

## Four Types of Change and Correlated Change in Self- and Peer-reported Personality and Identity During College Years

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Personality has been demonstrated to be both stable yet dynamic. Although personality change exists in different life stages in different forms (Bleidorn & Hopwood, 2018), it is most prominent during emerging adulthood (Roberts & Davis, 2016). There is a need to replicate these findings using methods other than self-report, lower-order traits beyond the Big Five (Goldberg, 1993), and measures of characteristic adaptations, which represent a more contextualized and dynamic level of personality (McAdams, 1994). We examined a two-year, four-wave, multiple-informant dataset of 257 college students, which sensitively captures change over short, yet important, intervals during college years. Participants and peers completed the Big Five Aspect Scales, which assesses Big Five traits and ten lower-order aspects (DeYoung et al., 2007), and measures of identity coherence and confusion, which assess characteristic adaptations (Rosenthal et al., 1981). Change in all variables was examined in terms of mean-level, rank-order, ipsative system-level, and individual differences, allowing us to examine change from both sample-level and individual-level perspectives. The results showed significant individual differences in linear change for most of our examined variables. The trajectory of change suggested positive personality maturation and identity development over the two-year period. In comparing computed and simulated Euclidean distances for profile analysis, we found that the majority of change was in elevation and/or scatter of individual traits, rather than in the shape or configuration of overall personality profiles. Patterns of correlated changes among different personality and identity variables are discussed.

### References

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