

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS AND MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCIES IN WORKING WITH LATINX STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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Learning Objectives

1. Understand the cultural implications of working with Latinx students/families in establishing academic accommodations.
2. Understand the concepts of “familismo” (family ties), acculturation, and multicultural competencies in working with Latinx students.
3. Identify counseling method and strategies to use during the interactive process.

Definitions

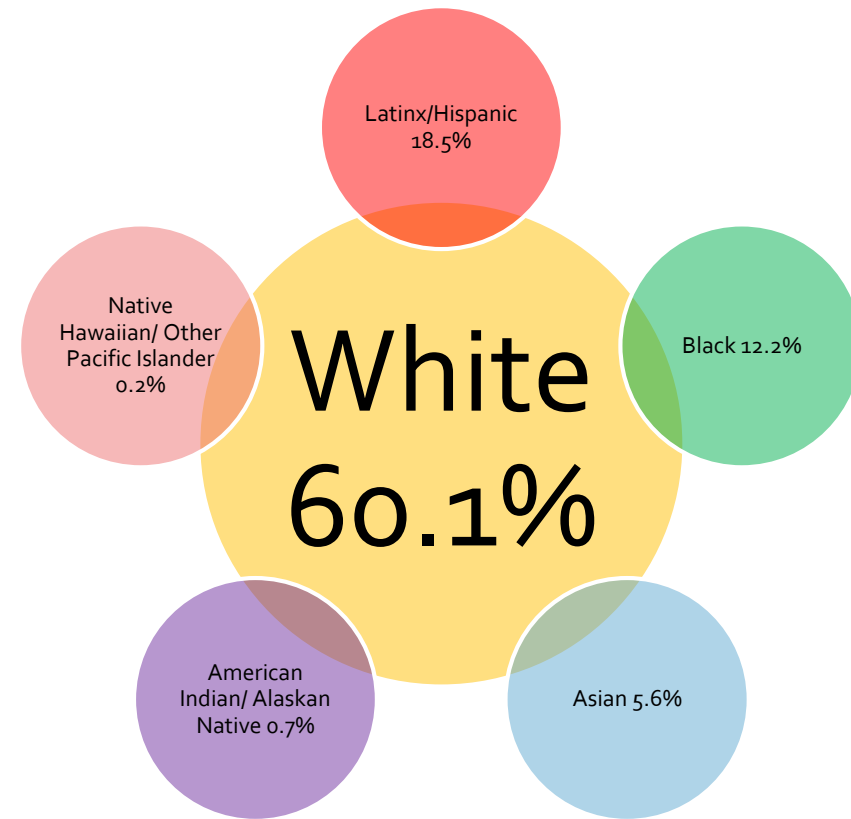
- Latinx
 - Persons of Latin American origin or decent. Term used as gender neutral and/or non-binary option in place of Latino or Latina
- Hispanic
 - Persons from Spain or Spanish speaking countries not exclude person from Brazil as the primary language is Portuguese
- Acculturation
 - Process by which groups or individuals adjust the social and cultural values, ideas, beliefs, and behavioral patterns of their culture of origin to those of a different culture

Assimilation

- Process by which groups or individuals of differing heritages are absorbed into the dominant culture of a society

United States Population by Race

- In 2020 minority children made up the majority of children in the U.S.
- According to projections there will be over 111.22 million people of Hispanic descent in the United States in 2060
- Prediction continue to push the years forward. As of 2020 it is predicted that the U. S. will be minority majority by 2041-2046
- States such as California, D.C, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Texas currently have a majority-minority population.
- By 2030 it is predicted that the White population will drop to 55.8% and Latinx increase to 21.1%
- By 2045 it is predicted that the White populations will drop below 50% in the U.S.



Latinx Student Population

- Similar to increases in the general population, the numbers of Latinx students in higher education is rapidly increasing
- Between 2000 to 2015, the number of Latinx students enrolled in colleges has doubled to 3 million
- Dream Act (Dreamers)
 - The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act
 - Legislation that grants temporary conditional residency with the right to work, to unauthorized immigrants who entered the United States as minors.
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
 - Allows for Dreamers who have been granted a social security number to fill out FAFSA, though ineligible for federal financial aid, completing FAFSA generates a Student Aid Report (SAR) outlining your eligibility to receive non-federal aid
 - 46% of the nearly 450,000 DACA recipients in higher education are Latinx

Disability in the Latinx Population

- Estimated 1,500,000 Latinx people with disabilities
- According to the Annual Disability Statistics Compendium out of nearly 2,900,000 working age Latinx people, nearly 1,100,000 do not have jobs
- Disproportionate rates of Disability in Latinx Communities
 - Latinx people between the ages of 16-20 have the prevalence rate of disability of 5.1% compared to 5.4% of non-Latinx populations
 - Latinx people disability rates may be influenced by family beliefs and collectivist views
 - Latinx people may have been misdiagnosed that did not result in services in K-12
 - Grades attributed to language barrier versus a disability
- Disproportionate Access to Services
 - Of disabilities likely to be seen in a disability offices, only 33% of Latinx adults with mental illnesses are likely to receive treatment services compared to the U.S. average of 43% receiving treatment services

CULTURAL BELIEFS REGARDING DISABILITY IN THE LATINX POPULATION

Developing an understanding of how a Latinx student may view, define, and otherwise responds to a disability from a cultural perspective.

