

Washington State University

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Will defend the dissertation

Date: April 22, 2021

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Zoom by request

Faculty, students and the general public are encouraged to attend

**FACTORS PREDICTING STUDENT-ATHLETE RETENTION AND
ATTRITION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: A META-ANALYTIC INVESTIGATION**

Co-Chairs: Yong Chae Rhee and Sharon Kruse

Though there has been a growing body of research on student-athlete retention in higher education, no studies to date have conducted a meta-analysis for investigating predictors of student-athlete retention and attrition. Moreover, the results of existing literature indicate that the factors impacting collegiate athletes' retention are mixed. Since student-athletes are from various backgrounds and different types of schools (e.g., Division I, II, III schools, or community colleges), it is crucial to address a generalized and coherent evidence of numerous factors from the multiple independent studies. Toward that end, conducting a meta-analysis is necessary and critical at this stage.

Meta-analysis is the most valuable and effective statistical technique to better understand the factors predicting retention for this specialized subgroup of the higher education student population because it illustrates a quantitative summarization of various factors. Furthermore, meta-analysis allows researchers to compare differences between the retention factors within a group of collegiate student-athletes from various diverse backgrounds and different institutions.

By conducting a meta-analysis, the study aims to provide school administrators, educators, policymakers, and scholars with generalized evidence for promoting student-athlete retention. The results of this research will allow them to objectively evaluate factors, their effectiveness, and for whom and under what conditions they are effective. Consequently, practitioners and educators will be able to implement the outcomes of this study to increase college athletes' persistence in their educational setting.