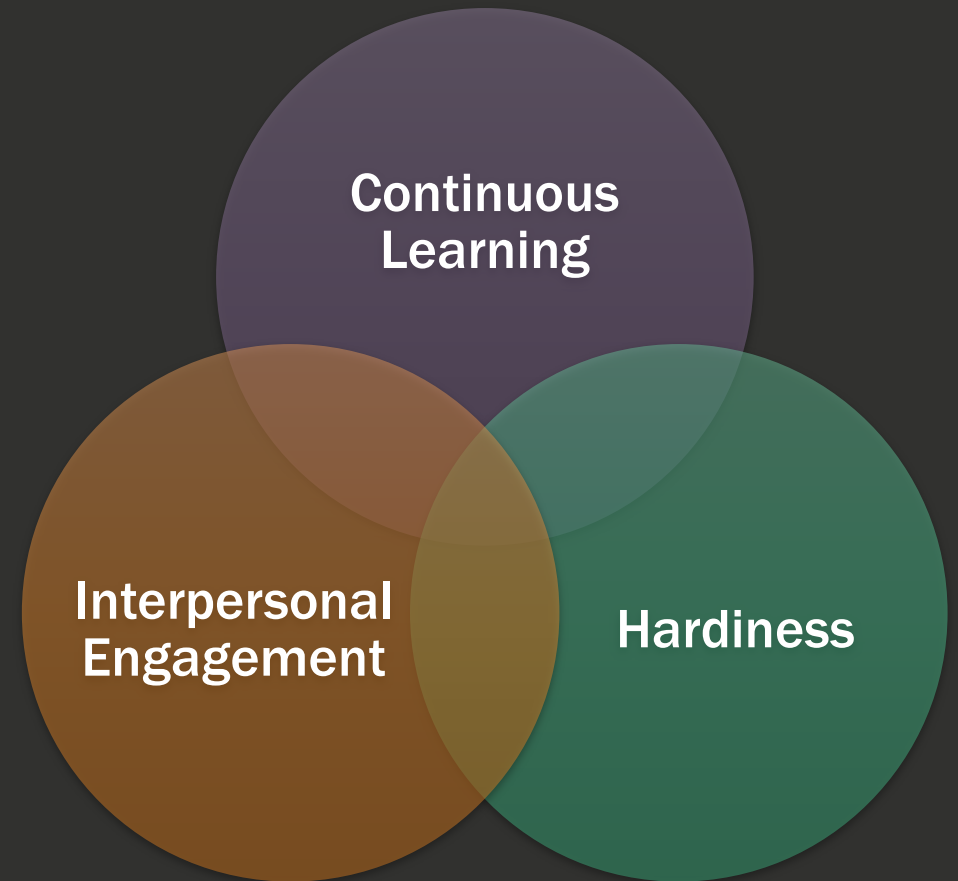
# Definitions

## Intercultural competence

- “The ability to communicate effectively and appropriately in intercultural situations based on one’s intercultural knowledge, skills and attitudes” (Deardorff, 2004, p. 194) .
- “The capability to shift cultural perspective and adapt behaviour to cultural commonality & difference” (Hammer, 2007.)

# The Intercultural Effectiveness Scale

- Based on the International Adjustment Model (Black, Mendenhall, & Oddou, 1991) .
- 3 bucket model
  1. Continuous Learning
    - Exploration & Self-Awareness
  2. Interpersonal Engagement
    - Global Mindedness & Relationship Interest
  3. Hardiness
    - Positive Regard & Emotional Resilience

