# Assignment 1- EPPS 6323

# Team Project Brainstorm

## a. Brainstorm:

### i. Starting with data or research question?

The team decided to start with a specific research question: 'How do student characteristics and institutional factors influence the degree attainment of undergraduate international students in Texas?' This focus helped to direct the data collection and analysis process.

### ii. Do you have a hypothesis?

The research hypothesis was not explicitly stated because it is a predictive exploratory study. However, the study seems to operate under the assumption that various student characteristics and institutional factors significantly impact the educational outcomes of international students.

### iii. How data can be collected and stored?

Data will be collected from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, which includes comprehensive student-level information across postsecondary institutions in Texas. The final dataset will be constructed with elements such as awarded degree information, student demographic data, and faculty and courses taken to provide insights into the factors influencing degree attainment.

### iv. What methods could be considered?

The study employed both traditional statistical methods and innovative machine learning models, including random forests, to analyze the data. This mixed-method approach allowed for a robust analysis of the factors affecting graduation outcomes of international students.

### v. Collaboration and teamwork

Team: Greg, Maitreyi and Sonali with Sonali as the leader.