

To Triumph in My Life

ESL students define success

Molly J. Lewis
Hartnell College
Salinas, California



Hartnell College

- 9,412 students enrolled (Spring 2006)
- Hispanic-serving Institution
 - 57% Latino
 - 29% White
 - 5% Filipino
 - 4% Asian/Pacific Islander
 - 3% African American
 - 1% American Indian
- 48% of students are 18-24 yrs; 41% \geq 30 yrs
- 47% are day only; 22% are day/eve; 31% eve only
- 54% are women

ESL at Hartnell

- 28 skills-based classes in curriculum
- 1-3 Learning Communities per semester
- Sequence: 125, 135, 145, 155, 165, 101F ⇒ 1A
- 2005-2006:
 - 1386 students enrolled in ESL classes
 - 91% Hispanic
 - 81% female

The sample: creating a profile

1. Which ESL class are you taking?

101 135 145 155 165

2. Is this your first ESL class at Hartnell College?

Yes No

What other ESL classes have you taken at Hartnell?

3. Did you ever study at an Adult School?

Yes No

4. Did you study in a U.S. high school?

Yes No

5. Where were you born? What is your first language?

6. Do you have a job now?

Yes No

What kind of work do you do?

In our sample...

N=67	L1= Spanish	Adult School	U.S. High School	Other ESL at Hartnell
ESL 135 n=21	20	14	3	14
ESL 145 n=23	22	10	7	11
ESL101F n=23	21	13	5	13

“Describe your future...”

The prompt:

Please write about your plans for your future life. What do you want to do?

Why are you studying at Hartnell College?



Students Define Their Goals

1. By naming the skill or knowledge sets they seek (N=31):
 - **Related to English**
 - improve my English
 - speak and write English
 - speak, listening and understand English language
 - **Related to a specific content or discipline**
 - learn all about real estate
 - study nurse or teacher assistant
 - learn to use very well a computer

Students Define Their Goals

2. By identifying with a profession (N=23)

- be an agronomist
- be a CPA
- become a ESL teacher
- becoming a good actor
- be a poet or writer
- my goal in a Bussines man

Students Define Their Goals

3. By identifying the outcomes they want to achieve
 - **Academic outcomes (N=23)**
 - obtain my AA in ECE
 - get a certificate and a license as LVN
 - get an AA degree in Business Technology
 - **Job-related outcomes (N=19)**
 - want better job
 - prepare for easy job
 - work in a school office with good salary and insurance
 - work at daycare or aide teacher
 -

Students Define Their Goals

4. By referring to benefits for family life (N=14)

- help my husband in his business
- help my children with their homework
- take more money to help at my patherns
- learn much more English for talk to my sons

Students Define Their Goals

5. By referring to personal fulfillment (N=4)
 - for my satisfaction and for my parents to be proud of me
 - to triumph in my life
 - to be successful on what I want to be
 - to start to change my life

In the students' words...

- “I’m in Hartnell College because my goal is to transfer the university in bussiness.”

academic outcome

- “I would like to become a teacher. “

professional identity

- “I am studying at Hartnell College because I want learn much more English for talk to my sons, and I would like to study nurse or teacher assistance.”

family benefit, skills

- I’m studying at Hartnell College, because I wan a learn how to write, read and speak English, and how to use the computers because my plans are get a job in one office.”

skills, job outcome

ESL Students Define Success

	Prof	Acad	Job	Skills	Family	Total
ESL 135 Ss	3	3	11	14	7	38
ESL 145 Ss	8	9	5	11	1	34
ESL 101 Ss	12	11	3	6	6	38
Total	23	23	19	31	14	110

Degrees of freedom: 8

Chi-square = 22.1755294449351

p is less than or equal to 0.01.

The distribution is significant.

http://schnoodles.com/cgi-bin/web_chi.cgi

http://www.georgetown.edu/faculty/ballc/webtools/web_chi.html

Conclusion

- ★ As learners develop English language proficiency, the goals they identify shift to reflect increasing identity with academically and professionally defined outcomes.

Do they enter academic content work seeing themselves several years in the future, as having progressed along academic steppingstones on a career path leading to a profession?

Contact Information

Molly J. Lewis

Coordinator, International/Intercultural Education Programs

Hartnell College

Salinas, California

mlewis@hartnell.edu

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