

Request #: 545 - HDFS - Dissertation

The Development of Sense of Purpose During the University Years

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Background

Nearly 20 million students were expected to be enrolled for college or university studies during the 2020-2021 academic year. As part of their recruiting efforts, many universities advertise that students will find their sense of purpose matriculating. Despite broad attention given to sense of purpose in the university setting, it is unclear how successful universities have been in delivering on this promise and how they go about doing so. In addition, a gap exists in current knowledge surrounding how sense of purpose might help university administrators address student dropout and psychological distress among their students. Given current trends surrounding what is now referred to as a mental health crisis, an examination of the role sense of purpose plays in potentially helping students persist to graduation seems worthwhile. This dissertation includes 2 studies, Study 1 (the study with data I would like help with) is designed to examine sense of purpose as a potential buffer between university-related stress and psychological distress.

Sample

We have a sample of 375 students. In addition to demographic data, data provided by participants includes measures of 1) sense of purpose, 2) stress, 3) burnout, 4) anxiety, and 5) depression.

Hypothesis

What buffering effect, if any, does sense of purpose possess between the stressors experienced by students engaged in post-secondary education and psychological well-being?

Progress

I have completed data collection and have this data in Qualtrics. I have not yet begun the process of cleaning or analyzing.

Request

I have done much of the process before but would greatly appreciate the help of a consultant to ensure I engage in the process of cleaning, analyzing, and interpreting correctly.

Timeline

If possible, I would love to be able to analyze and write up a methods section by the end of June.