

## **Abstract Proposal**

**Title -** African American/Black Women CES Doctoral Graduates Persistence

**Program of Study** – Marriage & Family

**Presentation Type** – Theoretical Research

**Subtype** – Choose one of the following for poster or oral presentation types:  
Theoretical Abstract

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There is a significant body of research conducted in the area of doctoral persistence, regarding intrinsic and extrinsic factors, however, the need for more information regarding the factors that have the strongest impact on persistence is yet to be uncovered. The prominent works that address high-attrition rates do not all take into account the African American / Black (AA/Black) women experiences and the influence of their ancestry regarding persistence. From the backing empirical research, it stands to reason that incorporating one's ancestral heritage would accentuate their persistence. The purpose of this theoretical research aims to explore African American /Black women's understanding of their ancestral heritage, contributing to their successful persistence, in a Counselor Education and Supervision program that is accredited by CACREP. The research questions ask: What role, if at all, did ancestral heritage play in influencing the successful completion of your doctoral degree? The second question investigates how ancestral knowledge on persistence is acquired and how is it transmitted, to further pursues the objective of the main question. Hermeneutical phenomenology qualitative and PhotoVoice would be the methodological utilized to collect the data. Through the retrospective experiences of participants, this phenomenological study will help uncover some of the themes that arise from their personal experiences and lineage. This research is intended to increase the knowledge of the persistence factor(s), thus addressing the high attrition rate and

the gap found in the literature on this topic.