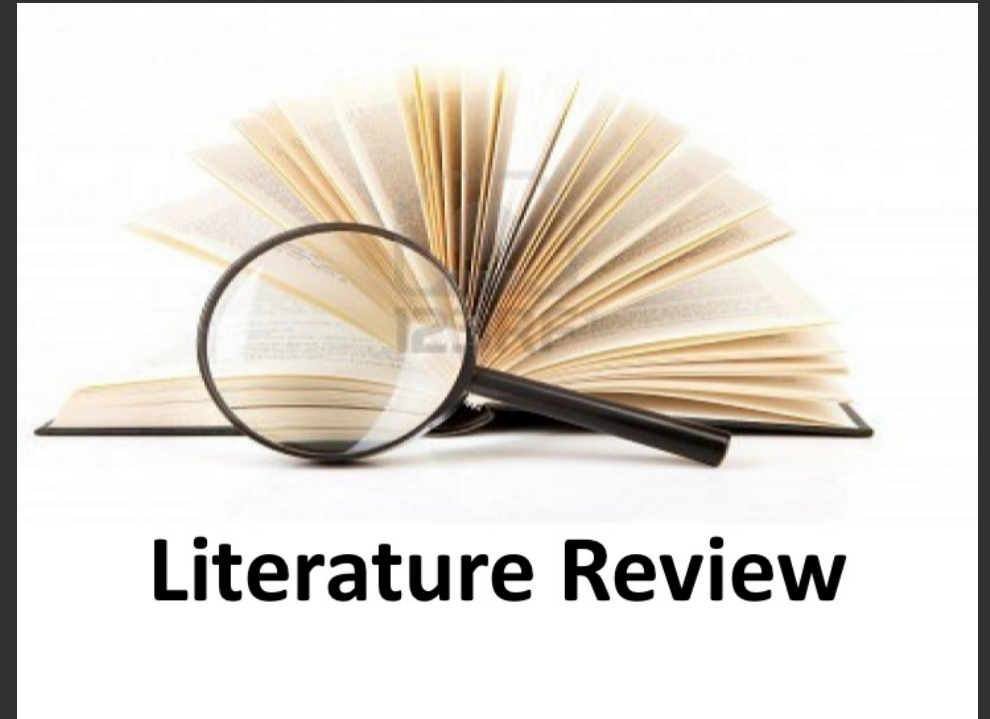




# What Have We Learned?

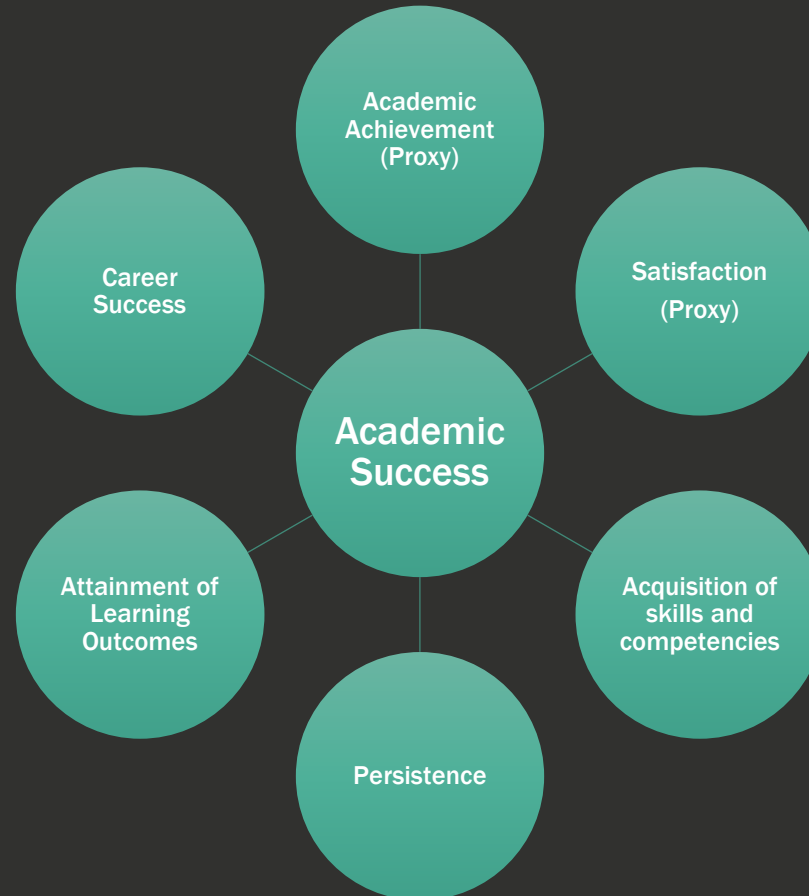
Defining and measuring academic success (York, Gibson & Rankin, 2015)

- Academic success is an umbrella term that includes a variety of outcomes.
- We need to decide what precisely we want to measure in order to identify how.
- Most studies focus on an institutional or academic definitions, which do not always coincide and do not always include student perspectives.



