

# Research and Analysis on the Ideological Status of Contemporary Young College Students

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**ABSTRACT.** *students in art colleges and universities have more unique artistic temperament and personality comparing to others. Thus, the ideological and political education to them should be more targeted strategy, rather than the simple repetition of the methods applied to the comprehensive universities. Only in this way can we improve the quality of the ideological and political education for students in the higher institutes and colleges of Arts. Based on the research on the ideological trends of students in art colleges and universities, this article analyzes and summarizes the characteristics and the reason behind of the ideological status of college students in different grades, and puts forward methods of ideological and political education for college students regarding to different grades.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Index terms-art colleges and universities; Young students in universities and colleges; Research on ideological status; Ideological characteristics*

## 1. Introduction

At the forum on literature and art in 2018, Xi Jinping, the president of China and general secretary of CCP, pointed out that “All artists should follow their artistic ideals, which means they should have noble personalities and social responsibilities in addition to professional skills”. As the cradle of inheritors of socialist culture, the task for art colleges and universities is not only to build the artistic abilities for the students, but also to construct a solid ideological foundation for them, so that the students can have good moral character. To achieve this, art colleges and universities should always give priority to ideological and political education, which should be infiltrated into every aspects of teaching. Furthermore, the educators should adapt their methods to the features of contemporary art students and have good knowledge of the ideological trends of students in different grades. Besides, the methods of ideological and political education should be more advanced and targeted. All the methods mentioned above are to construct a solid ideological foundation for teaching of noble ideology, high moral level and professional competence for art major students.

## 2. The Ideological Status of Present College Students of All Grades in Art Colleges and Universities

With higher education and increased social experience, college students' ideology gradually mature throughout their four-years education. The ideological status of the students in different grades is constantly changing while facing with a variety of ideological confusion and problems. As we can see, there are inherent law in it. The National Academy of Chinese Theater Arts where I work attaches great importance to the change process of college students' ideological status. Each year, we carries out research on ideological trends of our students in different aspects, including learning attitude, academic atmosphere, ideology and life style. Every year, questionnaires are randomly delivered to students, among which there are 930 valid paper in 2016, 1,238 in 2017 and 1,684 in 2019. Through the statistical analysis of the questionnaire results, we can get the following result.

### 2.1 Learning Attitude

Student attendance can directly reflect students' learning attitude. According to the survey data, 93.2% of the students' attendance rate is over 90%. 5.7% of the students' attendance rate is between 89% to 70%. 5.7% of the students' attendance rate is between 89% to 70%. 0.5% of the students' attendance rate is between 69% to 50%. The rest of 0.6% students' attendance rate is bellow 49%.

To be more specific, attendance varies slightly between grades. The attendance of freshmen was the highest, 96.7% of students reached the attendance of more than 90%. The juniors enjoy the percentage of 91.7% while

the sophomores enjoy the lowest percentage of 91.7%. Seniors are not taken into consideration because they don't have to take classes in their last year in college.

As the what the results has shown, 38.5% of students often do preview and review. The percentage goes up with the grade. In the classroom, 41 percent of students often ask questions, the proportion rises with their grades.. In addition, 37.4 percent of students often ask questions from their teachers, the proportion rises with their grades as well.

