

Kinesiology, Sport, Etc.: International Diversity of Department and College Names

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Background

A department name and college affiliation can reflect the direction of research, teaching, and service.

Internationally, the field of exercise, sport, and physical activity has accumulated numerous different department names and departments are located in a diverse array of colleges.

The purpose of this research was to collect an international sample of department and college names to understand the field's multifaceted organization.

Methods

Sample

A stratified-random sample of journal articles ($n = 139$) from 10 different kinesiology-focused journals between the years of 2008-2012. Their department and college names were recorded.

Analysis

Chi-square test of independence, with Bonferroni correction, for variables with low expected values ($n \leq 5$), simulation of the sampling distribution using Monte Carlo methods was applied.

Results

Department (Table 1)

Out of the seven different types of department names, the most frequently used were Kinesiology (27%) and Sport (27%).

The United States accounted for 73% of Kinesiology ($\chi^2 = 116.43, p < 0.001$)

The United Kingdom accounted for 78% of Sport ($\chi^2 = 125.89, p < 0.001$)

Sport was also the most popular department name, used in every country except Canada and the United States

With five each, the dispersion of department names within Australia and the US was the largest, followed by Canada and South Africa with four each

College (Table 2)

There were nine different names of colleges represented, the most popular being Health/Medical (35%) followed by Education (18%)

Colleges of Education were most prevalent in the United States ($\chi^2 = 106.00, p < 0.001$), accounting for over 82%

Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States had six different college affiliations, followed by Australia with five

Conclusion

Names significantly differ depending on the country or region, reflecting both historical roots and future ambitions.

Within North America (Canada and the United States), the department names reflect a “scientific” approach, but often located in Colleges of Education, especially in the United States.

The United Kingdom’s strong association with Sport, at both the department and college level, shows the inclusivity of the word, which is not reflected in other countries.

These results provide faculty, administrators, and professional organizations an international scope the field.

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Table 1									
<i>Department Name by Country (%)</i>									
Department Name	Australia	Canada	Hong Kong	New Zealand	South Africa	United Kingdom	United States	Total	$\chi^{2\dagger}$
Exercise Science	7	1	0	0	1	4	17	30	53.07
Health	4	0	0	0	0	2	16	22	65.81
Kinesiology	1	9	0	0	0	0	27	37	116.43
Movement Studies	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	4.00
Physical Education	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	7	18.00
Sport	3	0	1	3	1	29	0	37	125.89
Other	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	8.67
Total	16	15	1	3	4	35	65	139	-
χ^2	17.25	29.33	-	-	3.00	131.61	74.03	71.96	-

[†] $p < 0.05$ after Bonferroni correction in bold

Table 2									
<i>College/Faculty/School Names by Country (%)</i>									
College Name	Australia	Canada	Hong Kong	New Zealand	South Africa	United Kingdom	United States	Total	$\chi^{2\dagger}$
Arts and Sciences/Humanities/Social Sciences	0	2	0	0	2	7	8	19 (14)	25.58
Education	1	1	1	0	0	2	23	28 (18)	106.00
Exercise/Kinesiology	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	5 (3)	13.20
Health/Medical/Nursing	9	7	0	1	2	6	24	49 (35)	57.71
Physical Education	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2 (1)	5.00
Public Health	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	5 (4)	18.80
Science/Life Science	4	1	0	1	0	11	4	21 (15)	30.67
Sport	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	9 (6)	159.35
Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1 (1)	8.67
Total	16 (12)	15 (11)	1 (1)	3 (2)	4 (2)	35 (25)	65 (47)	139 (100)	-
χ^2	40.25	24.00	-	6.00	14.00	35.71	101.85	127.95	-

[†] $p < 0.05$ after Bonferroni correction in bold