



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

**Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts**

of

MELISSA HUNTE

BSc (Andrews University, 2011)

**“Achievement Goals and Test Anxiety in Standard 5 Students in
Trinidad”**

Department of Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

10:00am

David Turpin Building

Room A144

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Joan Martin, Department of Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies, University of Victoria
(Supervisor)

Dr. John Walsh, Department of Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies, UVic (Member)

Dr. Todd Milford, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, Uvic (Non-unit Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. M. G. Jerome DeLisle, School of Education, University of the West Indies

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Eike-Henner Kluge, Department of Philosophy, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

The Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA), a high-stakes exam mandatory for all Standard 5 students in Trinidad and Tobago, is posited to be anxiety inducing. The purpose of this non-experimental research was to examine whether relationships exist among students' ($n= 215$) perceptions of their parents,' teachers', and classroom goals; their own achievement goals; and their SEA cognitive anxiety.

The results revealed that students' personal achievement goals were not associated with SEA cognitive anxiety, but their perceptions of parents', teachers', and classroom goals were significantly associated. Perceptions of high performance goals from parents may accentuate test anxiety in students who also perceive their teachers are performance-approach oriented; and can promote resiliency for students in classrooms with performance-avoid goal structures.

Results from this study can be useful for future research in the area of social and emotional learning in Trinidad and Tobago.