

## ABSTRACT

Lozano, Aliber. A Comparison Study of AVID and GEAR UP Students' Anticipation, Aspirations, and College Preparatory Measures in Two High Schools in the Rio Grande Valley. Doctor of Education (Ed.D), February, 22, 2007, pp. 140, 5 Tables.

This study examines three groups of high school students enrolled in two college preparatory programs, AVID and GEAR UP, and a control group not enrolled in a college preparatory program. The purpose of this study was to assess the differences in educational aspirations and educational anticipations between the four groups of high school seniors. The study also measured whether any change in educational aspirations and educational anticipations within the four groups existed between the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Additionally, the researcher identified the college preparatory measures that had been achieved by the four participant groups.

A mixed method design was used to analyze the data. The instrument used to assess educational aspirations and anticipations was the *Survey of College Preparation*. Analyses of variance were used to determine whether there were differences in educational aspirations and educational anticipations among the four participants in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Paired sample t-tests were employed to determine if there were significant changes in 10<sup>th</sup> grade levels of aspiration and anticipation compared to 12<sup>th</sup> levels. In addition, descriptive statistics were used

throughout the study. Lastly, a review of students' high school transcripts was used to detect for emergent patterns in the college preparatory measures achieved by each participant group.

The review of the literature of intervention programs identified the theoretical framework for this study. The framework was based on Pierre Bourdieu's framework of cultural and social capital.

The findings of this study indicate that there are no differences in educational aspirations. However, the findings indicate that there were significant differences in educational anticipations between the four participant groups in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade and a difference in change in anticipations occurred between 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The findings also identified emergent patterns in college preparatory measures that aligned with the high aspirations and anticipations of the four participant groups. Lastly, the findings indicate that the intervention programs, GEAR UP and AVID, may be providing the participants the access to the benefits of social and cultural capital that may have otherwise not been available to them.