

“You’re one of us now, you can do this!”
Exploring belonging, (wellbeing) and academic
success among students in Psychology and
Veterinary Medicine.

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Key questions

What are the characteristics of high performing students?

What can we do to improve outcomes for all our students?



Conceptual model



Conceptual model



Key claim

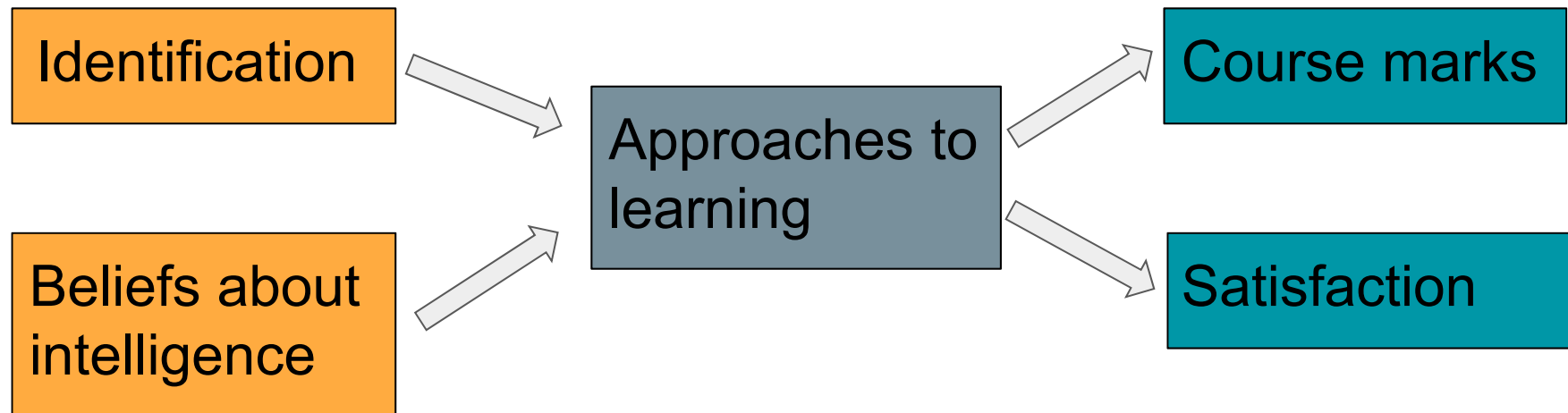
“The success (or otherwise) of the educational process is contingent upon educational participants seeing themselves as sharing social identity (a sense of ‘us’)” Haslam, 2017

Why is identification important?

- Identification predicts school engagement (Bizumic et al., 2009)
- Identification predicts wellbeing and academic satisfaction (Greenaway et al., 2017)
- Strongly identified students are more likely to conform with university and/or discipline norms (Smyth et al., 2017)



Our model



Identification

“I identify with the Psychology department”

“I feel close to other Psychology students”

“I like spending time with Psychology students”

Social Identification Scale adapted from Doosje, B., Ellemers, N., & Spears, R. (1995). Perceived intragroup variability as a function of group status and identification. *Journal of Experimental Social psychology*, 31(5), 410-436.

Beliefs about intelligence

“No matter who you are, you can change your intelligence”

Scale adapted from Dweck, C.S. (2000) *Self-theories: Their role in motivation, personality, and development*. Philadelphia: Psychology Press.

Approaches to learning

Deep and surface learning (Biggs, 1978)

“I find working on my studies gives me a feeling of deep personal satisfaction”

“My aim is to complete my studies whilst doing as little work as possible” (RE)

Scale adapted from Biggs, J., Kember, D., & Leung, D. Y. (2001). The revised two-factor study process questionnaire: R-SPQ-2F. *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, 71(1), 133-149.

