Chapter 10

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ABSTRACT

Personalized journeys that reflect the development of deep-seated perseverance and determination characteristics evolve from stresses and traumatic events that may be short-term or longer-term from past experiences, yet still can impact the doctoral candidate’s progression through the dissertation journey. A sensitivity towards one’s own psychological balance during highly stressful and destabilized beliefs around one’s self-efficacy are impactful during the dissertation, potentially subverting and undermining a doctoral candidate’s ability to maintain a balanced psychological approach towards anxiety-riddled and stress-inducing cognitive dissonance and engagement. Discussions around the ability to support doctoral candidates during the dissertation journey are highlighted, including perseverance and determination characteristic strengths, weaknesses, and areas of potential growth areas of engaged development, upon the doctoral candidate’s personality.

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INTRODUCTION

The ability to successfully journey through a doctoral program of study’s doctoral capstone experience may sometimes be considered the most difficult aspect of a doctoral program. Understanding that the doctoral capstone is so significantly different from prior doctoral program of study engagement supports is a realistic understanding that many doctoral candidates don’t actually conceive until in the midst of the doctoral capstone experience.

The discussions around the levels of perseverance and determination tendencies necessary to achieve a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree and a doctoral degree have been a long-running anecdote amongst academics, with the heightened levels of perseverance and determination tendencies supporting a doctoral student’s progression towards success. Basically, the suggestion being the higher levels of perseverance and determination tendencies in a person’s personality, the more that they’re willing to endure in order to achieve their journey. Of interest is Reik’s (1939; Windholz, 1942) work that highlights the characteristics of perseverance and determination, specifically “the importance of fantasy, the suspense factor, and exhibitionism” (Windholz, 1942, p. 275). These characteristics are especially relevant throughout the doctoral student’s journey, as one must be able to dream of their potential achievements while allowing the journey’s progression to become more suspenseful as the doctoral student progresses forward, achieve the rigorous and potentially unattainable milestone successes throughout the doctoral studies that have the potential to be viewed as different manners of expressing oneself that is demonstrative in nature, inclusive of a willingness to stand out from other doctoral colleagues and attain ultimate success in their doctoral study journey.

How doctoral students and the academy understand characteristics of perseverance and determination tendencies, especially during one’s doctoral studies and then progressing into one’s tenure-track faculty experience, are ultimate understandings that implicitly drive the ability of differentiated personalities to strive towards successfully carving out their own place within academia and the scholarly venues of professional organizations and environments. Moral perseverance and determination are vitally important, towards addressing an engaged and forward-leaning engagement towards doctoral candidate success throughout the doctoral capstone experience. Framing the initial work towards understanding perseverance and determination and then delving further into the different aspects of perseverance and determination tendencies upon a doctoral candidate’s personality helps to better understand the strengths, weaknesses and potent areas of engaged development throughout the doctoral capstone experience.
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