

## ABSTRACT

**DISSERTATION/THESIS/CREATIVE PROJECT:** Divergent Validity of the Wechsler Memory Scale – Fourth Edition (WMS-IV) and the Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (D-KEFS)

**STUDENT:** Kelly Hoover

**DEGREE:** Doctor of Philosophy

**COLLEGE:** Teachers College

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**PAGES:** 122

The present study examined the relationship between memory and executive functioning in a college student population using the *Wechsler Memory Scale, Fourth Edition* (WMS-IV) and selected tests from the *Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System* (D-KEFS). Contrary to results of previous research on the relationship between measures of memory and executive functioning in clinical populations, results of canonical correlation analyses used in the present study do not suggest there is a significant degree of shared variance between WMS-IV subtests and D-KEFS Trail Making Test and Color-Word Interference Test variable sets in a college student sample. Simple correlation analyses, however, suggest aspects of memory and executive functioning are weakly to moderately related. Given that there was not a significant degree of shared variance between the WMS-IV and D-KEFS tests, results of the present study suggest the WMS-IV and D-KEFS Trail Making Test and Color-Word Interference Test have adequate divergent validity and are useful for differential diagnosis of neuropsychological conditions. Given that results of the present study are inconsistent with results of previous studies, it is possible the relationship between measures of memory and executive functioning differs in clinical vs. nonclinical populations. Further research is needed to clarify the role of attention and other variables in the relationship between memory and executive functioning.