Course marks

Final mark for Psychology 1A

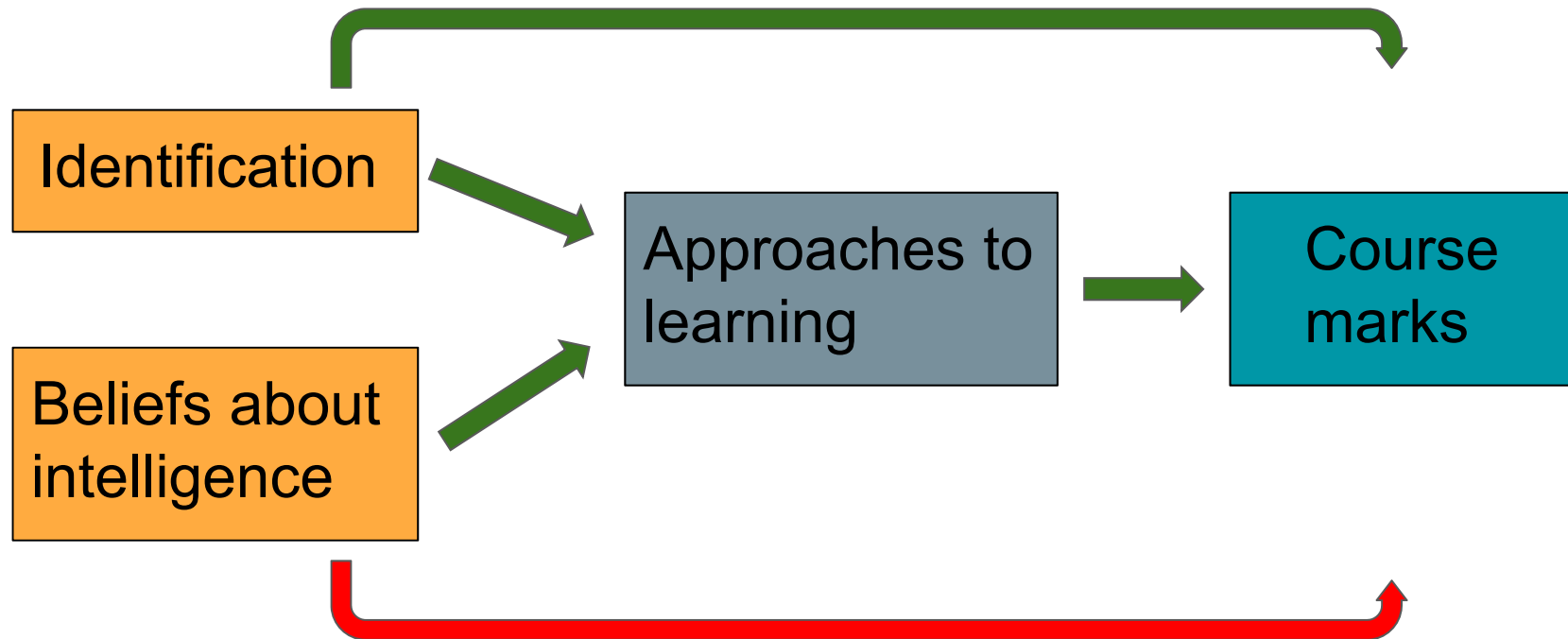
- MCQ exam
- Essay
- Study Skills
- Attendance and participation

Satisfaction

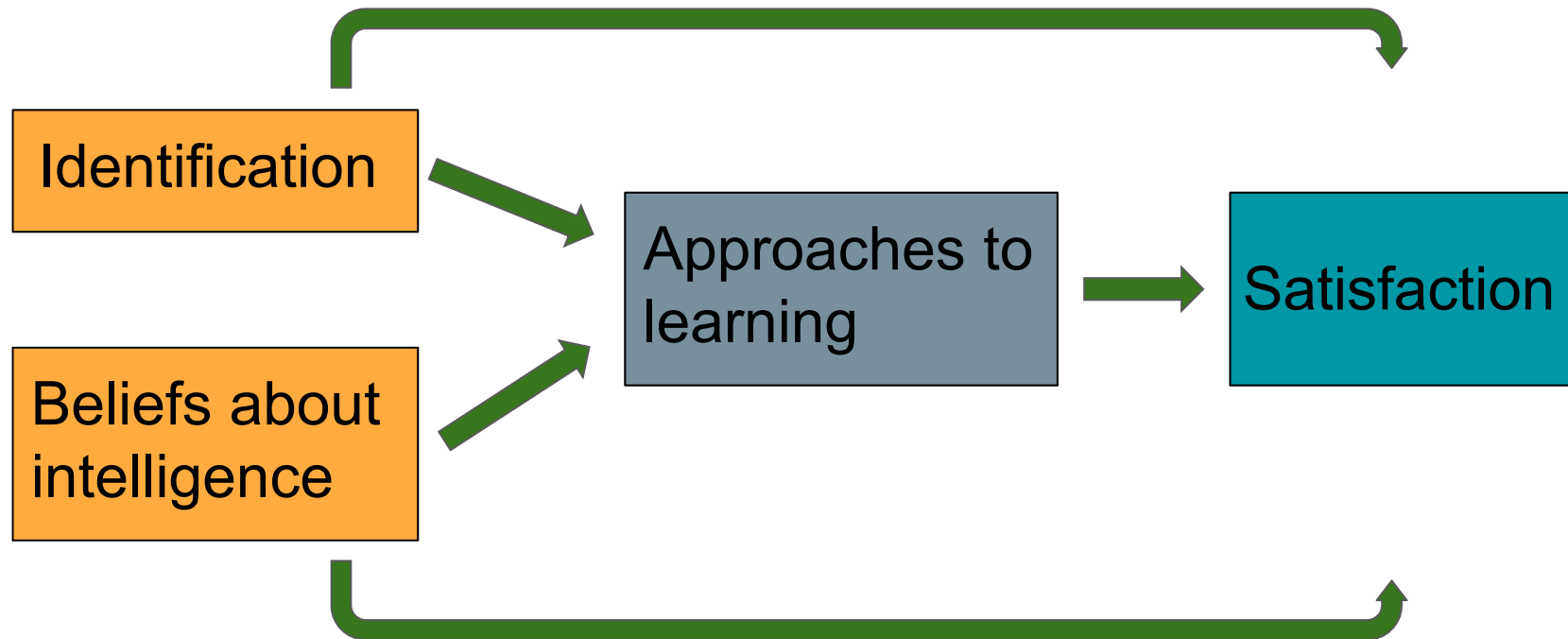
“I enjoy my Psychology course work”

“The support I get from the lecturers is good”

What did we find?



What did we find?



Where next?

- More longitudinal data
- Larger sample from the Vet School
- Towards an intervention

Thank you!