



TIDES

THE INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY AND ETHICS IN SPORT

MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE

Keeping Score When It Counts:

Assessing the Academic Records of the 2018-2019 Bowl-Bound College Football Teams

by **Dr. Richard Lapchick**

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Executive Summary

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The overall academic progress of college football student-athletes continued while the substantial gap between white and African-American football student-athletes widened for the 78 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) bowl-bound schools. The results were reported in “**Keeping Score When It Counts: Assessing the Academic Records of the 2018-2019 Bowl-bound College Football Teams**,” a study released by The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida.

Richard Lapchick, director of TIDES and the primary author of the study, said, “The academic success of FBS football student-athletes continued to grow this year. The overall football student-athlete Graduation Success Rate (GSR) for bowl-bound teams is 79 percent, up from 77 percent in 2017.”

Lapchick added, “This year, all but one of the schools participating in a bowl game had at least a 50 percent GSR for their football teams compared to last year when all of the schools had at least a 50 percent GSR. Both APR and GSR figures are showing signs of slow progress.

Lapchick stated, “However, the gap between white and African-American football student-athletes continues to be a major issue standing at 17 percent this year, up from 16 percent last year. Among the 78 bowl-bound teams, the average GSR for African-American student-athletes is 73 percent, up from 71 percent in 2017. The average GSR for white football student-

Overall Football Student-Athlete GSR

77% ↑ **79%**
-2017- -2018-

Average GSR for African-American Football Student-Athletes

71% ↑ **73%**
-2017- -2018-

Average GSR for White Football Student-Athletes

87% ↑ **90%**
-2017- -2018-

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athletes is 90 percent, up from 87 percent in 2017. In addition, just one team graduated less than half of their African-American football student-athletes, which is a slight improvement from two schools in 2017. No team graduated less than half of its white football student-athletes.”

Lapchick noted, “It must be emphasized that African-American and white football players graduate at a higher rate than their male non-athletic peers in the student body within D1 schools. The graduation rate for African-American male students as a whole is only 41 percent, in comparison to the 66 percent graduation rate for white male students, according to the NCAA Education and Research Data. That 25 percent gap for the general student population remains totally unacceptable for education in America. The problem goes back to the academic preparation students get before they ever get to college.”

Lapchick said, “Alabama, Clemson, Notre Dame, and Oklahoma, which will contend in the college football playoff for the National Championship, all had reasonable academic standing. Alabama and Clemson’s APRs led the pack at 984 and 987 respectively, ranking them among the top 12 out of the 78 bowl-bound teams. Notre Dame followed with a 966 and finally Oklahoma with 956. They graduated 84 percent, 87 percent, 95 percent, and 76 percent of all their football student-athletes, respectively. As for their African-American student-athletes, they graduated, 79 percent, 82 percent, 87 percent, and 70 percent, respectively. Their white football student-athletes graduated at rates of 94 percent, 100 percent, 100 percent, and 85 percent, respectively.

Duke University, Stanford University, University of Notre Dame, University of South Carolina, Northwestern University, Vanderbilt University, and University of Utah would have played for the National Championship if there was a college football playoff based on GSR among bowl teams. All teams graduated at least 93 percent of all football student-athletes and at least 87 percent of African-American football student-athletes. Duke University, Northwestern University, Boise State University, and Vanderbilt University graduated at least 95 percent of their African-American football student-athletes.”

Troubling statistics in the study of the bowl-bound team included:

- 77 schools (98 percent) had GSRs of 70 percent

"It must be emphasized that African-American and white football players graduate at a higher rate than their male non-athletic peers in the student body within D1 schools."

or higher for white football student-athletes, which was more than 1.5 times the number of schools with equivalent GSRs for African-American football student-athletes (51 schools or 65 percent).

- All bowl-bound schools graduated 50 percent or higher of their white football student-athletes while one of the 78 bowl-bound schools graduated less than 50 percent of their African-American football student-athletes.

