

Public Abstract

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Title: THE IMPACT OF DIVISION II REVENUE AND NON-REVENUE SPORT PARTICIPATION ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of NCAA Division II revenue and non-revenue sport participation on student engagement as measured by the National Survey of Student Engagement's *The College Student Report*. A case study of a four-year, regional, public institution in Missouri employing quantitative statistical analysis was utilized to investigate how athletics participation impacted empirically derived student engagement indicators. The study served as a tool for program review, informed both policy and practice, and sought to advance scholarship regarding intercollegiate athletics participation.

The independent variable was intercollegiate athletics participation at the selected institution. Two independent variable categories included: athletes and non-athletes and revenue sport and non-revenue sport participants. The dependent variables for the study were selected *College Student Report* measures. Data were acquired from the cooperating institution's Office of Assessment, Information, and Analysis.

Data were analyzed using exploratory factor analysis, descriptive statistics analysis, univariate analysis of covariance, and discriminant function analysis. Exploratory factor analysis yielded 11 components consisting of 29 measures. The 29 measures were treated as dependent variables for subsequent analyses. Descriptive analysis indicated mean differences in both categories of independent variable. However, descriptive analysis suggested that athletes and non-athletes and revenue sport and non-revenue sport participants were similarly engaged. However, univariate ANCOVA analyses uncovered three significant differences between both categories of independent variable. Finally, discriminant function analysis results revealed that it is likely that these functions would lead to incorrect classification of individuals into groups.