



Application Guide

Introduction

The bibliographic database PsycINFO, published by the American Psychological Association, is a widely used source of information for researchers, faculty, students, and professionals in a variety of disciplines. Both educators and education researchers have discovered the value of PsycINFO for research in behavioral and psychological aspects of education, from preschool to graduate school and adult learning.

Topics in PsycINFO of Relevance to Education

Here are only a few examples of the many areas of research covered in PsycINFO that are relevant to the field of education.

Example 1. Intervention Programs for Students with Autism

A school psychologist wants to find research about intervention programs for students with autism. A PsycINFO search strategy using the search terms **Autism** and **School Based Intervention** retrieves results including the following citations:

Wilczynski, S. M., Menousek, K., Hunter, M., & Mudgal, D. (2007). **Individualized education programs for youth with autism spectrum disorders**. *Psychology in the Schools*, 44, 653-666.

Harris, S. L., & Weiss, M. J. (2007). **Right from the start: Behavioral intervention for young children with autism**. Bethesda, MD, Woodbine House.

Example 2. Instructional Methods for Online Course

A teacher is interested in finding information about effective teaching strategies for an online course. A PsycINFO search combining the search terms **Distance Education** and **Teaching Methods** retrieved the following citations:

Kanuka, H., Rourke, L., & Laflamme, E. (2007). **The influence of instructional methods on the quality of online discussion**. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 38, 260-271.

Senior, C., Reddy, P., & Woods, J. (2007). **Virtual pedagogy**. *The Psychologist*, 20, 439.

Example 3. Literacy Development for Bilingual Students

School administrators who create and set the state-wide standards for curriculum are interested in the impact of bilingualism on literacy development. PsycINFO search results using the index terms **Literacy** and **Bilingualism** yielded the following citations:

Bialystok, E. (2007). **Acquisition of literacy in bilingual children: A framework for research**. *Language Learning*, 57, 45-77.

Oller, D. K., & Jarmulowicz, L. (2007). **Language and literacy in bilingual children in the early school years**. In E. Hoff, & M. Shatz (Eds.), *Blackwell handbook of language development* pp. 368-386. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Páez, M. M., Tabors, P. O., & López, L. M. (2007). **Dual language and literacy development of Spanish-speaking preschool children**. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 28, 85-102.

For additional search strategies and training tools visit
www.apa.org/databases/training/homepage.html

Selected Search Terms

From the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*, 11th edition
www.apa.org/databases/thesaurus.html

Learning

- Self Regulated Learning
- Collaborative Learning
- Multiple Intelligences
- Academic Achievement
- Learning Strategies
- Social Learning
- Experiential Learning

Special Education

- Dyslexia
- Autism
- Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity
- Individual Education Programs
- Behavior Problems
- Speech Therapy
- Special Needs

Students

- Elementary School Students
- Graduate Students
- International Students
- Special Education Students
- College Students
- Medical Students
- ROTC Students

Academic Environment

- Class Size
- Classroom Management
- Learning Environment
- Mainstreaming (Educational)
- Virtual Classrooms
- School Violence
- Educational Incentives

Student Characteristics

- Social Loafing
- Bullying
- Gifted
- Student Engagement
- Test Anxiety
- Academic Achievement Motivation
- Musical Ability

Teaching Methods

- Individualized Instruction
- Team Teaching Method
- Peer Tutoring
- Computer Assisted Language Learning
- Group Discussion
- Discovery Teaching Method
- Montessori Method

Literacy

- Phonological Awareness
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing Skills
- Language Arts Education
- Word Recognition
- Reading Speed
- Phonics

Educational Administration

- Teacher Education
- Boards of Education
- School Counselors
- Speech Therapists
- Educational Standards
- Special Education Teachers
- Parent School Relationship

Curricula

- Mathematics Education
- Continuing Education
- Distance Education
- English as Second Language
- Multicultural Education
- Home Schooling
- Humanities

Educational Programs

- Project Head Start
- After School Programs
- Study Abroad
- School Based Intervention
- Literacy Programs
- Charter Schools
- Educational Program Evaluation