In addition, the size of the gap among some schools is alarming:

- 8 schools (10 percent) had GSRs for African-American football student-athletes that were at least 30 percentage points lower than their rates for white football student-athletes, which is an increase from 8 percent in the 2017 study.
- 28 schools (36 percent) had GSRs for African-American football student-athletes that were at least 20 percentage points lower than their rates for white football student-athletes, which is a decrease from 38 percent in the 2017 study.

Three schools had a GSR for their African-American football student-athletes that exceeded their rates for white football student-athletes, down from six schools in 2017. They were the University of Minnesota, Boise State University and Vanderbilt University.

Northwestern University was the only school that had an overall GSR for football student-athletes that were better than for the overall student-athletes of the school.

This year there will be 10 bowl games in which

both teams have APRs higher or equal to 970. The Rose Bowl has The Ohio State University and University of Washington with APRs of 982 and 986, respectively. The Peach Bowl has University of Michigan and University of Florida with APRs of 990 and 977, respectively. The Citrus Bowl has Pennsylvania State University and University of Kentucky with APRs of 980 and 971, respectively. The Outback Bowl has Mississippi State University and University of Iowa with APRs 975 and 970, respectively. The Sun Bowl has University of Pittsburgh and Stanford University with APRs 984 and 985, respectively. The Holiday Bowl has Northwestern University and University of Utah with APRs 997 and 983, respectively. The Texas Bowl has Baylor University and Vanderbilt University with APRs 979 and 993, respectively. The Independence Bowl has Temple University and Duke University with APRs 982 and 992, respectively. The Quick Lane Bowl has University of Minnesota and Georgia Institute of Technology with APRs 983 and 980, respectively. The First Responder Bowl has Boston College and Boise State University with APRs 985 and 976, respectively.

NCAA statistics were used in this study. The Institute reviewed data collected by the NCAA from member institutions for the graduation rate study. The Institute reviewed the six-year graduation rates of each school's freshman class that enrolled in 2011-12, and it then calculated a four-class average (freshmen classes of 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12).

The NCAA created the APR in 2004 as part of an academic reform package designed to more accurately measure student-athletes' academic success as well as improve graduation rates at member institutions. The APR holds each team accountable for the success of student-athletes in the classroom and their progression towards graduation. Individual teams are penalized if they fall below an APR score of 930, which is an expected graduation rate of 50 percent of its student-athletes. As of now, scholarship reductions are the only penalties: up to 10 percent of scholarships can be taken away. Historical penalties will be imposed on schools who continue to fall below the 930 APR.

The new postseason eligibility structure took effect in the 2012-13 academic year, with a three-year implementation window, which moved the benchmark from 900 to 930. For access to postseason competition in 2018-19, teams must achieve a 930 four-year average

Keeping Score At a Glance

41% **VS.** **73%**
African-American Male Student Body Graduation Rate **African-American Football Student-Athlete GSR**

66% **VS.** **90%**
White Male Student Body Graduation Rate **White Football Student-Athlete GSR**

Gap in Average GSR's between White and African-American Football Student-Athletes

16% **↑** **17%**
-2017- **-2018-**



APR or a 940 average over the most recent two years to participate in championships.

In this year's study, all bowl-bound teams surpassed an APR of 930.

The APR data does not include data from the 2017-18 academic performances of the teams in the study but instead uses four years of data ending in the 2016-17 school year. This is the most updated data available on the NCAA website.

The Institute has taken the position that Federal Graduation Rates (FGR) gives an unfair depiction of a school because it does not account for transfer students. A student-athlete who transfers in good standing and graduates at another institution counts as a non-graduate at the initial school. The FGR also does not count a junior college student who transfers into a four-year college and graduates as a graduate or a former student-athlete who returns and graduates more than six years after original enrollment. The Institute supports the NCAA's use of the GSR, developed in 2005, which accounts for these factors, as a better way to fairly measure the results.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport ("TIDES" or the "Institute") serves as a comprehensive resource for issues related to gender and race in amateur, collegiate and professional sport. The Institute researches and publishes a variety of studies, including annual studies of student-athlete graduation rates and racial attitudes in sport as well as the internationally recognized Racial and Gender Report Card, an assessment of hiring practices in professional and college sport. The Institute also monitors some of the critical ethical issues in college and professional sport, including the potential for exploitation of student-athletes, gambling, performance-enhancing drugs and violence in sport.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport is part of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program in the University of Central Florida's College of Business Administration. This landmark program focuses on business skills necessary for graduates to conduct successful careers in the rapidly changing and dynamic sports industry while also emphasizing diversity, community service and social issues in sport.



