

Learning problems reported by college students: are they using learning strategies.

Learning Problems Reported by College Students: Are They Using Learning Strategies?

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Abstract:

As teachers of higher education, we expect students to enter college with some understanding of what it means to be a learner and the ability to apply effective learning strategies. Unfortunately, many students do not develop effective learning strategies unless they receive explicit instruction and the opportunity to apply these skills. The current study focuses on students' self-reported problems engaging in several academic tasks. We hypothesized that students would report more learning difficulties as they matriculated through the curriculum. This study also identified which learning difficulties are most common according to student self-reports. Student behaviors related to studying and learning strategies were assessed with a new version of the Learning Needs Questionnaire. Factor analysis identified fourteen factors related to academic learning. Regardless of academic classification, students reported learning problems related to poor information processing, lack of motivation to study, math, and test taking skills. Test anxiety was the only factor that demonstrated a significant relationship to academic classifications. Recommendations are made to improve student use of learning strategies across the college.

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