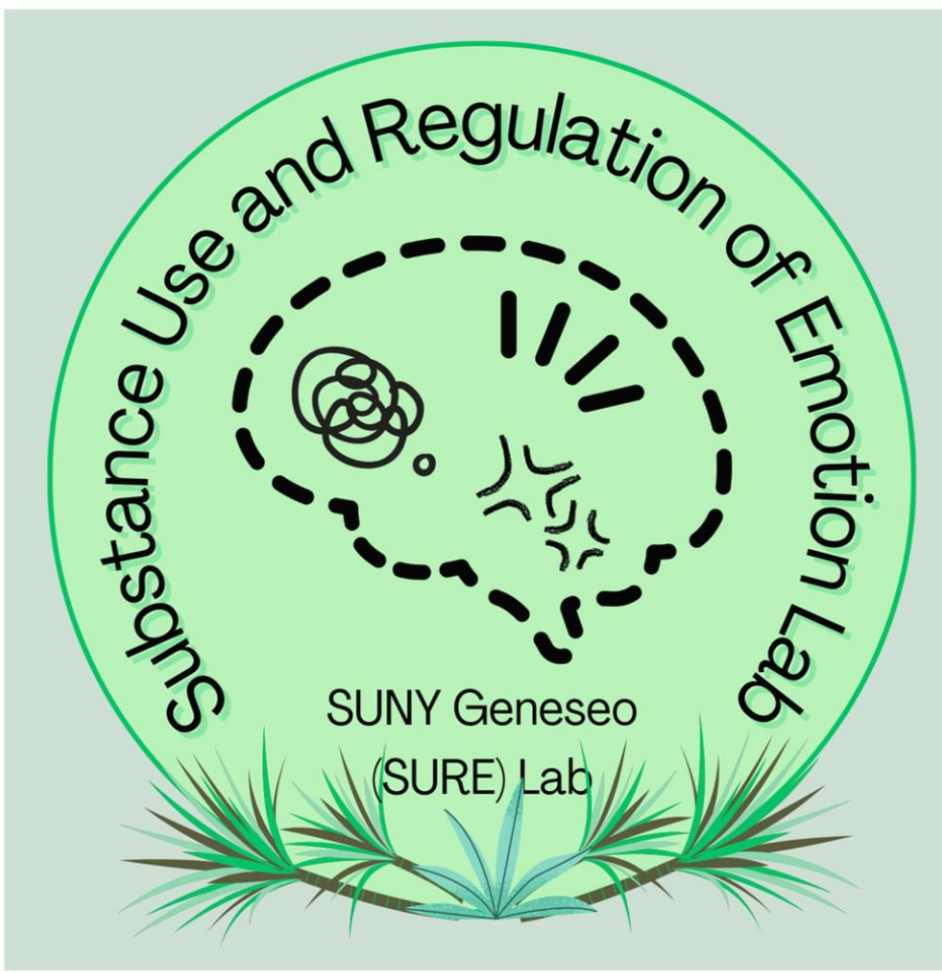


# Marijuana Motives and Different Class Standings Among College Students

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## Introduction

- With increased accessibility to cannabis due to recreational legalization, cannabis use frequency has been steadily increasing among college students within the United States (Kerr et al., 2023).
- There is limited research on why students are motivated to use cannabis at different points in their college experience.
- Motives are the reasons for using substances, which can vary amongst individuals.
- Present study seeks to address cannabis motives based on class standing.

## Participants

- Participants (N=78) were SUNY Geneseo students enrolled in PSYC-100 during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Participants were predominantly white (93.8%), female (81.3%), and between the ages of 17-31 with an average age of 19.62 (SD 1.67).

## Hypotheses

- Juniors and seniors will report more enhancement motives.
- First- and second- year students will report higher expansion and conformity motives.
- There will be no significant difference between coping or social motives by class standing.

## Materials & Methods

### Measures

- Marijuana Motives Measure (MMM): Assess motives for cannabis use.
  - Includes five subscales: social, conformity, coping, enhancement, and expansion motives.

### Methods

- Participants completed an online survey conducted via SONA for partial course credit.
- The online survey analyzed a larger investigation of cannabis use and emotion regulation.

## Results

- Motives are not significantly different based on class standings.
- Coping and social motives showed no significant difference between class standings.
- Conformity and Expansion motives were slightly greater in underclassmen.
- Enhancement motives were slightly greater in upperclassmen.

## Conclusions

- From the results, class standing alone cannot predict motives, therefore another variable may be present to mediate a relationship.
  - Future research should look at situational usage, such as boredom proneness and college housing status.
- A limitation to this study may be due to the small sample size, with majority consisting of first-year students.
- Another limitation may be a small sample size of cannabis users.

**Table 1**

Means, Standard Deviations, and P-values of Class Standing

Logistic Parameter	underclassmen		upperclassmen		<i>p</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	
Coping	10.1739	5.38436	11.0313	5.43872	0.493
Enhancement	14.5217	6.17428	14.9688	5.85020	0.749
Social	11.3478	5.41281	11.0313	6.10386	0.810
Conformity	8.1739	4.74367	7.2813	4.91367	0.423
Expansion	9.6087	5.31864	9.5161	4.61787	0.937

## References



## Faculty Sponsor

Whitney C. Brown, PhD. (Psychology)

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