

MEASUREMENT OF ACCULTURATION
STRATEGIES FOR PEOPLE OF
AFRICAN DESCENT (MASPAD)

MANUAL

By

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Measurement of Acculturation Strategies for People of African Descent (MASPAD) Manual

Theoretical Basis of the MASPAD:

The MASPAD is intended to measure the acculturation strategy – along the dimension of beliefs and behaviors – that an individual from a specific ethnic group might use in response to the *African Praxis* (Nobles, 1989; How do African people reproduce themselves in a non-African reality?). In remaining consistent with the terminology offered by Sue and Sue (1973; traditionalist, marginal man, & Asian American) and Berry (1980; separationist, integrationist, assimilationist, & marginalist), the acculturation strategies available for people of African descent in the U.S. were termed traditionalist, integrationist, assimilationist, and marginalist. Cultural distance will increase as the individual moves away from his/her original ethnic group in the following order: traditionalist < integrationist < assimilationist < marginalist.

The MASPAD is grounded in two macro-dimensions (D1: Relative preference for maintaining one's heritage ethnocultural group; D2: Relative preference for having contact with and participating in the society of a different ethnocultural group). Each macro-dimension is also divided into two sub-dimensions (B1: Beliefs; B2: Behaviors). In summary, the MASPAD is designed to generate two independent scores (D1 and D2) along B1 [Traditionalist Beliefs (↑D1 and ↓D2), Integrationist Beliefs (↑D1 and ↑D2), Assimilationist Beliefs (↓D1 and ↑D2), Marginalist Beliefs (↓D1 and ↓D2)] and B2 [Traditionalist Behaviors (↑D1 and ↓D2), Integrationist Behaviors (↑D1 and ↑D2), Assimilationist Behaviors (↓D1 and ↑D2), Marginalist Behaviors (↓D1 and ↓D2)] where “↓” is interpreted as low scores and “↑” is interpreted as medium to high scores. Therefore, the MASPAD is designed to provide scores that assess beliefs and behaviors associated with preferences for maintaining one's heritage ethnocultural group and preferences for having contact with and participating in the society of a different ethnocultural group.

Assumptions underlying the MASPAD

(a) Acculturation was operationalized as phenomena that result when groups of individuals having different cultures come into continuous first-hand contact, with subsequent changes manifesting in a person's original cultural structure; (b) Since the United States is populated by several different ethnic groups, the acculturation process was not assumed to be constrained to European American culture; (c) The MASPAD is one indicator of a person's identity formulation and it can be used to assess within-group differences; (d) Acculturation strategies are used to navigate through the process of acculturation; (e) The specific acculturation strategy that a person endorses can change over time, with an accommodating worldview shift; and (f) The MASPAD will provide four independent indices on a continuum that can be used to identify a person's acculturation strategy along the dimensions of beliefs and behaviors (B1: D1 & D2; B2: D1 & D2).

Scoring the MASPAD-BD: Bidimensional

Traditionalist Subscale: 1,2,5,8,11,12,14,15,17,18,21,24,27,28,30,31,33,34,37,40,42,45

Assimilationist Subscale: 3,4,6,7,9,10,13,16,19,20,22,23,25,26,29,32,35,36,38,39,41,43,44

Scoring the MASPAD-MD: Multidimensional

Traditionalist Beliefs Subscale: 1,8,11,14,17,24,27,30,33,40,45

Traditionalist Behaviors Subscale: 2,5,12,15,18,21,28,31,34,37,42

Assimilationist Beliefs Subscale: 3,6,9,16,19,22,25,32,35,38,41,43

Assimilationist Behaviors Subscale: 4,7,10,13,20,23,26,29,36,39,44

Psychometric Properties of the MASPAD: (Obasi & Leong, in progress)

Reliability:

MASPAD-BD – Traditionalist Subscale (TRAD: $\alpha = .80$ to $.87$) and Assimilationist Subscale (ASSM: $\alpha = .75$ to $.81$)

MASPAD-MD – Traditionalist Beliefs (TBEL: $\alpha = .82$ to $.85$), Assimilationist Beliefs (ABEL: $\alpha = .55$ to $.60$), Traditionalist Behaviors (TBEH: $\alpha = .70$ to $.78$), and Assimilationist Behaviors (ABEH: $\alpha = .64$ to $.75$).

Validity:

Content and Face – Independent raters were solicited to address face validity, content validity, and item quality of the MASPAD. The nonparametric Kappa test statistic provided evidence of “very good agreement” (face validity) with an interrater agreement that ranged from $.800$ to $.967$ after taking chance into consideration. Content validity was addressed by using a recently published content analysis (Zane & Mak, 2003) to sample the domains of previously published acculturation instruments. Items were also solicited from independent raters to increase the sampling of each subscale. The item quality of the MASPAD in measuring acculturation strategies along the dimensions of beliefs and behaviors were further supported with an average rating of 3.4 on a 4-point Likert scale, with no items having an average rating below 3.0.