Cultural Beliefs and Disability

Four concepts factor into how a culture defines and views disability and disability services:

1. The perceived cause of the disability and/or the stigma related to the perceived cause.
2. The collectivists beliefs of the culture.
3. The valued and devalued attributes of persons with disabilities.
4. The cultural beliefs regarding help seeking behaviors and/or beliefs.

Cultural Factors in Latinx College Student Population

- Immigration and acculturation concerns
 - DACA
- The role of the family, community and religion
 - Familismo
- Collectivist nature of culture
- Language of origin/Language of identity
- Pressure to fit in with the culture of dominant society but also hold on to their familial culture

Familismo

- Familismo- central cultural value for Latinx people. This describes the attachment, dedication, commitment to ones immediate and extended family. Decisions are often made as a group rather than individually
 - Recognizing the collectivist culture will benefit the student and coordinator
 - Include the family in the conversation
 - Succeeding is the goal of the group, not the individual

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE
CHALLENGES THAT MAY
AFFECT LATINX STUDENTS
WITH DISABILITIES IN HIGHER
EDUCATION?**

Barriers to Service

- Latinx students experienced negative interactions with service providers
- There are a limited amount of Spanish speaking counselors in higher education
- There is limited access to translators
- Latinx students may feel disconnected from U.S. traditions and customs
- Latinx people sometimes have negative perception of mental health
- Latinx people may feel shame for having a disability
- Latinx students may not have health insurance due to undocumented status and cost
- If the Latinx student is undocumented, they may fear deportation

Case Study:

- Fernando comes in for an appointment with his mother. You hear her call her son “mijo” on the way in. Student is wearing glasses and a gold crucifix chain that he holds throughout the intake. During your meeting you notice that the mother holds Fernando’s hand and speaks in Spanish when directly speaking to him. When discussing accommodations he tells you about shaky hands due to his autism. He also wants to sign a release so you can speak to his mother at any time.

What accommodations or recommendations do you have?

Case Study - continued:

During the course of the semester he has an issue with a professor for having a lab assistant in class with him. When he comes in for exams, you notice that he holds the crucifix, whispers underneath his breath, and makes the sign of the cross. One day as he leaves he asks if you have talked to his mom lately and he tells you she lit a candle for you after you met, and at the end of the conversation, he tells you to have a good day and “que Dios te bendiga.”

Why do you think the lab assistant was an issue for the professor? What do you infer about him after witnessing his prep for the exam and his conversation with you?

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WAYS TO ADDRESS BARRIERS FOR LATINX STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies and Standards

- Counselor/Service Provider Self-Awareness
- Client/Student Worldview
- The Service Provider-Student Relationship
- Service and Advocacy Interventions
- Service Providers must first become aware of their own values, beliefs and biases.
- Multicultural and Social Justice-informed attitudes, beliefs and knowledge provide the building blocks for developing culturally based interventions.

Intervention Strategies

- Consider what intellectual/psychological assessments were used to diagnose students as they may not have accurately captured the abilities of a Latinx student
- Assist students in being proactive about creating rapport with their professors as this can create the collectivist relationship that Latinx student value
- Be able to identify your DACA students as they have to renew their DACA every two years, this may cause additional mental health issues
- Have office pamphlets and website information available in Spanish
- Latinx students hold Speaking Spanish as a value of personal identity, be mindful of how this impacts their ability to connect with counselors

Culturally Integrated Services

- Think of yourself as part of the Latinx student's collective unit
- Accommodations should be a collaborated effort with the student and their family
- When going through the interactive process with Latinx students, include a conversation about campus resources available for them
- When scheduling meetings for Latinx students, utilize a Spanish speaking counselor or a translator to ease potential language barriers
- Latinx people are more likely to acculturate versus assimilate, though they adopt some of the cultural attributes of dominant society, they still hold on their culture as well, therefore, be mindful that speaking to both cultural values is necessary to provide culturally sensitive services
- Schedule regular meetings to cultivate stronger counselor/student relationships

QUESTIONS?

“OUR GOAL IS TO HELP ADDRESS THE NEED FOR INFORMATION, GUIDANCE, AND SUPPORT FOR PARENTS IN THE LATINX COMMUNITY WHO MAY HAVE A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY. AS AN IMMIGRANT PARENT, I WANT TO INSPIRE OTHER PARENTS TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN AND SET HIGH EXPECTATION FOR THEIR COMMUNITY. DOING SO WILL STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND ELEVATE OUR COLLECTIVE POTENTIAL.”

-DR. VICTOR PINEDA

Thank You!