## 2.2 Academic Atmosphere

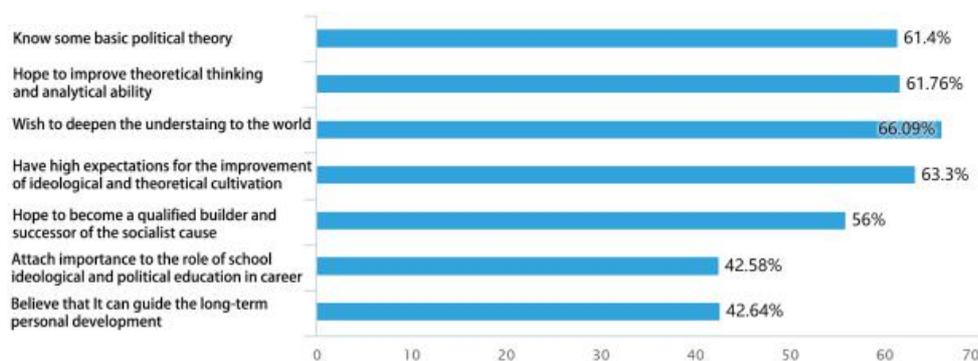
We analyzed the students' academic atmosphere from five aspects, including evaluation of the teacher's teaching, evaluation of student management, evaluation of creating the academic atmosphere, overall evaluation of the teaching situation of the college and the evaluation of the learning out of classroom. The sophomores rated the highest rate on the specialized courses and the teacher's teaching. For the evaluation of student management, the highest degree of satisfaction is among the sophomores, while the lowest degree is among the freshmen.

## 2.3 Ideology

1) Students have a higher level of ideological and political, and have a variety of expectations for ideological and political education in schools. For the core values of contemporary socialism, 44.4% of the students said they were fully aware of its content while 48.3% of them said they only knew part of it. The result shows that contemporary college students have a good understanding of current politics.

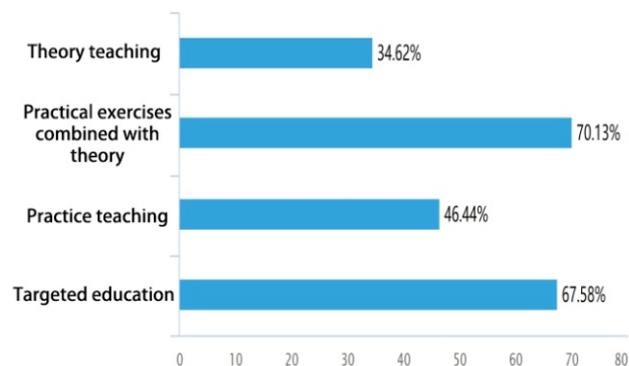
Students' expectations on the ideological and political education are various. To the content of the education, More than half of students (61.4%) expect to know more than basic political theory. 63.3% students also wish to improve their theoretical thinking and analytic skills. 61.8% students wish to deepen their understanding towards the world. 66.1% students expect to improve their empathy ability, attitude towards life and aspirations of society, they have the highest expectations for the improvement of ideological and theoretical cultivation. 42.6% of the students also hope to become a qualified builder and inheritors for the socialist cause. 42.6% students attach great importance to the role of ideological and political education in their plan of future career, hoping it can play sort of auxiliary role in the postgraduate entrance examination and the civil service entrance examination. 56% students believe that it can guide their future career and their long-term personal development.

When it comes to the form of the education, 70.1% of the students believe that ideological and political education in art colleges and universities should be equally important to the theory education and professional practice, while 67.6% believe that targeted education should be carried out according to the characteristics of art colleges and universities. This shows that most students pay attention to the characteristics of art schools and emphasize the importance of professional practice in school ideological and political education.



2) The Ideological and Political Quality of Student Leaders is Relatively Higher and They Should Give Full Play to Their Leading Role

Among students who were student leaders in this semester, 49.7 percent were very clear about the socialist core value system, 7 percent less than among non-student cadres. Compared with student leaders, there are more non-student cadres who do not know or have only heard of the socialist core value system. Therefore, ideological and political education for college students needs to give full play to the leading role of student cadres and gradually enhance the ideological, moral and political literacy of all college students.



## 2.4 Life Style

We have conducted the research on students' states of mind. The results shows that 298 students were often happy, accounting for 32 percent, while 335 were often stable, accounting for 36 percent. 279 people were often enriched, accounting for 30%; 74 were often bored, accounting for 8%, while 65 were often depressed, accounting for 7%.

