Development and Validation of HCAP 21 Scale.docx

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Abstract

Development and Validation of the High Capacity Model of Resilience and Well-being

The research on resilience has been hampered from a lack of a specific definition that can operationalized for measurement. The High Capacity Model of Resilience and Well-Being (H-CAP21) is a new theoretical model that defines specific traits that create states of resilience and well-being for use as a screening tool in clinical and non-clinical settings. Norming was completed across two studies with a total population of 1442 participants comprised of a clinical population of inpatient psychiatric patients and a non-clinical population of adult mid-career graduate students. A four-factor model represented by a 21-item scale was confirmed as a best fit. Individual subscales yielded alpha’s from .75-.92, convergent validity with the Resilience Scale and discriminatory validity with and Obsessive Passion subscale and the Beck Depression Inventory-II. Criterion-related validity exhibited a positive directional relationship between the subscales with the criterion (cumulative GPA) and significant correlations with the overall scale score and commitment subscale. However, the remaining subscales did not reach a level of significance with the criterion. Further exploration of the H-CAP 21 will expand the type and setting of the populations the instrument is assessed with to include clinical populations, military applications, self-regulation, and motivation. The H-CAP 21 is believed to have clinical utility as a psychometrically sound screening tool.

Key Words: Resilience, well-being, positive psychology, mental illness
Development and Validation of the High Capacity Model of Resilience and Well-being Scale 21 (H-CAP 21)

The concept of resilience and well-being has flourished in the past decades and continues to receive significant attention. This increase in research has resulted in a ubiquitous construct where resilience and well-being have been associated with multiple content domains and outcomes. However, an operational definition that identifies individual, social, and therapeutic aspects is lacking (Lightsey, 2006; Reid & Botterill, 2013; Windle, Bennet, & Noyes, 2011). Generally, resilience and well-being are associated with the presence of positive emotions, the absence of negative emotions, and the subjective evaluation of satisfaction and fulfillment one has toward their life (Duckworth, Steen, & Seligman, 2005).

The Need for a Defined Assessment

The broadness and ambiguity of definitions for resilience and well-being remains a hurdle for operationalizing these constructs into a testable theory and clinical format. Toward that end, the High Capacity Model of Resilience and Well-being (H-CAP) was created through an attempt to answer the following questions: What are the curative factors that make people better who struggle with mental disorders? What makes people able to achieve their goals in life? How are people able to rise above their circumstances and achieve success? What creates psychological resilience? What are the buffers against mental disorders? The answer to these questions was discovered through a review of the positive psychology literature. The literature discusses many traits that contribute to states of resilience and well-being. However, in researching the origin of these traits they either explicitly or implicitly mentioned or referred to being hopeful (Frank, 1968, 1975; Menninger, 1959; Stotland, 1969) engagement in goal seeking and obtaining behavior (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Locke & Lathem, 1990) the quality of relationships (Özen, Sümer, & Demir, 2010; Pierce, Sarason, & Sarason, 1990, 1991) and motivation (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Locke & Latham, 1990; Vallerand, 1997, 2007). In reviewing the current research on the topic of resilience and well-being, we define them as a set of attributes that consist of Hope, Commitment, Accountability, and Passion. The
model is signified with the acronym (H-CAP) which translates into High Capacity. We believe this title accurately reflects the relationship of well-being to resilience which is the ability to function at a higher capacity. Resilience also exhibits ties to well-being (Fava & Tomba, 2009). Well-being is defined with many of the same attributes such as Hope (Kemer & Atik, 2012; Sahin et al., 2012) social support [Accountability] (Kemer & Atik, 2012; Mota & Matos, 2015; Ryff, 1989) purpose and meaning, personal growth [Passion], self-acceptance, and mastery [Commitment] (Ryff, 1989).

Research indicates that the ability for individuals to generate positive emotions in difficult times, and in general, are more resilient (Ong, Bergeman, Bisconti & Wallace, 2006; Tugate & Fredrickson, 2004). Positive emotions create a state of mind that allows the individual to see alternatives and take advantage of opportunities (Algoe, Fredrickson, & Chow, 2011).