Orthogonality – The MASPAD purports to have subscales that produce scores that are independent from one another. The orthogonality of the *MASPAD-BD* ($r = .071$ to $.246$) and *MASPAD-MD* ($r = .032$ to $.264$) was supported by correlation coefficients between the subscales that accounted for 0.1% to 7.0% of the variance across the three studies. Therefore, the data supported the proposition that the subscales on the MASPAD produced scores that were relatively independent from one another, thus providing an opportunity for each acculturation strategy to be independently assessed.

Discriminant Validity – Discriminant validity was assessed by investigating the correlation between the MASPAD subscales with life satisfaction. As expected, discriminant validity was supported with non-significant correlations ($r = -.110$ to $r = .158$; ns). Therefore, overall life satisfaction was found to be independent of the acculturation strategy employed by the participants. It should be noted that the MASPAD subscales did not significantly correlate with item response bias as well ($r = -.083$ to $r = .014$; ns). As a result, there was no association between a need for social approval and scores obtained from the MASPAD.

Concurrent Validity – Concurrent validity was supported with significant correlations between the MASPAD subscales and the African American Acculturation Scale (AfAAS; Snowden & Hines, 1999) in the predicted directions ($r = -.440$ to $r = .390$; $p < .01$). Furthermore, the MASPAD subscales significantly correlated with the Vancouver Index of Acculturation - Heritage subscale (VIA; Ryder et al., 1999) in the predicted directions ($r = -.385$ to $r = .384$; $p < .01$). However, the MASPAD and the AfAAS failed to significantly correlate with the VIA-Mainstream subscale. Overall, this provided additional evidence that the MASPAD is assessing acculturation strategies that are consistent with a unidimensional emic and bidimensional etic acculturation instrument.

Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) – A plot was constructed using the sequence of eigenvalues and this Scree-Test suggested a 4-factor structure based on the last large discontinuity in the eigenvalue sequence (Cattell, 1966). Using maximum likelihood (ML) as the discrepancy function in the CFA, the RMSEA gave a point estimate of .09 [.084; .089] for the MASPAD-BD ($\chi^2 = 4473.802$, $df = 945$, $ECVI = 9.366$) and .08 [.080; .085] for the MASPAD-MD ($\chi^2 = 4121.018$, $df = 939$, $ECVI = 8.678$). Thus, there was evidence that the multidimensional factor model (MASPAD-MD) would fit reasonably in the population (Browne & Cudeck, 1992). The ECVI provided stronger evidence for the multidimensional factor model in comparison to the bidimensional factor model. All 45 ML estimates of the factor loadings were statistically different (T -value > 1.64) from zero with an average value of 12.01 for the multidimensional model. Furthermore, the narrow 90% confidence intervals and small standard errors – ranging from .03 to .05 – of the factor loadings provided evidence of precise estimates of the free parameters. It is interesting to note that a hierarchical factor model – the notion that acculturation strategies along the dimensions of beliefs and behaviors can be subsumed under a broader factor where beliefs are combined with behaviors – was also tested and it provided evidence of close to reasonable fit ($RMSEA = .07$ [.066; .071], $\chi^2 = 2986.403$, $df = 898$, $ECVI = 6.560$).



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Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your interest in the Measurement of Acculturation Strategies for People of African Descent (MASPAD). It is intended for the MASPAD to be employed as broadly as possible, and it is desirable to have the capacity to learn as much as possible about the use of the instrument by coordinating feedback from those colleagues who are in fact using it. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to assure some standardization across settings. To this end, some conditions have been established for use of the MASPAD to which colleagues are asked to adhere.

1. Users will not modify the MASPAD without written approval from the scale developer.
2. Users will not distribute copies of the measure to others without written approval from the scale developer.
3. The interval of time that a user may use the measure will be limited to two years from the date that the measure was received by the user. Authorization for continued usage of the measure may be obtained by written request to the scale developer after the two year period.
4. Users agree to report the results of their use of the MASPAD to the scale developer after each year of use and/or within six months of the end of their study (whichever is sooner).

In recognition of and agreement with the above conditions, please complete and sign the bottom of this form and send it to me at the above address. By signing and returning this form, you have indicated your commitment to abide by conditions set out in this agreement. The MASPAD will be sent to you once this form is returned to me. As more information is gathered on the MASPAD it will of course be shared with you. Please feel free to contact the scale developer with additional questions (obasi@uga.edu).

Thank you for your cooperation,

Ezemenari M. Obasi, Ph.D.

Name (Printed or Typed): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

_____ Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Signature: _____