We have conducted the research on disposal of spare time. There were 428 students who taught themselves after class (such as homework, reading, study classes, etc.), accounting for 46%; There were 456 people for entertainment (Internet, shopping, chatting, etc.), accounting for 49%; 279 people participated in sports and fitness, accounting for 30%; 149 people were in love, or 16 percent; There are 167 students in and out of school, accounting for 18%. There were 260 students studying and practicing professionally (writing academic papers, artistic creation, rehearsals, performances, etc.), accounting for 28%. 19 others, 2%.

Above is a part of the results of the author's research on the ideological status of students in different grades. Through the induction, analysis and research of these results, some regular characteristics of the ideological status of college students can be reflected. At the same time, the author also conducted a lot of interviews with students, from which we can also got a lot of information with profound meanings.

## 3. Analysis on the Characteristics of the Ideological Status of Contemporary Young College Students

Students are the future of our nation and the fresh blood of socialist construction. They are active thinkers who care about their motherland, society, academic performance and personal future. At the same time, they are the generation who attach great importance to individual rights and interests. Through multiple investigations and interviews, the author believes that, nowadays, the majority of the young college students are candid and righteous, showing a healthy and positive ideological status.

### 3.1 Freshman Year

Freshmen are newcomers to the universities, most of which are very young. For them, college life is the first time when they are away from their families. To complete the transition from middle school students to college students and the adaptation from family life to collective life, and to deal with the new and far more complicated situations, they are required to adapt to the new reality, which means new environment, new life and new courses. Through investigations and interviews, the general characteristics of freshman's ideological status are as follows:

**Clear goals.** Students in art colleges and universities have a clear goal in choosing their majors. They choose their major according to their artistic specialties. Generally, they go to the major that matches their previous academic background, which is a special difference between art colleges and universities with the others.

**Independent lifestyle.** Freshmen must go through a stage of adaptation, since they just come to a new environment. As for college life, most of our interviewees believe that it is the beginning of a new life and they understand that it is important to live a four-year college life meaningfully. Therefore, they are positive to adapt to their new life and make friends. They can handle the relationship with classmates and teachers properly.

**Roles changing.** Freshmen will go through the change from the role of high school students to college students in their first year. When asked about how to face the academic and psychological transition, most of our interviewees said they can deal with the transition independently. However, some of them think they need the

assistance from the counselors, teachers, or schoolmates. Parents' advice is also considered to be critical by some of our interviewees.

### ***3.2 Sophomores and Juniors.***

After the transition period in the freshman year, the students who have already in their sophomore or junior are already accustomed to the life in the university. Compared with the freshmen, they are more mature in all aspects, and their thoughts are now in a relatively steady stage.

Initiative to study. Through the survey, we can see that, after their first year in college, the sophomores and juniors have generally formed their visions of their futures, and most of them have also found their personal learning styles. The attendance rate of the sophomores and juniors is kept at a high level, reaching 90.8% and 91.7% respectively. Most of our interviewees pay attention to learning approach and learning style, and attach great importance to the review and preview. In class, the proportion of students who are active in asking questions is also the highest compared to the other grades. Furthermore, they are able to study by themselves after class and devote themselves to the rehearsal room.

Polarization. Through investigations and interviews, the author also noted that nowadays the sophomores and juniors are in polarization period. On one hand, some part of the students are engaged in learning projects and training courses, on the other hand, the other part lacks the initiative to study, students in which are often found addicted to online games or love affairs, leading them to terrible academic records. Some even can't keep up with the normal course. To conclude, the gap between good students and bad students is broadening.

Attention to ideals and beliefs. Sophomores and juniors are more mature ideologically and politically, who pay more attention to the ideology and faith, and are more interested to join the CCP. The cognition of socialist core values and national identity is gradually formed in their mind, and they are more concerned about the national affairs and global affairs. If Chinese educators pay more attention to students' ideological and political education, we can form their views on life, values and the world.