**H-CAP Scale Development**

In order to test the theory that resilient people have a greater capacity for Hope, Commitment, Accountability, and Passion, these traits needed to be measured. The outcome of this process was the development of the High Capacity Model of Resilience and Well-being Scale 21 (H-CAP 21). Although there are many well established instruments that measure hope, goal seeking and obtaining behavior, quality of relationships, and motivation/passion, The H-CAP 21 brings these constructs together under a single instrument. The H-CAP 21 has four subscales, Hope is measured using nine items, Commitment is measured using three items, Accountability is measured using four items, and Passion is measured using five items for a total of 21 items. The purpose of the H-CAP 21 is to measure how much of a given trait someone has compared to the other traits. The goal is to create a balance among the traits. Used in a treatment or practical setting, one can measure these traits as they pertain to a particular goal (aspects of their life they want to change). Goal achievement then is based upon their resilience and the strength and balance in which these traits are engaged. Current psychological techniques can be used to foster these traits individually and collectively. Therefore, within a clinical setting, the focus is not on pathology and
symptom alleviation per say but the development of hopefulness, commitment to specific behaviors, accountable relationships, and passion. As these are being achieved, symptom alleviation occurs on its own.

A principle that guided the development of the H-CAP 21 scale was to adapt items from currently available assessments that measure the same or similar constructs with good reliability and validity. The task from that point was to review the instruments individually to determine which items with the highest factor loadings best fit the definition of the constructs of the H-CAP 21 scale. These items were then adapted as needed. The scale items for the H-CAP 21 are answered using a 5 point Likert-scale that range from Not True to Very True.

**Hope.** Hope has many definitions. However, they mainly center on one central theme being that hope is a coping mechanism and motivator (Wang, 2000). It is characterized as anticipation that something will be achieved and or attained. Stotland’s (1969) work on hope influenced much of the current research. He proposed hope as being action oriented with an emphasis on expectation. Throughout the decades, related constructs of hope were further defined to include optimism (Scheier & Carver, 1985; Seligman, 1991); expectation, willpower, and commitment (Snyder, 1994a, 1994b). As we know it today, hope theory was mainly created by the early works of Snyder (1989) and subsequently redefined. Snyder (1994a, 1994b, 2000) maintains that hope is both situational and trait like in that a situation itself can affect one’s ability to express hope but it is also a trait expressed in the human personality. Snyder’s concept of hope is more multi-dimensional and notes that hope has two reciprocal goal directed components that move a person forward. These include pathways (planning to meet goals) and agency (goal directed energy). Pathways type thinking entails the ability to see alternatives. It is that sense of expectancy that feeds into being encouraged. Agency type thinking involves the use of energy and or motivation that puts pathways thinking into action. The main assumption that guides hope theory is that all
behavior is purposeful. In other words, behavior is goal directed whether it is something positive or negative which can seek to avoid an outcome (Snyder, 2000, 2002).

One may consider the constructs of Commitment, Accountability, and Passion to be included within hope. As noted, Snyder et al. (1996) defines “hope as a cognitive set comprising agency (belief in one's capacity to initiate and sustain actions) and pathways (belief in one's capacity to generate routes) to reach goals. (p.321)” Multiple studies have questioned whether agency thinking combined with pathways thinking truly characterizes the average person’s understanding of hope (Bruininks & Malle, 2005; Tong, et al., 2010). Similar to these studies, a recent study conducted by Tong, et al. (2010) found via multiple cross-cultural studies that only Snyder’s agency items (state and trait) were positively related to hope. Additionally, they note that the agency items (for both trait and state versions) do not seem to be measuring perceived capacity for executing goals-related actions. Tong, et al. (2010) note that their findings are consistent with past studies (e.g., Bruininks & Malle, 2005; Feldman, et al., 2009) that highlight agency is more reflective of cognitive expectations related to the feasibility of attaining a specified outcome and not necessarily the actual capacity to generate the means to pursue the goal.

Tong, et al. (2010) mention that agency type thinking represents more of what is thought of when individuals think of hope in general and as they put it into operation in their circumstances from both a cognitive and behavioral aspect. Given these findings, the capacity for hope reflected in the H-CAP 21 appears congruent with this definition as reflected in the wording of the items measuring this construct. It is intended to assess the propensity of an individual to pursue long-term goals as part of a commitment to persevere or grit in pursuing these goals in addition to the agency of the individual. These two subscales along with accountability and passion (obsessive vs. harmonious) create the structure of the H-CAP 21. In the H-CAP model, hope is defined simply as a state of mind that is characterized by the belief that one is capable of engaging in the means to obtain a goal in spite of current circumstances that serve as encouragement (which is the feeling
component). Initial items were designed to reflect agency type processes to measure hope and were derived from the Hope Scale, The Herth Hope Scale and the Beck Hopelessness Scale.

