If you want to determine whether particular literature has:

- Relevant reach
- Interpretive power
- Applicability to America’s diverse population

You need:

- Relevant search terms

AACN defines diversity in its broadest sense, including but not limited to:

- Ethnicity
- Culture
- Linguistic background
- Sexual orientation
- Deafness/disability
- Socioeconomic status

However, not all authors use these exact terms when discussing these issues. If you are having challenges in thinking of search terms or finding relevant literature, here are some resources:

- Common terms are found in these appendices:
  - [APA Multicultural Guidelines](https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/thesaurus): Appendix A
  - [APA Race & Ethnicity Guidelines](https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/thesaurus): Appendices A & B

- If you have access to PsycINFO, it includes a Psychological Index Term Thesaurus to help you tap the relevant literature.
  - [https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/thesaurus](https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/thesaurus)

- The National Institutes of Health and National Library of Medicine also maintain medical subject heading (MeSH) guides that facilitate access to relevant literature and semantically-related terms.
  - You can browse terms directly in MeSH:
For example, searching for “cross cultural” leads to several heading results:

- Culturally Competent Care
  - Cross-Cultural Care
  - Cultural Care
  - Culturally Competent Health Care
  - Culturally Congruent Care

- Cross-Cultural Comparison

- Tumor Cells, Cultured
  - Cultured Neoplastic Cells
  - Cultured Tumor Cells
  - Neoplastic Cells, Cultured

- Embryo Culture Techniques
  - Blastocyst Culture Techniques

- Crosses, Genetic
  - Cross, Genetic
  - Genetic Cross
  - Genetic Crosses

- Cultural Evolution
  - Evolution, Cultural

- Cultural Competency
  - Cultural Competence

If you click on one of the terms, it gives you a brief definition and related terms, and allows you to browse its classification tree:
Culturally Competent Care MeSH Descriptor Data 2020

- MeSH Heading: Culturally Competent Care
- Tree Number(s): N04.590.374.052
- N05.300.206
- Unique ID: D065246
- RDF Unique Identifier: http://id.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/D065246

Scope Note: Health care services that are respectful of and responsive to the health beliefs, practices and cultural and linguistic needs of diverse patients. The provider and the patient each bring their individual learned patterns of language and culture to the health care experience which must be transcended to achieve equal access and quality health care.

- Entry Term(s): Cross-Cultural Care
- Cultural Care
- Culturally Competent Health Care
- Culturally Congruent Care

NLM Classification:
- W 84.5
- Previous Indexing: Clinical Competence (1994-2014)
- See Also:
  - Clinical Competence
  - Cultural Competency

Public MeSH Note: 2015
- History Note: 2016
- Date Established: 2015/01/01
- Date of Entry: 2014/06/26
- Revision Date: 2018/06/29

Health Care Quality, Access, and Evaluation [N05]
- Delivery of Health Care [N05.300]
  - After-Hours Care [N05.300.049]
  - Attitude of Health Personnel [N05.300.100]
  - Attitude to Death [N05.300.125]
  - Attitude to Health [N05.300.150]
  - Culturally Competent Care [N05.300.206]
  - Delivery of Health Care, Integrated [N05.300.262]
  - Health Care Costs [N05.300.375]
  - Health Care Reform [N05.300.380]
  - Health Expenditures [N05.300.385]
  - Health Priorities [N05.300.400]
  - Health Resources [N05.300.420]
  - Health Services Accessibility [N05.300.430]
  - Health Services Needs and Demand [N05.300.450]
  - Healthcare Disparities [N05.300.493]

- ...Or you can use MeSH within PubMed to broaden your search:

For example, if you are searching for the impact of socioeconomic status on Alzheimer’s incidence and cognition. You could use “ses alzheimer incidence,” and select an article:
1. Socioeconomic disparities in clinical trials on Alzheimer's disease: a systematic review.

Nevertheless, characteristics relating to socioeconomic status (SES) are poorly described in research reports. The aim of the present review was to verify whether the SES of participants is adequately reported in interventional studies targeting Alzheimer’s disease (AD), and to explore the impact of SES proxy measures on the efficacy of the considered medications. ...Only one RCT (n = 60) performed ad hoc, secondary analyses accounting for the SES of participating subjects. CONCLUSIONS: The research and clinical relevance of SES has mistakenly been overlooked by the vast majority of RCTs on AD. ...


Attained SES moderated common sources of influences for 3 domains and influences unique to cognition in all 4 domains. The net effect was that genetic influences on the common pathway tended to be relatively more important at the upper end of attained SES indicating possible active rGE, whereas, genetic influences for the unique pathway were proportionally stable or less important at the upper end of attained SES. ...Accounting for rearing SES did not alter attained SES moderation effects on cognitive performance, suggesting mechanisms germane to adulthood. ...

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PMID: 30335430  PMCID: PMC6263814  DOI: 10.1037/dev0000576

Abstract

We examined whether attained socioeconomic status (SES) moderated genetic and environmental sources of individual differences in cognitive performance using pooled data from 9 adult twin studies. Prior work concerning SES moderation of cognitive performance has focused on rearing SES. The current adult sample of 12,196 individuals (aged 27–98 years) allowed for the examination of common sources of individual differences in attained SES and cognitive performance (signaling potential gene–environment correlation mechanisms, rGE), as well as sources of individual differences unique to cognitive performance (signaling potential gene–environment interaction mechanisms, G × E). Attained SES moderated sources of individual differences in 4 cognitive domains, assessed via performance on 5 cognitive tests ranging 2,149 to 8,722 participants. Attained SES moderated common sources of influences for 3 domains and influences unique to cognition in all 4 domains. The net effect was that genetic influences on the common pathway tended to be relatively more important at the upper end of attained SES indicating possible active rGE, whereas, genetic influences for the unique pathway were proportionally stable or less important at the upper end of attained SES. As a noted exception, at the upper end of attained SES, genetic influences unique to perceptual speed were amplified and genetic influences on the common pathway were dampened. Accounting for rearing SES did not alter attained SES moderation effects on cognitive performance, suggesting mechanisms germane to adulthood. Our findings suggest the importance of gene–environment mechanisms through which attained SES moderates sources of individual differences in cognitive performance.

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You can see the MeSH metadata, and use that to broaden or narrow your search by adding those terms to your search list.

MeSH terms

- Adult
- Aged
- Aged, 80 and over
- Cognition / physiology
- Female
- Gene-Environment Interaction
- Humans
- Individuality
- Male
- Middle Aged
- Social Class

Actions

Search in PubMed
Search in MeSH
Add to Search

US: National Institutes of Health

Show all 14 grants
You can see that we added two of the MeSH terms from the first article to our search (social class & cognition). This has now led to a slightly different search with relevant results that were not obtained with our initial search.