# Data D2- Theme 1 Sub-theme 2

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| **Theme1: Self-awareness, grit and optimism as factors influencing student success** | | |
| **Sub-theme 2: Steps and aids towards successful academic milestones** | | |
| **Category** | **Participant** | **Quotation** |
| **Achievement** | Mandisa | "I would say its where I got accepted into Golden Key" |
| Zolani | "When I received a letter that I’ve completed my studies" |
| Lebo | "When I was given a golden key thingy, honorary" |
| Thembi | "My biggest academic achievements was actually getting into medicine" |
| Gwen | "The moment that comes to mind is making it into Honours" |
| Khensani | "It was obtaining my honours degree" |
| Terry | "I think it’s the acceptance in medicine. Yah it was the one, nothing else" |
| **The feeling/ emotions** | Thembi | "I was beyond excited. I was emotional. I couldn't help but say: 'I’ve seen God’s existence manifest itself in my life'” |
| "A lot of “what if’s” just got cancelled at that moment" |
| Mandisa | "I couldn’t believe that is it actually me, 'do I qualify for such things?' Like some students have been working and working to get this and I got it" |
| "That was the best moment in my life, I was like 'WHAT IS THIS?' Like you know how people would talk highly about Golden key" |
| Gwen | "I felt proud, I felt like I’d made my mom proud was an important thing for me because she’s big on education esp. being a teacher" |
| "I felt worthy, I felt like I had, I’m important" |
| "I remember that being like shoo, all of this work was worth it, I felt everything was worth it all of everything I’ve been through all that I’ve done was all worth it one of the most amazing times in my life just making it into Honours" |
| Khensani | I’m not sure if I can put it to words but I was so happy |
| "I remember when they called my name I walked on the stage and I said confidently I did very well for this and I deserve this thing" |
| Terry | "I’m so happy and excited, I’m like wow. Thank God like, he made a way, where there might… where it seems like there might not be a way" |
| Zolani | "So, every time I achieve something, it feels like, okay I'm done with this part, what's next?" |
| "I was excited for about 10 to 15 minutes, and from there then, another thing kicked in that, okay now this chapter you're done with it" |
| Lebo | "It was exciting, hey they did a ceremony for us and It felt so good" |