

Response to Reviewers

Thank you so much for taking the time to review our manuscript. We appreciate the time you volunteer to peer review and to give feedback to improve our paper. We hope we were able to adequately address your feedback. We incorporated all the comments to revise the manuscript and summarized our responses to comments below.

Consider a title revision to: “Predictors of Depression among International Students at Southern Illinois University”.

Agreed -amended and highlighted

Predictor of depression section: While the section is rich in empirical support, it would benefit from clearer thematic organization, grouping predictors into conceptual categories (e.g., social, cultural, demographic) would enhance readability and analytical depth.

Service utilization and institutional support: This section would be strengthened by synthesizing overlapping findings and clearly distinguishing between barriers (e.g., stigma, cultural mismatch) and proposed solutions (e.g., culturally responsive therapy) to improve clarity and flow.

Agreed -reorganized and highlighted

Consider more recent publications or removing references (5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13) over 20 years old.

[5] Replaced Nilsson et al. with Saravanan & Subhashini

[6] Replaced Yi et al. with Hwang et al.

[9] Replaced Adelegan and Parks with Atri et al.

[10] Replaced Lee with Shek et al.

[11] Replaced Pedersen with Shadowen.

[13] Replaced Mori with Sakız & Jencius.