**Commitment.** Commitment is defined as an obligation to act regardless of emotion. It may be coupled with emotion; however, it more appropriately reflects behavior toward a defined goal (Duckworth et al., 2007; Locke et al., 1988). Commitment at this level refers to a commitment to engaging in proactive behaviors regardless of emotion. Snyder et al. (2000) describes a form of commitment in his hope theory in the form of Agency Thoughts. Agency thinking is thoughts of determination and persistence. It serves as the motivational factor that moves the person toward the desired goal. Because behavior is linked to mood, when proactive behaviors are engaged and monitored, the tendency is to move toward the defined goal (Sturmey, 2009; Kanter et al., 2008).

In developing items for this scale, the nature of the items focused on the cognitive mindset that one may have that would predict their current level of commitment to engage in proactive behaviors. The thought behind this rationale is that those endorsing items that reflect a sense of obligation and perseverance will have an easier time changing current non-productive behavior to more proactive behaviors. The Grit Survey as developed by Duckworth, Peterson, Matthews, and Kelly (2007) provides a measure of perseverance and passion for long-term goals. Their initial study showed that grit was able to predict goal achievement beyond talent. Similarly, Commitment as defined in the High Capacity Model is interested in measuring one’s commitment to proactive, goal directed behavior in the form of this same perseverance. Items were selected from the Grit Survey that loaded on the element of perseverance. Similarly, items were also adapted from the Goal Perception Questionnaire that provides a measure of perseverance, effort, and obligation (Ingledew et al., 2010).

**Accountability.** Accountability is defined as the willingness to accept responsibility for one’s actions. The acceptance of responsibility occurs at an individual level but also incorporates relationships with others for support in that one must give permission to others allowing them to
hold the individual accountable in working toward a goal. This requires the creation of supportive relationships with like-minded people. It also involves relinquishing the right to assign blame. The items that define the construct of Accountability are new items that have not been used or adapted from previous questionnaires. However, the definition of the construct was adapted from the works of Peersen, Gudjonsson, and Sigurdsson (2000) Blame Attribution; Pierce (1994) The Quality Relationships Inventory; and Wood and Winston (2007) Leader Accountability.

**Passion.** Passion is defined as the placing of strong value toward an activity. The behavior incorporates the alignment of one’s identity and values. The passion sub-scale has been adapted from Vallerrand et al.’s (2003) Passion Scale which is based on his dualistic model of passion being Harmonious Passion and Obsessive Passion. Harmonious Passion is a result of autonomous internalization of behavior regulation. It allows an individual to experience strong motivation and emotion toward an activity but is controlled by the individual. The activity or activities are engaged in without contingencies and allows for the experiencing of positive appreciation for self and the activity. Obsessive Passion is the pursuit of an activity based on the need for self-worth. The activity itself becomes a defense and protective function when the person is compelled to engage in a behavior for the fulfillment of an intrinsic need. The activity thus controls the individual. The Passion Scale has demonstrated reliability and validity though a number of studies (Rousseau et al., 2002; Vallerand et al., 2006). The items in the passion sub-scale for this instrument have been modified by substituting the reference to a particular activity for “current role in life.” This modification was made in order to capture their level and type of passion for their current life circumstances as a whole and passion for life in general.

The use of these traits within therapeutic settings evolved out of a means to help patients achieve specific goals they had for themselves within therapy and also life. Regardless of what they sought to accomplish, they needed to have hope that it could be achieved. They also needed to be committed to engage in the behaviors necessary to make their hope realized. In dealing with mental
illness, a commonly shared experience is interpersonal relationship difficulties (Veiel, Kühner, Brill, & Ihle, 1992; Keitner et al. 1995). In order to achieve what one sets out to do, this will require them to repair and/or create accountable relationships in line with their committed behaviors and hopes. Lastly, they needed to develop a harmonious passion for their goal and new role in life. In order to achieve the desired outcome and have well-being and resilience, all four traits must be in existence and in harmony with each other. Take one of them away, and although a specific goal may be achieved, a state of well-being will not. The theory behind this model is that resilient people have a greater capacity for well-being and display greater degrees of hope, committed behaviors, quality relationships, and passion. It does not mean that individuals high in these traits do not go through emotionally difficult times, but they process these events differently and with less reactive emotion and negative behavior (Carver, 1998; Fredrickson, 1998, 2001).

Methods

The initial scale had 50 items generated from the literature covering the dimensions hypothesized as relevant for a high capacity for resilience and well-being. There were slight editorial changes to item language to ensure consistency in style and voice across items.

