

## ABSTRACT

**THESIS:** THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERCEIVED OCCUPATIONAL STRESS AND SOCIAL SUPPORT AMONG COLLEGE COACHES

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The current study aimed to assess the relationship between perceived occupational stress and social support among collegiate coaches, and if years of coaching experience and competition level (NCAA Division I, II, III) add to the explanation of occupational stress above and beyond social support. The study utilized the Administrative Stress Index (Koch, Gmelch, Tung, & Swent, 1982) in order to measure perceived occupational stress and the Personal Resource Questionnaire: Part 2 (Brandt & Weinert, 1981) to measure perceived social support. Results suggested that task-based stress is significantly related to perceived social support, but years of experience and competition level do not add to the occupational stress explanation. This study provides the field of sport and exercise psychology and the coaching profession with more information about work-related stress in coaches; it also supports previous literature on the stress-support relationship.