

APPENDIX A

CODEBOOK OF TRANSCRIPTS

Code cluster	Code	Definition/clarification
Reasons for SEA	Micro-level	
	1.1 Personality	Some kinds of participant personalities facilitate success. (see more in sub-codes)
	Have a vision/dream/plan	Have a success vision or dream at earlier age.
	Interested in study/research	Have strong interesting about participant's current research area.
	Good at finding resources	Know how to find useful resources and use them to facilitate their success.
	Good earlier education foundation	The courses study in preschool and primary school was very good (with high exam scores).
	Being a good student	Following the teachers' instructions; Obey the school's rules; have high exam scores, etc.
	Good at finding opportunities	When there is a good opportunity, they are prepared and can get the opportunity.
	Balance for all disciplines	Did a good job for all the participants. Do not tend to go overboard on one or some participants.
	Good at study	Have special study methods; spend less time but have better outcomes; high learning efficiency.
Good language ability	Good at English study.	
Alternate study with rest	Know how to combine exertion and rest, a very high learning efficiency.	
	Mezzo-level	
	1.2 Important person	Have important person help/impact/facilitate participant's success.

Wu, S., Wu, Q., Wei, X., Bledsoe, S. E., & Ansong, D. (2020). Exploring factors for achieving successful educational attainment among Chinese doctoral students in the United States. *Journal of International Students*, 10(2), 244-264.
<https://doi.org/10.32674/jis.v10i2.844>

Code cluster	Code	Definition/clarification
	1.3 Previous educational experience	Experiences from preschool to undergraduate or master's study facilitate success.
	1.4 Home environment	Conditions from family facilitate participant's success.
	Satisfied by teacher	A teacher expressed appreciation about participant's study, personality, abilities, etc.
	Previous experiences in China	Previous working or research experiences in China facilitate participant's success.
	Best education condition	Studied in good schools, with good teachers, and enough educational facilities.
<hr/> Macro-level <hr/>		
	Good community environment	Satisfied with the good community environment, home location facilitates success.
	Social policy/society	Some national or local policies that facilitate participant's success.
	Social network	Social relations, social capital
<hr/> Other <hr/>		
	Lucky	Good fortune.
1.1 Personality	Persistence	Once they have a goal/plan, they will try their best to persist on the goal/plan until success.
	Diligence	Hard working; study very hard.
	Organized	Things are well planned and they can organize things in a regular/good order.
	Competitive	Always want to be the best student, and eager to do well in everything.
	Self-control	Try best to focus on studying.
	Intellect	Have a good logic thinking.
	Easy going /communicate	Can get along well with others.

Code cluster	Code	Definition/clarification
	Compassionate /simple	
	Timid	Afraid teacher, parents, and afraid of doing some bad actions and having bad manners, etc.
	Confidence	
	Independent	
	Very smart	Be by nature endowed with remarkable talents, especially on study.
	Truthful	
	Passionate	Full of energy (don't feel tired) about studying.
	Optimistic	
	Righteous	
1.2 Important person	Teacher	
	Peers/friends/classmates	
	Mother	
	Spouse/partner/girl-or- friends	
	Father	
	Relatives/neighbors	
	Siblings	
1.3 Educational experiences in China	Preschool experiences	
	Primary school experiences	
	Middle school experiences	
	High school experiences	
	Undergraduate study experiences	
	Master study experiences	

Code cluster	Code	Definition/clarification
1.4 Home environment	Supportive family	Parents often encourage and praise participant.
	Good family economic situation	Enough money to meet all of participant's education need, including buying books, tutoring, etc.
	Parenting	Parents spent enough time to company with; live with them, and have a good relationship.
	Tutoring	Parents tutoring participant's studying, homework; or pay money for others to tutor.