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BOWL GAMES

Bowl Name	School Name	Conference	APR	Overall Football Student Athletes (%)	African-American Football Student Athletes (%)	White Football Student-Athletes (%)	Overall Student-Athletes (%)	Overall Football and Student Athlete Diff (%)	White and African-American Diff (%)
Orange Bowl	University of Alabama	Southeastern Conference	984	84	79	94	89	5	15
	University of Oklahoma	Big 12 Conference	956	76	70	85	85	9	15
Cotton Bowl	Clemson University	Atlantic Coast Conference	987	87	82	100	92	5	18
	University of Notre Dame	Independent	966	95	87	100	98	3	13
Sugar Bowl	University of Georgia	Southeastern Conference	963	58	53	69	84	26	16
	University of Texas at Austin	Big 12 Conference	972	78	74	88	88	10	14
Rose Bowl	The Ohio State University	Big Ten Conference	982	64	54	82	86	22	28
	University of Washington	Pac-12 Conference	986	84	74	87	89	5	13
Fiesta Bowl	University of Central Florida	American Athletic Conference	984	87	84	92	89	2	8
	Louisiana State University	Southeastern Conference	956	73	64	83	89	16	19
Peach Bowl	University of Michigan	Big Ten Conference	990	87	88	90	93	6	2
	University of Florida	Southeastern Conference	977	74	66	100	85	11	34
Citrus Bowl	Pennsylvania State University	Big Ten Conference	980	82	71	95	90	8	24
	University of Kentucky	Southeastern Conference	971	74	70	87	88	14	17
Outback Bowl	Mississippi State University	Southeastern Conference	975	83	80	100	89	6	20
	University of Iowa	Big Ten Conference	970	80	65	86	90	10	21
Sun Bowl	University of Pittsburgh	Atlantic Coast Conference	984	75	75	82	88	13	7
	Stanford University	Pac-12 Conference	985	95	87	100	97	2	13
Taxslayer Gator Bowl	Texas A&M University, College Station	Southeastern Conference	963	71	61	92	83	12	31
	North Carolina State University	Atlantic Coast Conference	964	74	72	83	86	12	11
Holiday Bowl	Northwestern University	Big Ten Conference	997	99	97	100	98	1	3
	University of Utah	Pac-12 Conference	983	95	91	93	95	0	2
Liberty Bowl	University of Missouri, Columbia	Southeastern Conference	968	89	83	96	91	2	13
	Oklahoma State University	Big 12 Conference	969	46	38	78	73	27	40
Redbox Bowl	Michigan State University	Big Ten Conference	952	82	74	100	88	6	26
	University of Oregon	Pac-12 Conference	969	71	68	75	83	12	7
Military Bowl	University of Cincinnati	American Athletic Conference	982	82	79	89	89	7	10
	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Atlantic Coast Conference	960	90	84	100	92	2	16
Arizona Bowl	University of Nevada, Reno	Mountain West Conference	966	69	61	85	77	8	24
	Arkansas State University	Sun Belt Conference	969	83	81	91	85	2	10
Belk Bowl	University of South Carolina, Columbia	Southeastern Conference	961	93	93	100	94	1	7
	University of Virginia	Atlantic Coast Conference	969	85	78	96	92	7	18
Alamo Bowl	Iowa State University	Big 12 Conference	971	82	78	89	88	6	11
	Washington State University	Pac-12 Conference	969	75	64	100	81	6	36
Camping World Bowl	West Virginia University	Big 12 Conference	950	65	60	82	82	17	22
	Syracuse University	Atlantic Coast Conference	967	85	83	89	92	7	6
Music City Bowl	Auburn University	Southeastern Conference	980	72	71	80	84	12	9
	Purdue University	Big Ten Conference	960	77	73	94	85	8	21
