

Transition Experiences out of Intercollegiate Athletics: A Meta-Synthesis

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Abstract

As very few studies have focused exclusively on the retirement process of college athletes, this study used a qualitative meta-synthesis research method design to examine the transition experiences of student-athletes out of intercollegiate athletics. The data from eight qualitative studies (three published articles, four dissertations and one master thesis) were synthesized, leading to the identification of six themes indicative of the transition experience: salience of athletic identity, level of preparation, branching out, satisfaction with athletic performance, loss of camaraderie and support systems. The results of the meta-synthesis are then discussed in light of theory explication and theory development.

Keywords: *Transition experiences, intercollegiate athletics, meta-synthesis, student-athletes*