Educational Testing

- Achievement Measures
- Testing Methods
- Entrance Examinations
- Curriculum Based Assessment
- Aptitude Measures
- Cultural Test Bias
- Verbal Tests



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PsycINFO

Sample Citations

- Janus, M., & Offord, D. R. (2007). **Development and psychometric properties of the Early Development Instrument (EDI): A measure of children's school readiness.** *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science/Revue canadienne des Sciences du comportement*, 39, 1-22.
- Lacey, P., Layton, L., Miller, C., Goldbart, J., & Lawson, H. (2007). **What is literacy for students with severe learning difficulties? Exploring conventional and inclusive literacy.** *Journal of Research in Special Educational Needs*, 7, 149-160.
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- Smith, A. A. (2007). **Mentoring for experienced school principals: Professional learning in a safe place.** *Mentoring & Tutoring: Partnership in Learning*, 15, 277-291.
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- Purcell-Gates, V., Duke, N. K., & Martineau, J. A. (2007). **Learning to read and write genre-specific text: Roles of authentic experience and explicit teaching.** *Reading Research Quarterly*, 42, 8-45.
- Fletcher, J. D., Tobias, S., & Wisher, R. A. (2007). **Learning anytime, anywhere: Advanced distributed learning and the changing face of education.** *Educational Researcher*, 36, 96-102.
- Jowers, K. L., Bradshaw, C. P., & Gately, S. (2007). **Taking school-based substance abuse prevention to scale: District-wide implementation of Keep A Clear Mind.** *Journal of Alcohol and Drug Education*, 51, 73-91.
- Codding, R. S., Shiyko, M., Russo, M., Birch, S., Fanning, E., & Jaspen, D. (2007). **Comparing mathematics interventions: Does initial level of fluency predict intervention effectiveness?** *Journal of School Psychology*, 45, 603-617.
- Pierangelo, R., & Giuliani, G. (2007). **100 frequently asked questions about the special education process: A step-by-step guide for educators.** Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.

www.apa.org/psycinfo

Search
Abstracts

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Moving beyond academic achievement goal measures: A study of social achievement goals.

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Abstract

The current research explored the theory of social goal orientation. More specifically, we conducted three studies utilizing six-independent university student samples to evaluate the construct validity of the Social Achievement Goal Orientation Scale (SAGOS; Ryan & Hopkins, 2003), a measure representing the construct of social goal orientation. The purpose of Study 1 was to: (1) compare the three-dimensional (mastery, performance-approach, and performance-avoidance) model of social goal orientation to three theoretically

based competing models, (2) examine item functioning, and (3) assess generalizability of the factor structure. The fit of the proposed three-factor model was promising; however, areas of misfit and problematic items were identified. Stronger support for the three-factor structure of goal orientation was found using scores from an abbreviated 13-item SAGOS. In Study 2, item wording was altered slightly to evaluate a revised Social Achievement Goal Scale (SAGS), yet resulted in similar findings. Study 3 examined external validity evidence for the SAGS, garnering some support for the meaning of the scores. Although continued refinement of the SAGOS and SAGS is recommended, the findings help contribute to our general understanding and conceptualization of social goal theory and the role that social goals may play in academic contexts. (PsycINFO Database Record © 2007 APA, all rights reserved)

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Keywords

academic achievement; social achievement goals; goal orientation; construct validity; factor structure; motivation; competence

Index Terms

*Competence; *Factor Structure; *Goal Orientation; *Social Behavior; *Test Validity; Academic Achievement Motivation

Classification Codes

2227 Educational Measurement; 3550 Academic Learning & Achievement

Population Group

Human; Male; Female

Age Group

Adulthood (18 yrs & older); Young Adulthood (18-29 yrs); Thirties (30-39 yrs); Middle Age (40-64 yrs)

Location

US

Methodology

Empirical Study; Quantitative Study

Tests and Measures

Social Achievement Goal Orientation Survey (Appended); Social Achievement Goal Orientation Survey—Abbreviated; Attitudes Toward Learning Scale; Theories of Implicit Personality; Brief Fear of Negative Evaluation Scale; Scales of Psychological Well-Being—Positive Relationships with Others subscale; Social Achievement Goal Scale (Appended)