

# EMOTIONAL CLIMATE IN A UNIVERSITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT WELL-BEING AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

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The emotional climate of a university significantly influences student experiences, academic performance, and overall well-being. This article examines the components of emotional climate within an academic setting, its measurement, and its impact.

**Key words:** emotional climate; interpersonal relationships; inclusive practices; student engagement index; organisational culture.

## ЭМОЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ КЛИМАТ В УНИВЕРСИТЕТЕ: ВЛИЯНИЕ НА САМОЧУВСТВИЕ И АКАДЕМИЧЕСКУЮ УСПЕШНОСТЬ СТУДЕНТОВ

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Эмоциональный климат университета оказывает значительное влияние на переживания студентов, их успеваемость и общее самочувствие. В данной статье рассматриваются компоненты эмоционального климата в академической среде, его измерение и влияние.

**Ключевые слова:** эмоциональный климат; межличностные отношения; инклюзивные практики; индекс вовлеченности студентов; организационная культура.

Emotional climate refers to the prevailing feelings and attitudes that characterise a specific environment. In a university context, it encompasses the collective emotions of students, faculty, and staff, shaping interactions and the overall academic experience. Understanding emotional climate is crucial for fostering an inclusive and supportive educational atmosphere.

Here are the components of emotional climate:

1. Interpersonal relationships. The quality of relationships among students, faculty, and administrative staff plays a vital role. Positive interactions foster a sense of belonging, while negative experiences can lead to isolation and anxiety. Strong relationships foster collaboration, engagement, and a sense of community, all of which enhance the learning experience. Open and respectful communication is the foundation of solid relationships. Regular interactions between students, faculty, and staff help build trust and

understanding. Encouraging dialogue through meetings, social events, and feedback sessions can strengthen these connections.

2. Support systems. Availability and accessibility of mental health resources, counseling services, and academic support contribute to the emotional climate. Institutions that prioritise mental well-being create a more supportive atmosphere for students. Mentorship programs, advising sessions, and counseling services are vital. These provide students with guidance and faculty staff with insights into student needs, fostering a sense of belonging.

3. Inclusive practices. A university that embraces diversity and inclusivity nurtures a positive emotional climate. Policies promoting equity and representation minimise feelings of marginalisation among students. Each group brings unique perspectives and experiences to the table. Acknowledging and valuing these differences create an atmosphere of mutual respect. Faculty should recognize student contributions, while students can appreciate the efforts of staff members supporting their education. Promoting inclusivity ensures that all voices are heard and valued. Encouraging participation from diverse groups fosters a richer learning environment and helps in building relationships across various demographics.

4. Organisational culture. The overarching ethos of the institution, including its mission, values, and engagement in community-building activities, influences the emotional climate. Cultivating a culture of respect and collaboration enhances emotional well-being. Conflicts may arise, but how they are handled can either strengthen or weaken relationships. Implementing conflict resolution strategies and promoting a culture of understanding can help in addressing issues constructively. Offering professional development for faculty and staff can enhance their ability to connect with students. Training in areas like emotional intelligence and communication can help them better understand student challenges.

Prioritising the quality of relationships among students, faculty, and staff can lead to a more enriching educational experience. By fostering open communication, mutual respect, supportive systems, and inclusivity, universities can create a nurturing environment where everyone thrives. It's essential to remember that these relationships are dynamic and require ongoing attention and nurturing.

Research demonstrates that emotional climate can be assessed through surveys, focus groups, and observational studies. Indicators may include student-reported levels of stress, feelings of belonging, and perceptions of faculty support. Tools like the Student Engagement Index [1, p. 64] can provide insightful data regarding emotional well-being. It's a metric used to assess how actively students participate in their educational environment. It encompasses various dimensions of engagement, including academic

involvement, emotional commitment, and social interaction. A high Student Engagement Index typically indicates that students are investing in their learning and are more likely to succeed academically.

So, academic engagement includes participation in class, attendance rate and homework completion. Emotional engagement involves motivation, interest in learning and sense of belonging. Social engagement includes peer interaction and community involvement. Mentorship and support, opportunities for collaboration through group projects, study groups, and extracurricular activities, engagement in campus events, clubs, and organizations foster a sense of community.

A positive emotional climate is associated with increased student engagement, retention, and academic performance. Students thriving in a supportive environment report higher satisfaction levels and improved mental health outcomes. Conversely, a negative emotional climate can lead to heightened stress, decreased motivation, and a decline in academic achievement.

Creating a positive emotional climate in universities is paramount for fostering student success and well-being. Institutions must prioritize relationship-building, support services, inclusive practices, and a healthy organizational culture. By understanding and improving the emotional climate, universities can better equip students to navigate their academic journeys and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

### **Библиографический список**

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