Initial Item Assessment, Selection and Cross-Validation

We undertook an investigation to validate the multi-dimensional H-CAP model. In Study 1, we identified and assessed a pool of items for which the major purpose was to develop a draft multidimensional measure of resilience and well-being. The proposed H-CAP dimensions in the initial study included Hope, Commitment, Accountability, Passion (Harmonious), Passion (Obsessive). The study has been approved by the Liberty University Institutional Review Board and have been performed in accordance with the ethical standards as laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki (1996) and its later amendments.

Study 1 consisted of a clinical sample of patients at an inpatient psychiatric unit in central Virginia. Diagnoses consisted of major depressive disorder, various anxiety disorders, and
substance abuse (N=119; 47 females; 68 males) (mean age=39.4 years) and a non-clinical sample (N=145; 92 females; 42 males) of participants who were adult, mid-career graduate education students with multiple subspecialties (mean age=35.5 years). Analyses were conducted to examine the internal consistency of each scale, the covariance and factor structure of the items and criterion validity across both the clinical and nonclinical samples. The directionality of items indicated significant differences in scores between groups with the clinical population scoring lower on the proposed traits compared to the non-clinical population at .001. Premised upon these initial findings, we constructed the next version of the H-CAP to include 22 items representing four subscales: Hope (9 items); Commitment (3 items); Accountability (5 items); and Harmonious Passion (5 items). We determined from the initial factorial analyses, subgroup analyses and convergent, divergent and content validity work that the Obsessive Passion subscale should not be part of the structure of the H-CAP. However, we retained the subscale and included items in the second study to provide additional insight into convergent and divergent validity analyses.

In developing the H-CAP, we theorized that there are four key themes that inform the content and structure of the H-CAP. First, there are two key trait-level behaviors that appear to be essential to having a capacity for hope which is essential to sustaining high capacity behaviors (encouragement): agency and perseverance of effort. A focus on broad trait-level agency, e.g., belief in one's capacity to initiate and sustain actions (hope) and perseverance of effort, e.g., capacity to sustain and be resolute in one’s commitment to realizing some future outcome when challenged which includes a commitment to engage in right behaviors in the face of adversity (commitment) (Duckworth & Quinn, 2009; Tong, et al., 2010); The third theme that informs the theoretical structure is the degree someone is responsive and accountable to the expectations of oneself and others in driving one toward a goal. The final theme that supports the development of the H-CAP structure posits that well-being is promoted by an individual’s capacity for maintaining a passion that is in harmony with one’s internalized needs and not in response to external pressures.
This leads to sustained commitment toward a goal via healthy behaviors and motivations rather than heightened stressors from external pressures or obsessiveness in goal driven behavior at the expense of balanced, healthier behaviors.

The final version of the H-CAP confirmed nine Hope items assessing agency type thinking. Items were derived from the Beck Hopelessness Scale (Beck & Steer, 1988; Beck, Weissman, Lester, & Trexler, 1974) and the Hearth Hope Index (Expectancy factor) (Hearth, 1992). The second dimension represents the capacity to sustain a commitment to specific behaviors necessary to realize a goal (Duckworth & Quinn, 2009; Tong, et al., 2010). The final confirmed version of the Commitment subscale contains 3 items adapted from the Short Grit Scale (Perseverance factor) (Duckworth & Quinn, 2009).

These first two dimensions aim to create a measurement structure that taken together measure an individual’s Capacity for Hope or maintaining hopeful behavior in context irrespective of external and impeding influences. According to Tong et al. (2012), hope has pragmatic and not ideal connotations if it can be realized as part of an overarching view by an individual that some important goal can be attained, even without the belief in oneself to generate the means to obtain it (Farran et al., 1995; McGeer, 2004; Pettit, 2004).

The third dimension measures accountability and has four items which are new and not adapted from other scales. The Accountability subscale represents the capacity for an individual to create and maintain relationships with others of like mind to help influence them positively toward their goals. Items also connote responsibility for behaviors and trust. They were also created through the understanding of how relationships influence behaviors, particularly that of overcoming (resilience) and well-being (Drummet et al., 2003; Ozbay, et. al., 2007; Sarason et al., 2001; Simmons & Yoder, 2013
Harmonious Passion is the final dimension and is represented by five items in the confirmed model. The Harmonious Passion construct represents one’s locus of motivation. Motivation can be driven by external means where one uses behaviors and roles to achieve inward influence which is described as obsessive passion. This is compared to a locus where outward behaviors and roles are directed from an already stable and established inward state which is referred to as harmonious (Mageau & Vallerand, 2007; Mageau et al., 2009).