# Defining and Measuring Academic Success

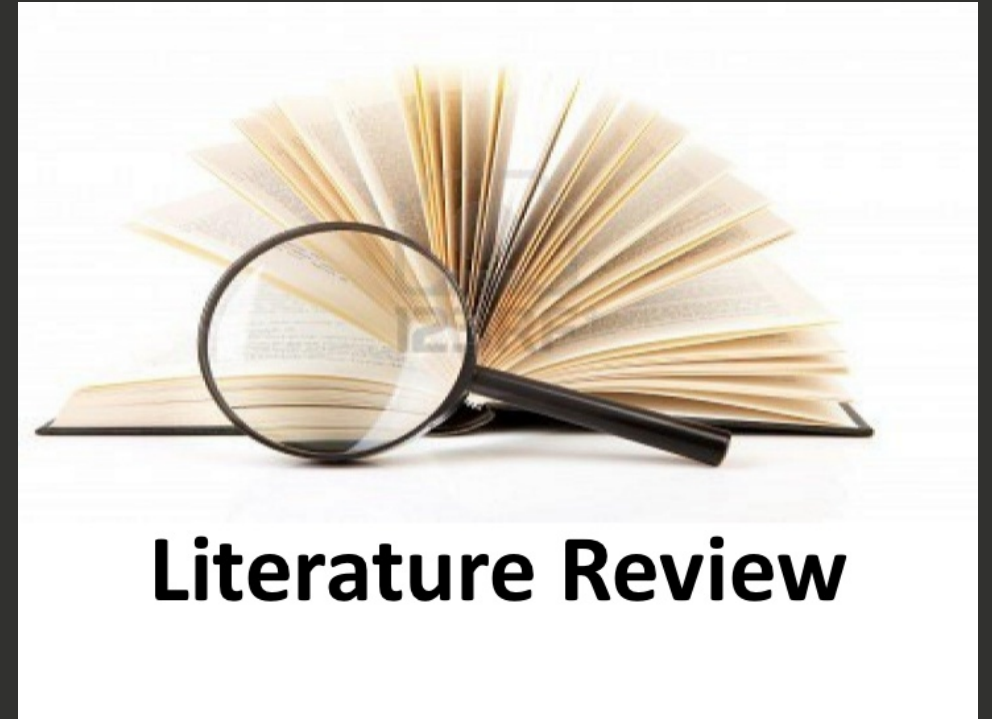
York, Gibson & Rankin (2015)



# What Have We Learned?

Identification and assessment of intercultural competence as a student outcome of internationalization (Deardorff, 2006)

- Focus of the study – overview - definition of intercultural competence and assessing intercultural competence
- 22 essential elements → Deardorff's Pyramid Model of Intercultural Competence and her Process Model of Intercultural Competence.
- Intercultural competence can be measured – needs multiple assessment methods.
- Definition of intercultural competence is dynamic – needs ongoing reassessment.
- Intercultural competence is a complex concept and has controversial aspects.

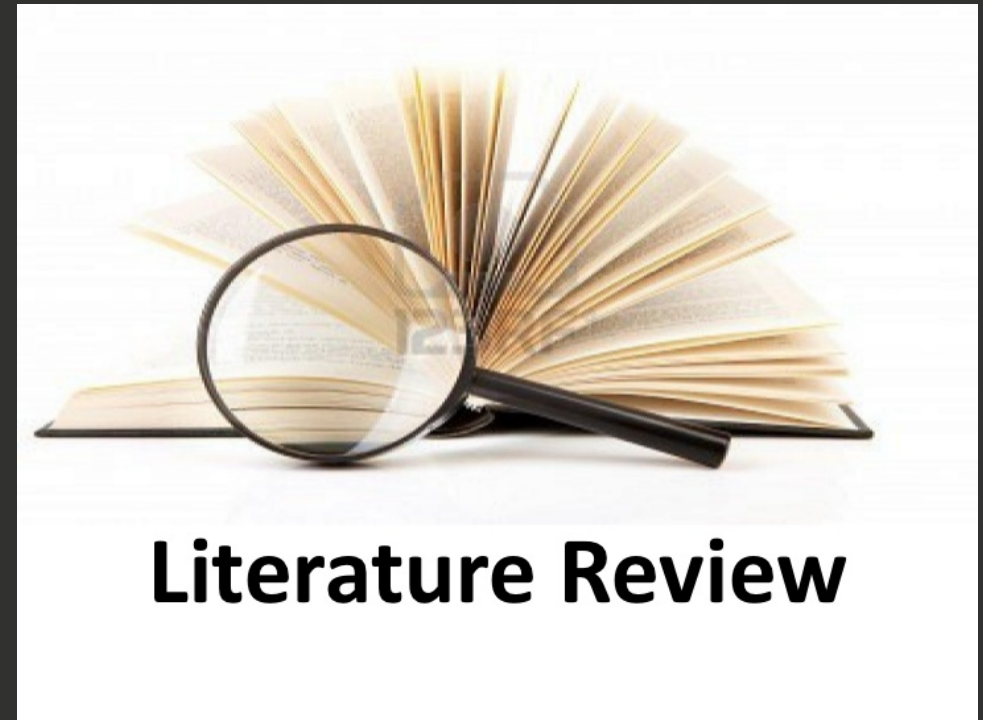


## Literature Review

# What Have We Learned?

Understanding academic performance of international students: The role of ethnicity, academic and social integration in the academic performance of students (Rientes, Beausaert, Grohnert, Niemantsverdriet & Kommers 2011)

- “Mixed-picture” on whether international students underperform in academic integration and academic performance.
- Stress, family support, social integration, identity and cultural distance were linked to academic performance of students.
- The academic integration of non-western international students is complex and non-linear.



## Literature Review

# Our questions for you:

- 1) What is your experience with the term “academic success” within an intercultural context?
  - 2) What does “intercultural effectiveness” mean to you?
- *How have your original thoughts developed and what questions or ideas do you think we should consider in our next steps?*





# Next Steps

- Finalize research question
- Set parameters for participant profile
- Develop methodology



**Thank you!**

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