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Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2017 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams

Graduation Rate Study of NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams Reveals 1st Decline in the Graduation Rates for African-American Student-Athletes since 2003 and a Slight Increase in the Disparity between the Graduation Success Rates of white and African-American Student-Athletes for the 1st time since 2011

Orlando, FL...March 12, 2017 – The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) released its annual study, **“Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2017 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams.”** This study provides the most comprehensive analysis of the academic performance of student-athletes on teams participating in the 2017 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament.

The study examined the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR) for the men's tournament teams as reported by the NCAA. This study also compared the graduation rate data of white and African-American male basketball student-athletes.

Dr. Richard Lapchick, the primary author of the study, is the director of TIDES and Chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. This study was co-authored by Evin Morrison.

Richard Lapchick said, “After years of unabated progress, the 2017 report shows a slight decline in the progress of African-American student-athletes. The GSR numbers for African-American male basketball student-athletes decreased from 75 percent in 2016 to 74 percent in 2017. The GSR for white male basketball student-athletes remained the same at 93 percent in 2016 and 2017. The gap between the rates of white and African-American male basketball student athletes increased to 19 percent in 2017 from 18 percent in 2016. This is the first increase in the gap since the 2011 season.

The University of New Orleans was the only tournament bound team that fell below the 930 APR standard in 2017. There was also one team below the standard in 2016.

Lapchick added, “The most troubling statistics in our study is the increasing in the already large disparity between the GSR of white basketball student-athletes and African-American basketball student-athletes. As bad as it has been, it was at least getting better. Equally bad is the news that the GSR rate for African-American basketball student-athletes has declined for the first time. The 2017 report sounds an alarm of reversed progress and points to a need for increased vigilance regarding the disparity between white and African-American student-athletes.

Lapchick noted some other disappointing results. “In 2017, 22 percent of the men’s teams had a GSR disparity of greater than 30 percent between white student-athletes and African-American student-athletes vs. 18 percent of teams with that disparity in the 2016 tournament. Additionally, 13 percent of teams in 2017 vs. 12 percent in 2016 had a GSR disparity of greater than 40 percent.”

More GSR comparisons include:

- 93 percent (63 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 50 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2017, the same as in 2016.
- 78 percent (53 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 60 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2017, down from 81 percent (55 teams) in 2016.
- 69 percent (47 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2017, down from 71 percent (48 teams) in 2016.

The University of New Orleans and the University of Oregon had GSRs below 40 percent in 2017

Lapchick emphasized that, “Athletes are used to competing by raising the bar. The academic reforms have led to positive change since their passage more than a decade ago. We need to raise the bar and move toward 60 percent graduation rate being the acceptable standard for the APR. This year 78 percent of the teams in the men’s tournament would already meet such a new standard. The NCAA started to do this by raising the APR minimum score to 930. We need to raise the bar higher.”

The APR, developed in 2004, is a four-year average of academic performance that rewards student-athletes for remaining eligible as well as continuing their education at the same school. The NCAA voted to institute stricter policies with regards to APR performance and postseason athletic participation by raising the score from 925 to 930, equivalent to a 50 percent graduation rate, to qualify for postseason participation the following year. The current system provides that teams scoring below a 930 APR can

lose up to 10 percent of their scholarships. Teams can also be subject to historical penalties for poor academic performance over time.

The percentage of teams with an APR greater than 950 significantly increased to 90 percent in 2017, from 78 percent in 2016.

Lapchick noted, "Race remains a continuing academic issue, not only in college sports, but also in higher education in general. The 19 percentage point gap between graduation rates for white and African-American male basketball student-athletes demonstrates that. However, it must be emphasized that African-American male basketball student-athletes graduate at a much higher rate than African-American males who are not student-athletes. The graduation rate for African-American male college students as a whole is only 42 percent, a full 31 percentage points lower than that for African-American male basketball student-athletes."

There are schools that show us the path. In 2017, the following 12 men's tournament teams had an overall GSR rate of 100 percent: Bucknell University, Butler University, Creighton University, Duke University, Middle Tennessee State University, Princeton University, University of Dayton, University of Kansas, University of Notre Dame, University of Vermont, Villanova University, and Winthrop University.

The following schools had an APR rate 980 or above:

Bucknell University, Creighton University, Duke University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Gonzaga University, Michigan State University, Northern Kentucky University, Seton Hall University, , University of Florida, University of Kansas, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, University of Miami (Florida), University of Michigan, University of North Carolina Wilmington, University of South Carolina, Columbia, University of Vermont, Villanova University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Wake Forest University, West Virginia University.