**Convergent, Divergent and Criterion Validity Assessments**

**Convergent Validity: Resilience Scale**

The purpose of the 25-item Resilience Scale (Wagnild & Young, 1993) is “to identify the degree of individual resilience, considered a positive personality characteristic that enhances individual adaptation” (pg.167).

At the time of publishing, Windle et al., (2011) noted there was not a “gold standard” resilience measure, they ranked the Resilience Scale (Wagnild & Young, 1993) as one of the strongest measures (6 out of 7 score) and cited it as the most widely used resilience instruments and one of the few scales that had been assessed across age ranges and developmental stages (children, adolescents, post-adolescents an older adults). Additionally, Wagnild’s (2009) metanalysis of the scale reported findings from 12 different studies and highlighted that there were no significant age-related differences, relationships between the scale and variables such as forgiveness, stress, anxiety, health promoting activities were supported strengthening the evidence for construct validity, and internal reliability findings were in the acceptable to high ranges (.72 to .94).

**Discriminant Validity: Beck Depression Inventory- II**

The Beck Depression Inventory-II [BDI-II] is a widely used screening instrument for assessing the severity of depression (McDowell, 2006). The BDI-II measures symptoms that correspond to all of the diagnostic criteria that are listed in the American Psychiatric Association's [APA] (2013) Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 5th edition (DSM-V) for
depressive disorders. The BDI-II is a 21-item self-report instrument corresponding to a symptom of overall depression that is summed to give a single score.

Initially, there were questions about whether the BDI was an appropriate measure to assess depression among all populations such as college students (Steer & Clark, 1997). Steer and Clark (1997) note that Beck, Steer, and Brown (1996) first addressed these questions when they upgraded the BDI to the Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II). They pursued additional psychometric work on the BDI-II to further assess and confirm that self-reported depression scores among college students as measured by the BDI II are comparable with that found in psychiatric patients meeting diagnostic criteria for severe clinical depression (Steer & Clark, 1997).

As such, the BDI-II was used to assess convergent and divergent validity with respect to the H-CAP 21. A high capacity for well-being and resilience is expected to converge with minimal ranges and diverge with the higher score ranges.

**Discriminant Validity: Obsessive Passion Subscale**

Vallerand’s (2008, 2010) Obsessive subscale is used to discriminate between those who derive their passion(s) from extrinsically-derived motivators. Obsessive passion is hypothesized as being created from a lack of self-fulfillment, social pressure, unsupportive environments, and need for social acceptance (Vallerand et al., 2009). Obsessive passion results in undertaking “ego-invested” activities to defend, protect and/or substitute a need for ego-affirming views of self-worth that result in less than optimal functioning (pg. 605). The H-CAP 21 utilizes items from Vallerand’s (2003, 2008, 2010) Harmonious Passion subscale which focuses on an individual’s ability to internally monitor and regulate their own behavior through intrinsically derived goal-driven motivators that promote healthy identity development and well-being. Individuals who experience obsessive passion feel obliged to undertake tasks and when they are not achieved they lose self-esteem and create competition with those internally-derived passions that are more harmonious with an individual’s deeper commitments, sense of purpose and notion of self that are
more likely to bring about well-being (Mageau et al., 2011). The H-CAP 21 does not require incorporation of the Obsessive scale because its purpose is not to present a dualistic model of passion. The Harmonious scale on the H-CAP 21 along with the subscales Accountability, Commitment and Hope aims to assess the degree a person can draw upon resiliently and flexibly engage in healthy, positive, internally-derived goals-driven activities that are more autonomously regulated (Vallerand, et al., 2009). Harmonious passion is juxtaposed against obsessive passion which is ego-centric, premised on external social pressures and emanates from self-protective maladaptive behaviors or social relationships and result in negative outcomes such as rumination, rigid persistence, or conflict with other important life-domains (Mageau et al., 2009). The absence of harmonious passion would infer in the H-CAP structure that the participant does not have sufficient passion of the harmonious-type to support a healthy approach to well-being maintenance. They may exhibit traits of resilience, however, well-being is compromised. Although initial exploratory factor analytic and group difference models did not exhibit findings sufficient to require our inclusion of the obsessive subscale in the H-CAP 21 measure for subsequent testing.

