Chinese University Students’ Achievement Goals and Career Decision-Making

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Abstract. If one’s career decision represents career goals to a large extent, university study should serve the need to pursue their career in some way, and thus their goal orientations in academic settings would be relevant to their career decisions. This study surveyed 137 Chinese university students’ achievement goals and their career decision-making. Results showed that students who reported to be more mastery-approach oriented were more decisive in their career choice, and more knowledgeable about their future career. Students who reported to be more performance-avoidance orientation did not see the importance of making a career decision. Among the different types of achievement goal orientations, performance-avoidance orientation showed the strongest relationship with career-decision making variables. When male and female students were examined separately, the correlations between achievement goals and career decision making showed different patterns.