Texas Bowl	Baylor University	Big 12 Conference	979	87	79	100	90	3	21
	Vanderbilt University	Southeastern Conference	993	95	100	94	97	2	-6
Pinstripe Bowl	University of Miami (Florida)	Atlantic Coast Conference	964	82	80	93	90	8	13
	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Big Ten Conference	966	86	82	87	90	4	5
Independence Bowl	Temple University	American Athletic Conference	982	81	78	89	87	6	13
	Duke University	Atlantic Coast Conference	992	96	95	97	98	2	2
Cheez-it Bowl	Texas Christian University	Big 12 Conference	965	70	64	85	84	14	21
	University of California, Berkeley	Pac-12 Conference	978	64	57	87	82	18	30
Quick Lane Bowl	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Big Ten Conference	983	89	90	88	93	4	-2
	Georgia Institute of Technology	Atlantic Coast Conference	980	86	82	100	89	3	18
First Responder Bowl	Boston College	Atlantic Coast Conference	985	88	78	93	95	7	17
	Boise State University	Mountain West Conference	978	89	96	88	90	1	-8
Hawaii Bowl	University of Hawaii, Manoa	Mountain West Conference	964	79	67	91	85	6	24
	Louisiana Tech University	Conference USA	949	65	52	96	79	14	44
Dollar General Bowl	University of Buffalo, the State University of New York	Mid-American Conference	973	70	58	93	83	13	37
	Troy University	Sun Belt Conference	957	73	69	93	85	12	24
Armed Forces Bowl	U.S. Military Academy	Independent	982	86	83	95	90	4	12
	University of Houston	American Athletic Conference	951	65	59	85	79	14	26
Birmingham Bowl	Wake Forest University	Atlantic Coast Conference	979	89	77	100	94	5	23
	University of Memphis	American Athletic Conference	968	76	75	89	90	14	14
Idaho Potato Bowl	Brigham Young University	Independent	949	58	50	75	78	20	25
	Western Michigan University	Mid-American Conference	963	75	71	78	83	8	7
Bahamas Bowl	University of Toledo	Mid-American Conference	975	79	75	90	91	12	15
	Florida International University	Conference USA	945	70	67	88	83	13	21
Gasparilla Bowl	Mars Hill University	Conference USA	960	78	73	94	86	8	21
	University of South Florida	American Athletic Conference	960	76	72	84	84	8	12
Frisco Bowl	Ohio University	Mid-American Conference	979	80	61	96	88	8	35
	San Diego State University	Mountain West Conference	956	74	67	83	80	6	16
Boca Raton Bowl	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Conference USA	N/A	71	68	87	84	13	19
	Northern Illinois University	Mid-American Conference	971	83	77	89	86	3	12
New Orleans Bowl	Appalachian State University	Sun Belt Conference	962	71	65	77	81	10	12
	Middle Tennessee State University	Conference USA	984	86	84	100	89	3	16
Camellia Bowl	Eastern Michigan University	Mid-American Conference	959	67	56	79	85	18	23
	Georgia Southern University	Sun Belt Conference	931	62	59	72	80	18	13
Las Vegas Bowl	Arizona State University	Pac-12 Conference	975	73	71	92	88	15	21
	California State University, Fresno	Mountain West Conference	947	76	71	80	86	10	9
Cure Bowl	Tulane University	American Athletic Conference	968	88	86	88	93	5	2
	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	Sun Belt Conference	957	74	69	93	78	2	24
New Mexico Bowl	University of North Texas	Conference USA	972	80	74	91	83	3	17
	Utah State University	Mountain West Conference	965	92	89	94	92	0	5
Average			970	79	73	90	87	8.5	16