

ABSTRACT

THE CHALLENGE OF BEING AN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETE: A BALANCE BETWEEN ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS

The purpose of this study was to determine if the amount of time devoted to athletic participation in intercollegiate sports at the NAIA level had a relationship to academic performance. In addition, student-athletes' perceptions of the measures that it would take to be successful as both a student and an athlete were surveyed. Results showed no relationship between the amount of time invested in academics and athletics to GPA. However, the results did show that student-athletes believed that their investment in both academics and athletics affected their academic progress. The results suggest that the university athletic department academic advisors gave incoming student-athletes the preparation and knowledge of the measures that it took to be successful in college. A recurring theme was the readiness and awareness of the student-athletes to take the appropriate measures to succeed as intercollegiate student-athletes at the NAIA level.

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