Note: The percentages for this report were calculated as follows:

1. *Overall rates were based on 68 teams.*
2. *Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 68 teams, as each team had at least one African-American basketball student-athlete in the period recorded.*
3. *Rates for white student-athletes were based on 57 teams because Jacksonville State University, New Mexico State, North Carolina Central University, Seton Hall University, University of Arkansas, University of Cincinnati, University of Miami, University of New Orleans, Texas Southern University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University had no white basketball student-athletes in the period recorded. The disparity figures for the gap in graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes were*

based on 57 teams due to the fact that the 11 teams listed above either had no white basketball student-athletes or no African-American basketball student-athletes in the period reported.

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The institute reviewed the six-year graduation rates of each school's freshmen class that enrolled in 2009-10, and then it calculated a four-year class average (freshmen classes of 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10). The APR data does not include data from the 2015-16 academic performances of the teams in the study, but instead uses four years of data ending in the 2014-15 school year. This is the most updated data available on the NCAA website.

The GSR was developed in 2005 in response to the demand for a more accurate measure of graduation performance of NCAA athletics programs. In order to calculate the GSR, the NCAA tracks student-athletes for six years following their entrance to an NCAA member institution to monitor the graduation rates of member institutions and their athletic programs. The GSR is used by the NCAA as a measuring device to signal performance of NCAA athletic programs while the APR is used to determine penalties for academically underperforming athletic programs.

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 coaching and sport management 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 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 sport business and entertainment management industry while also emphasizing diversity, community service and social issues in sport.

Team	APR	Overall Men's Basketball Stud	African-American Basketball S	White Men's Basketball Stud	Overall Student-Athletes (%)
		GSR	GSR	GSR	GSR
Baylor University	975	71	73	100	87
Bucknell University	1000	100	100	100	95
Butler University	974	100	100	100	88
Creighton University	986	100	100	100	98
Duke University	995	100	100	100	97
East Tennessee State University	933	75	67	100	79
Florida Gulf Coast University	980	50	40	67	74
Florida State University	978	92	89	100	87
Gonzaga University	995	90	100	100	98
Iona College	943	85	78	100	91
Iowa State University	979	78	71	100	82
Jacksonville State University	974	53	50	N/A	70
Kansas State University	975	88	100	100	82
Kent State University	976	80	88	100	83
Marquette University	962	67	63	100	92
Michigan State University	1000	63	40	100	87
Middle Tennessee State University	976	100	100	100	87
Mount St. Mary's University	951	79	82	50	90
New Mexico State University	957	43	50	N/A	76
North Carolina Central University	969	62	58	N/A	75
Northern Kentucky University	980	53	29	71	76
Northwestern University	979	93	100	100	97
Oklahoma State University	965	57	25	100	68
Princeton University	978	100	N/A	N/A	98
Providence College	979	40	33	100	91
Purdue University	965	92	83	100	84
Saint Mary's College of California	960	75	75	100	92
Seton Hall University	1000	80	80	N/A	91
South Dakota State University	975	91	100	100	82
Southern Methodist University	939	85	71	100	80
Texas Southern University	959	57	52	N/A	53
Troy University	970	87	83	100	80
University of Arizona	979	91	86	100	81
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	954	50	57	N/A	78
University of California, Davis	963	78	100	100	88
University of California, Los Angeles	962	50	17	80	86
University of Cincinnati	969	50	55	N/A	82
University of Dayton	956	100	100	100	95
University of Florida	1000	88	100	100	83
University of Kansas	990	100	100	100	85
University of Kentucky	1000	82	71	100	82
University of Louisville	1000	77	63	100	83
University of Maryland, College Park	953	83	100	100	85
University of Miami (Florida)	980	91	100	N/A	90
University of Michigan	995	91	80	100	90
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	960	73	70	100	90
University of Nevada, Reno	957	58	43	50	79
University of New Orleans	888	33	33	N/A	61
University of North Carolina Wilmington	980	46	30	100	81
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	974	50	60	100	82
University of North Dakota	947	70	100	57	83
University of Notre Dame	974	100	100	100	98
University of Oregon	945	38	50	67	80
University of Rhode Island	947	67	67	100	85
University of South Carolina, Columbia	989	75	71	100	91
University of Southern California	959	67	67	50	83
University of Vermont	990	100	100	100	89
University of Virginia	979	70	80	33	87
University of Wisconsin, Madison	976	73	75	71	86
Vanderbilt University	977	82	75	100	93
Villanova University	994	100	100	100	94
Virginia Commonwealth University	995	82	75	N/A	77
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	952	80	71	N/A	92
Wake Forest University	983	70	63	100	92
West Virginia University	1000	85	78	100	83
Wichita State University	957	63	54	100	81
Winthrop University	966	100	100	100	88
Xavier University	964	91	88	100	93
Average	971.73	76	74	93	85