Our expectations for the convergent and discriminant properties of the Obsessive subscale is that moderate correlations will exist between the Harmonious subscale (Vallerand et al., 2008 found \( r = .53, p < .001 \)) and low (\( r < .20 \)) to non-significant correlational findings pertaining to the Hope, Commitment and Accountability subscales.

**Criterion-Related Validity: Self-Reported Graduate Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)**

For criterion-related validity, we used the self-reported cumulative grade point averages (GPA) reported at the time of participation. We postulated that a participant who evidences an agency-derived hope, commitment, accountability and intrinsically-derived passion would also have a strong relationship to key educational outcomes. This would correlate with generalized
findings that indicate students with high subjective well-being and low experience of psychopathology have higher GPAs (Antaramian, 2015; Steinmayr et al., 2016).

**Participants**

We undertook study 2 with a non-clinical convenience sample of undergraduate and graduate students at a large southeastern university (N=1178; 836 females; 331 males; 11 unreported) (mean age=39.2 years). Details related to the demographic profile of the sample can be found in Table 1. The participants were 80.4 percent White and 5.8 per cent Hispanic (the remainder were Asian—.8%, African American—15.2%, and Native American—0.7%). All the participants were from the United States and the data that was collected from this sample was during the 2014 calendar year (study 1) and the fall academic term of 2015 (study 2). All the participants in the current and previous study were provided informed consent guidelines and study details and reviewed and submitted the informed consent form prior to their participation in the study. All the participants were from the United States.

**Results**

**Group Differences and Norms**

Table 2 presents the norms for the H-CAP 21 overall and subscales, Obsessive scale, Resilience Scale, and BDI-II. The norms include the number of participants with responses (N), the valid sample with complete scale and subscale responses, means, standard deviations, minimum and maximum, quartiles, and the skewness and kurtosis calculated on the valid sample. Many of the respondents indicated in their responses that they generally had a positive view of their health and wellness, resiliency and psychological well-being (positively skewed for the negatively worded BDI items). At the end of the survey, we included a few select items to report their age, gender, race and ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic), class level (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior and graduate student) and cumulative graduate point ranges (GPA). Mean differences were assessed for key groupings using advanced analysis of variance procedures (ANOVA). There were significant
main effects detected for a few of the scales/subscales. Results of the analysis showed race differences for the Hope subscale ($F = 2.564$, $df = 4$, $p = .05$), Harmonious Passion subscale ($F = 2.622$, $df = 4$, $p = .05$), H-CAP 21 ($F = 2.920$, $df = 4$, $p = .05$), Obsessive Scale ($F = 5.293$, $df = 4$, $p = .001$) and Resilience scale ($F = 3.238$, $df = 4$, $p = .05$). Hispanic and non-Hispanics exhibited no significant differences for the scales. The only significant mean difference for gender was the Obsessive scale ($F = 8.676$, $df = 1$, $p = .003$) and there were no significant differences for class level. Cumulative GPA range differences included the Commitment subscale ($F = 7.367$, $df = 5$, $p = .001$) and the BDI-II ($F = 4.694$, $df = 5$, $p = .001$). There were significant differences for age ranges ($p = .05$) with the exception of the Obsessive scale ($p = .05$).

**Exploratory Factor Analysis**

An exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was conducted to assess the relationship of the items to the proposed dimensions. The EFA yielded a strong four-factor solution explaining greater than 60.51% of the variance (Table 3). There was one item that had a factor loading below the proposed cutoff threshold (Accountability subscale: “I need other people to help me obtain my goals.”). We removed the item from the H-CAP and re-ran the EFA procedure and found the instrument explained 62.52% of the variance with the Hope factor accounting for the largest proportion of variance at 39.57% (Eigenvalue=8.3). The EFA yielded very strong item to factor loadings on both the structure and pattern matrices with only one item solidly in the fair range (Accountability: “I’m comfortable making new relationships with people of like interests.”) and one item in the good range (Hope: “I look forward to what my future holds.”). All other items were in the very good to excellent ranges. Detailed information on item statistics including loadings and item–total correlations for the H-CAP 21 is provided in Table 5.

**Confirmatory Factor Analysis**

We conducted a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) to test the hypothesis whether the factorial structure hypothesized and revealed in the EFA would exist between the items and their
underlying latent constructs (i.e., Hope, Commitment, etc.). The reliabilities (Cronbach’s α) were also assessed for the model overall and in the context of the model. To examine the latent dimensionality of the H-CAP, we assessed the item’s “fit” by constraining each item to its respective dimensions and assessing the dimensions as a first-order structure (all dimensions are equally correlated). We estimated a one-level four factor model using EQS (version 6.2).

