Candidate: Krista Hinz
For the degree of: Doctor of Philosophy
Department: Psychology

Title: Human Behavior and Safety Auditing: The Effects of Altering Response Effort on Data Collection Behaviors of Internal and External Auditors

Committee: Dr. Heather McGee, Chair
Dr. Alyce Dickinson
Dr. Bradley Huitema
Dr. Richard Van Enk

Time/Place: Tuesday, October 11, 2016
9 to 11 a.m.
1509 Wood Hall

When dealing with human observers and error, tight control in data collection methodology is essential for accurate representation of compliance. Although observational studies are popular, little has been done to examine the integrity of human observers within auditing processes, which this current study seeks to remedy. The purpose of this study is to revisit and expand upon past research regarding data collection integrity in order to assess whether manipulating response effort associated with an auditing task has an effect on data collection and report behavior. The present study demonstrates salient change in data collection behavior of student auditors when response effort of an auditing task was manipulated, emphasizing the need for awareness of integrity threats that may affect data
collection. In addition, this study investigates differences in the auditing behavior of internal nurses and external students collecting hospital safety data. Internal nursing staff and external student data were examined to explore ethical misconduct related to withholding and fabricating data, specifically “pencil whipping” behavior. Furthermore, this study reveals that comparisons of internal and external auditor data indicate falsification threats with data collection practices.