

Public Abstract

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Department:Educational & Counseling Psychology

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Title:It's About Just Staying Focused: How African American Gay and Bisexual Men Persist at a Predominately White University

African American males graduate from college at lower rates than their African American female and White male classmates. This qualitative study sought to explore the strategies that African American gay and bisexual men used to successfully persist at a predominately White university in the face of racism and heterosexism. Seven domains emerged (factors that influenced the decision to attend, identity development, experiences of racial and sexual orientation prejudice, additional factors that make persistence difficult, attitudinal factors that influence persistence, and the role of community and university resources in persistence) from the data, and the results articulate the key attitudes, actions, and resources upon which these men drew to successfully complete their undergraduate study. Implications for mental health and student affairs professionals are discussed.