

Student Learning and Motivation in an Interculturally Inclusive Classroom

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Abstract : Though learning theories vary in complexity and usefulness, a thorough understanding of foundational learning theories is a necessity in today's educational environment. Additionally, learning theories lead to approaches in instruction that can affect student motivation and learning. The combination of a learning theory and elements to enhance student motivation can create a learning context where the student can thrive in their educational pursuits. This paper will provide an overview of three main learning theories: (1) Behavioral Theory, (2) Cognitive Theory, and (3) Constructivist Theory and explore their connection to elements of student learning motivation. Finally, we apply these learning theories and elements of student motivation to the following two context: (1) The FastStart Program at the Community College of Denver, and (2) An Online Academic English Language Course. We discussed potential of the program and course to have success in increasing student success outcomes.

Keywords : learning theory, student motivation, inclusive pedagogy, developmental education

Conference Title : ICCMAA 2022 : International Conference on Classroom Management, Assessment and Administration

Conference Location : Amsterdam, Netherlands

Conference Dates : August 08-09, 2022