### ***3.3 Senior Year***

Senior students' concentration is beyond their courses. Most of their time is spent in rehearsals or performances, including practicing skills and playing the piano, practicing practice performances, some of them will devote themselves to the part-time jobs. Through the first three years, the senior students have a relatively clear goal and certain plan for their personal development and after graduation.

The school's centripetal force on students is weakened. From the perspective of the school, the curriculum arrangement is less, most of which are some social practices, graduation design or graduation internship. On the other hand, students who are preparing for the postgraduate entrance examination would spend time reviewing, while students who are preparing for their career would prepare for their resume applications and interviews.

Interpersonal changes. The interpersonal communication of the senior students has changed significantly compared with the previous college stage, which is mainly reflected in the changes in the contacts. The in-campus communication between the senior students and the teachers has greatly decreased, while the off-campus communications has significantly increased, which is a normal phenomenon generated according to the actual situation of the senior students.

## **4. Personalized Methods for Ideological and Political Education of Young College Students in the New Era**

The ideological and political education of students in different grades should have different emphases. More targeted ways and methods should be adopted, and we should give more effort in the study of personalized and refined countermeasures.

### ***4.1 In the Freshman Year, More Concern Should Be Given to Helping Them Adapt to College Life***

As first-line ideological and political teachers, they should care about the confusion and problems about communication and study encountered by freshmen. We should help them solve the difficulties patiently and take the initiative in ideological guidance. Guide the new students to succeed the transition and help them adapt to the university environment. As an old Chinese saying goes, the core of education is not giving fishes but teaching people to fish, which means we should teach the independence to think and solve problems. In

ideological and political courses, we should improve the entrance education, help them complete the transition from middle school students to college students and educate them to follow the standard of college students strictly. Furthermore, they should be taught to be a good person who can give devote their labor to the society. Educators should supervise the freshmen to work out the plans for their four years and make their college time meaningful.

#### ***4.2 During the Sophomore and Junior Years, Students Should Be Guided to Build Their Ideals and Beliefs, and Be Helpful to Deal with Practical Problems Properly, Such as Study, Life and Love Affairs.***

This phase is the foundation for ideological and political education, in which we should guide students to develop a correct perspective on life and values. We should carry out systematic ideological and political education through CCP and the Communist Youth League, and teach students to learn the theoretical principles and policies of CCP, the connotation of socialist core values, and the classical principles of Marxism. At the same time, through ideological guidance and example demonstration, we guide students to set up a correct political perspective, which means we should set those whose ideological consciousness is high or political belief is firm or those who are with outstanding performance as examples, letting them play an exemplary role to all the students.

#### ***4.3 During the fourth year of college, psychological counseling should be mainly provided for issues such as employment, examination, studying abroad and entrepreneurship, so as to solve the ideological pressure faced by seniors.***

Pressure caused by current social competition is extremely big. Seniors face enormous challenges in employment, examination, studying abroad or entrepreneurship. The uncertainty of the unknown will also lead to panic and anxiety. Therefore, to give the employment guidance, psychological counseling and mental health education, we should consolidate the experiences of the ideological and political education of the previous three years. We should give improvement by summarizing. Furthermore, we should solve the periodical problems in the fourth year of ideological and political education, and cultivate qualified personnel with excellent ideological and political quality upon graduation.

## **5. Conclusions**

Above all, through the investigation of the mental state of college students and the analysis on the causes behind, we have preliminary figured out the basic law of the ideological change of college students in each stage of college. On its basis, we also explores some more targeted ideological and political education methods, in order to make some beneficial experiments to improve the ideological and political education and lay a solid foundation for further explorations in the ideological and political education to students in art colleges and universities..

## **Acknowledgments**

Project fund: This article is supported by Xi Jinping's research foundation of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. It is funded by the Beijing higher education society's art education special topic. It is a phased achievement of the 2019-year support topic of Beijing University Ideological and political work research center of Beijing Municipal Committee of education, BJSZ2019ZX50.

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