Following the standards set forward by Bentler and Wu (2002) and Kline (2005) model fit was evaluated using the χ2, root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) the standardized root mean residual (SRMR) and the comparative fit index (CFI). The subscales of the H-CAP 21 showed good internal consistency with the alpha coefficient at .92. The Hope subscale showed the strongest coefficient (.91) followed by Harmonious Passion (.85), Accountability (.80) and Commitment (.75). The often cited work of Bentler and Wu (2002) note that models yielding a RMSEA of 0.06 or lower combined with a SRMR of 0.09 or lower are considered acceptable and a preference for models exhibiting an RMSEA of 0.06 or lower with an SRMR values less than 0.05 (Byrne, 1998; Diamantopoulos & Siguaw, 2000). A CFI approximating a value of 0.95 is typically recognized as indicative of very good fit (Hooper, et al., 2008; Hu & Bentler, 1999). The four-factor first-order model had an excellent confirmatory fit (Model 1: χ2 = 752.23, df=183, p<.001; χ2= 4.11; RMSEA=0.056; SMR was 0.94, the SRMR=.050; CFI=.942). Although subscales are significantly correlated, the excellent model fit suggests that the subscales of the H-CAP 21 are distinguishable measures of a capacity for resilience and well-being. A closer examination of the inter-correlations among the H-CAP 21 subscales (Table 4) exhibit mild to modest correlations between all subscales except Hope and Harmonious Passion which is moderately strong (Cohen, 1988). This reinforces the subscales as representing relevant yet distinguishable constructs.

**Convergent, Discriminant and Criterion-related Validity**

**Convergent validity.** We hypothesized that an association would exist between each of our H-CAP subscales and the Resilience Scale. Results are presented in Table 4 and exhibit
Pearson correlations at .668 (p<.001) for Hope, .526 (p<.001) for Commitment, .395 (p<.001) for Accountability, .583 (p<.001) for Harmonious and .713 (p<.001) overall for the H-CAP. All four subscales and the instrument’s overall score have moderate to strong correlations, thereby acceptable convergence was obtained for the H-CAP with the Resilience subscale.

**Discriminant validity.** We used the BDI-II and the Obsessive Passion subscale to test discriminant validity. Findings exhibit that each of our H-CAP subscales had strong, negative correlations with the BDI-II score. The Pearson correlations were -.582 (p<.001) for Hope, -.277 (p<.001) for Commitment, -.386 (p<.001) for Accountability, -.546 (p<.001) for Harmonious and -.604 (p<.001) overall for the H-CAP. The Obsessive Passion subscale findings fell into expected ranges. The Pearson correlations for this scale were .174 (p<.001) for Hope, .044 (p<.001) for Commitment, .387 (p<.001) for Accountability, .135 (p<.001) for Harmonious and .286 (p<.001) overall for the H-CAP. We contend discriminant validity was obtained for the H-CAP.

**Criterion-related validity.** Pearson correlations exhibited a positive correlation for all subscales and self-reported cumulative GPA, but the relationship did not reach a level of significance for the Hope, Accountability or Harmonious Passion subscales. The Commitment subscale and the overall H-CAP score had a significant correlation with self-reported cumulative GPA, .095 (p<.001) and the overall H-CAP score, .076 (p<.001), respectively (See Table 4). Criterion-related validity was generally inconclusive for the H-CAP. Although correlational findings were in the appropriate direction, we did not achieve a strong association for each subscale. We had expected the criterion validity findings would reflect levels akin to those found in Anataramian (2015) and Steinmayr et al. (2016), but we did not find as strong of a relationship. Steinmayr, et al. (2016) found the relationship to academic outcomes was a function of goal-orientation as mediated by metacognitive self-regulation. We do not have an instrument assessing goal-orientations or other mediating variables such as self-regulation and this possibly influenced relationship to the criterion. However, the Commitment subscale is believed to provide an aspect
of goal seeking and attaining behavior which may be why the relationship was significant for this subscale. It is also worth noting that the majority of participants were above the age of 25 with 40% being between the ages of 40-59. Over 46% were also graduate students. Individuals that represent this demographic would be expected to have higher degrees of commitment. With 77% of the population having a GPA over 3.0, another explanation of why significance was not found on the remaining subscales is most likely due to a lack of variation between GPA. Having a sample that represents more traditional first year students may have provided a broader range of GPA which may have led to significance.

