

Teaching Psychology of Migration with local partnerships: Interdisciplinary and experiential approach



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Purpose of new course: In Canada more than 40% of the population are 1st or 2nd generation immigrants, it is crucial to provide students with opportunities that embrace the diverse experiences of migrants. Despite the extensive research on migration psychology, the lack of teaching resources can marginalize migrants in psychology programs. Incorporating the psychology of migration into the curriculum can enhance students' interdisciplinary understanding of psychology and promote experiential learning.

Class Description

Classroom learning

Integrate psychological research from different sub-disciplines to learn about migrants' experiences holistically.

Discuss and connect with CEL.
(Community engaged learning)

Service-learning

Volunteer one to two hours per week in an organization to provide language supports, help new comers with cultural learning, or organize events for migrant children or youth.

Individual Assignments

Knowledge translation: Search for articles and create lay summaries for a non-university audience, such as infographics or short video. Reflect on the usefulness of the knowledge for the community they work in.

Group Assignments

Mock textbook chapter: Students create a textbook-style chapter on a topic in the psychology of migration.

Presentation: Each group give a presentation about their research, followed by scholarly discussions.

Community Partners

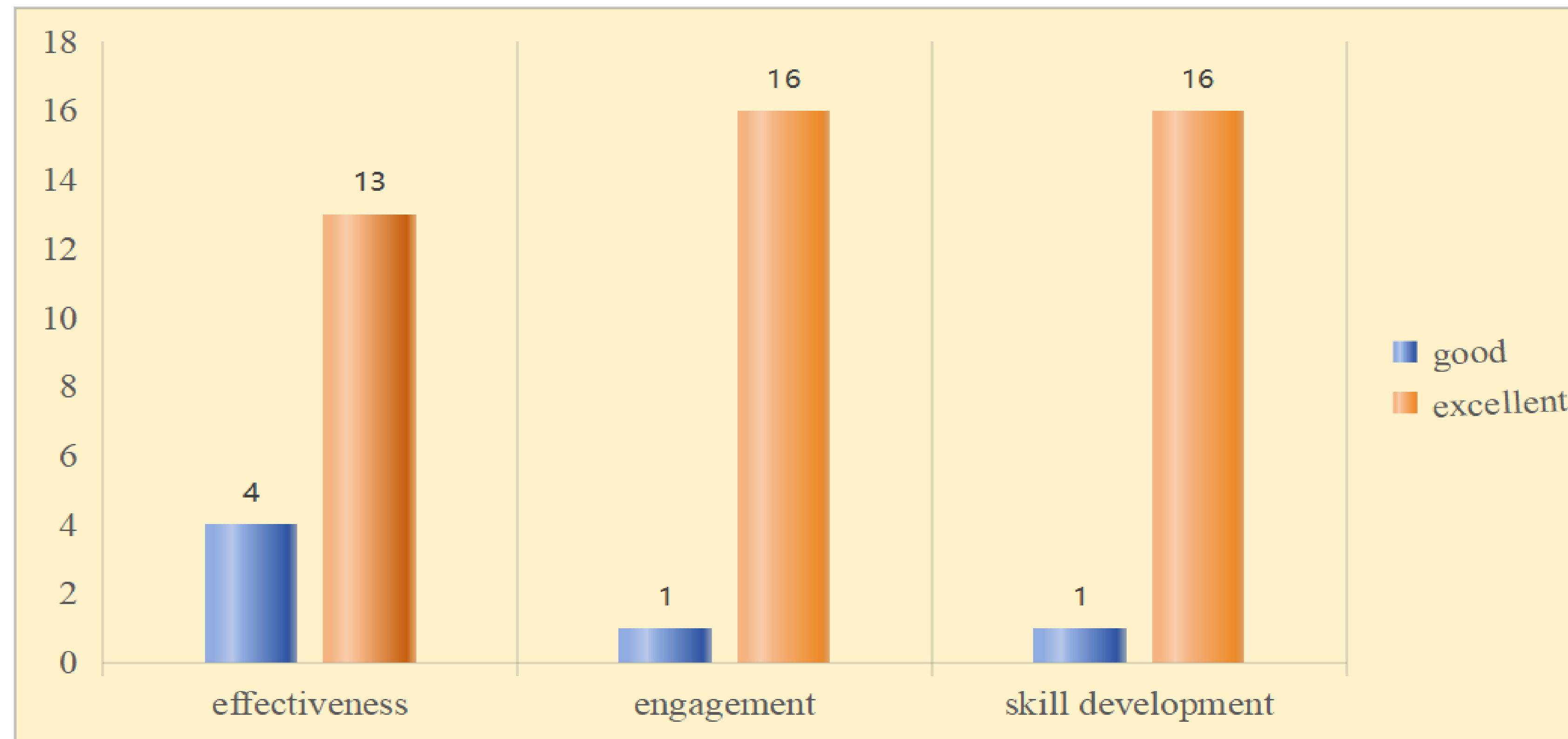


Course materials

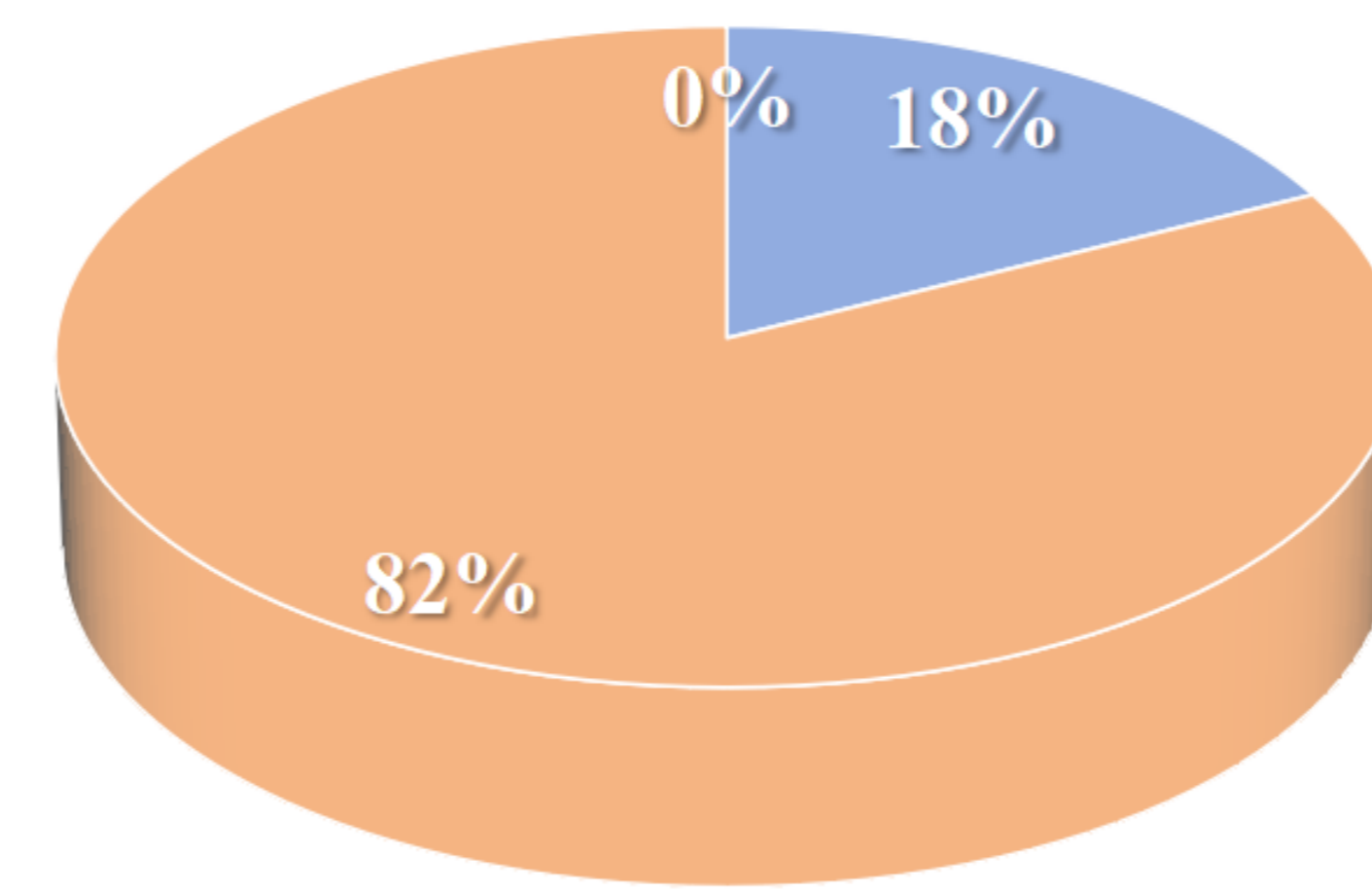
<https://osf.io/txd2r/>



Students' perspective on the course



All respondents believe that the course has yielded **positive** outcomes, with the majority rating the results as excellent.



82% of respondents believe the course has **increased** their interest, while 18% have maintained their interest and 0% indicated decreased.

Student interview

“It was one of the best opportunities I had to get into the workforce during my degree.”

“Multiple perspectives on this complex topic made the class time enjoyable.”

Implications

In addition to CEL, instructors may use a combination of literature, films, and invite guest speakers that highlight the diverse experience within migrant community.

Culturally responsive approach deepens students' understanding of diverse migrants' experience.

Future researchers may investigate how different types of community services in psychology may influence intercultural competence and interaction within migrants from different cultures.

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