

The Post-Collegiate Experience

Maria Sawa, St. Johns University

The stigma of an athlete is often put on the back burner in regards to success through professional settings of careers, academics and components that do not entail athletics. This phenomenological pilot study explores the athletic identity of former college male student athletes that are currently in their professional adult lives. The identities of former athletes are often dismissed after their athletic career is completed. The focus of this research is to capture and describe former male athletes' views around (1) athletic identity, (2) self-determination, (3) academics, (4) success. Sources of data collected include semi-structured interviews, reflective memos, and writing samples. This study will fill the gap of research that determines the impact of athletics on individuals' lives after the end of their athletic journeys. The goal of this research is to create a framework in academia to internationally integrate athletics within educational policy and curriculums in order to create more successful and motivated generations.