We also recognize that self-reported criterion, especially those related to academic progress, can be inflated or deflated dependent upon the state of mind of the participant. To ascertain the degree the H-CAP relates to an academic criterion we may need to assess using the actual student academic record. Additionally, we may also need to incorporate other criterion such as those found in performance (athletics, health and wellness).

**Discussion**

As mentioned, resilience and well-being have many definitions and/or components. However, from a clinical and practical standpoint, it is necessary to refine these definitions so they can be operationalized and measured. Until this is done, resilience and well-being will remain obscure. It is a common belief that resilience and well-being can be created. This is the overarching goal of psychotherapy; to adjust and live a better quality of life. Theorists and researchers have created many techniques over many decades to achieve this outcome. However, positive psychology research has shown that the absence of symptomology alone does not equate to well-being (Diener & Lucas, 2000; Duckworth et al., 2005) or resilience. Researchers and clinicians have long wrestled with questions such as, what are the curative factors that make people better who struggle with mental disorders. What makes people able to achieve their goals in life? How are people able to rise above their circumstances and achieve success? What creates psychological and
spiritual resilience? What are the buffers against mental disorders? Francis Galton and Williams James asked similar questions and examined the abilities of the individual and what leads to their success. They postulated that successful outcomes rely primarily on ability, but include related psycho-social factors such as determination and drive. James went further and encouraged psychologists to study the concept of abilities that lead to success, discover outcomes, and teach them to people (Duckworth et al., 2007). It is believed that the traits outlined in the H-CAP model and H-CAP 21 Scale answers this mandate and include both individual difference and situational factors such as social support. The expression of Hope, Commitment, Accountability, and Passion are both behavioral and emotional. Those with the ability to express such positive emotions are more likely to rate themselves higher in well-being and resilience (Ong et al., 2006; Tugate & Fredrickson, 2004).

The purpose of this research was to understand and identify the elements that correlate with resilience and well-being and to validate an instrument that measures these traits. Such an instrument can be useful in many settings. Overall, the H-CAP 21 has very good psychometric properties. EFA confirmed a strong four factor model explaining 62.25% of the variance. Factor loadings were very strong with all items in the very good to excellent range and one item being in the fair range. CFA confirmed that items had a strong relationship to their specific construct, hope, commitment, etc. The individual subscales yielded alpha’s from .75-.92. The four factor model had an overall excellent fit. The H-CAP 21 subscales was convergent with the Resilience Scale with moderate to strong correlations and showed divergence with the BDI-II. In this study, resilience and well-being was predicted to impact GPA. Criterion validity confirmed the direction of the relationship between GPA and the H-CAP 21 overall score and commitment subscale. However, we had variance between subscales in their relative strength of association to the criterion. We will need to consider diversifying the criterion in terms of measurement contexts and types as well as
what factors might mediate the relationship (self-regulation, commitment, etc.) between high capacity for well-being and various criteria.

The strongest factor of the model is Hope with an alpha coefficient of .92 followed by Harmonious Passion, .82, Accountability, .80, and Commitment, .75. It is believed that the Hope construct is as high as it is because hope is the foundation for resilience and well-being and the items used to measure this trait is well documented in the literature. While it was able to be shown that Hope is linked to Commitment, Accountability, and Passion, these traits as defined and measured are not as well researched. Items used to measures these constructs, particularly in the area of Commitment and Accountability are relatively new. This is a limitation of the study, however, further research is being conducted to refine these areas in an effort to increase their reliability. However, overall, the instrument shows to be a very good tool that can measure aspects resilience and well-being and contributes to the literature by defining and refining what we believe to be foundational traits to resilience and well-being.

Initial hypotheses were confirmed that degrees of hopefulness, commitment to goal-seeking and obtaining behavior, accountable relationships, and harmonious passion do reflect a direct relationship with resilience and well-being. Compared to the Resilience Scale, we believe that H-CAP 21 can be an instrument of equal expectation. While the sample size we used was large and diverse, further research is currently broadening the sample population to include military personnel for the purpose of identifying at-risk individuals susceptible to PTSD. The H-CAP 21 identifies items that measure the capacity for resilience and well-being and can be part of an overall model of intervention creating resilience and well-being through strengthening ones sense of Hope, Commitment, Accountability, and Passion.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

The authors have nothing to disclose and the study was not funded. The study has been approved by the Liberty University Institutional Review Board and have been performed in
accordance with the ethical standards as laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki (1996) and its later amendments.
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