



Media Contact:

Curtis Walker - cwal1239@knights.ucf.edu, 757-509-8962

Deidre Snively - deidresnively@knights.ucf.edu, 330-428-2853

Keeping Score When It Counts: Analyzing the Academic Performance of the 2013 NCAA Division I Women's and Men's Sweet 16 Teams

Orlando, FL – March 27, 2013The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) has released a new study on the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR) of the teams in the NCAA Division I Women's and Men's Sweet 16. This study is a follow-up report to the annual study, "**Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2013 NCAA Division I Women's and Men's Basketball Tournament Teams,**" which compares the GSR and APR for teams that were selected for the men's and women's basketball tournaments.

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. The study was co-authored this year by Andrew Hippert, Cory Bernstine, Devin Beahm and Nate Kinkopf.

Lapchick commented that, "There is good news regarding academic success in general for both the men's and women's Sweet 16 teams. The GSR and the APR rates of the teams are overwhelmingly high. As in the past, the women still do better than the men and the persistent gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American student-athletes remains too large for some of the men's teams."

If the Sweet 16 for men's and women's basketball teams were seeded based on Graduation Success Rates (GSR), then the complete seeding would be:

Men's

- #1 (tie) Duke University (100)
- #1 (tie) University of Kansas (100)
- #3 Wichita State University (90)
- #4 Michigan State University (89)
- #5 (tie) Marquette University (87)
- #5 (tie) University of Miami, FL (87)
- #7 University of Oregon (85)
- #8 University of Louisville (75)
- #9 Florida Gulf Coast University (73)
- #10 (tie) La Salle University (64)
- #10 (tie) University of Michigan (64)
- #12 Syracuse University (58)
- #13 University of Arizona (54)

Women's

- #1 (tie) University of Oklahoma (100)
- #1 (tie) University of Tennessee-Knoxville (100)
- #1 (tie) University of Nebraska-Lincoln (100)
- #1 (tie) Duke University (100)
- #1 (tie) University of Kentucky (100)
- #1 (tie) Louisiana State University (100)
- #1 (tie) University of Notre Dame (100)
- #8 (tie) University of Maryland-College Park (93)
- #8 (tie) University of Louisville (93)
- #10 (tie) Stanford University (92)
- #10 (tie) University of Connecticut (92)
- #10 (tie) University of Georgia (92)
- #13 Baylor University (91)

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#14 The Ohio State University (45)
 #15 Indiana University - Bloomington (43)
 #16 University of Florida (17)

#14 University of Kansas (85)
 #15 University of California-Berkeley (83)
 #16 University of Delaware (80)

In addition, based on Academic Progress Rates (APR), the Sweet 16 seeding for men's and women's basketball teams would be as follows:

Men's

#1 (tie) University of Kansas (1000)
 #1 (tie) University of Michigan (1000)
 #3 Duke University (995)
 #4 University of Florida (983)
 #5 Michigan State University (981)
 #6 University of Miami (FL) (980)
 #7 University of Arizona (975)
 #8 Marquette University (970)
 #9 LaSalle University (969)
 #10 University of Louisville (965)
 #11 The Ohio State University (962)
 #12 Wichita State University (954)
 #13 Indiana University – Bloomington (952)
 #14 Syracuse University (936)
 #15 Florida Gulf Coast University (932)
 #16 University of Oregon (926)

Women's

#1 (tie) University of Oklahoma (1000)
 #1 (tie) University of Tennessee-Knoxville (1000)
 #3 Stanford University (996)
 #4 University of Nebraska – Lincoln (992)
 #5 University of Connecticut (990)
 #6 Duke University (984)
 #7 University of Kansas (982)
 #8 University of Kentucky (980)
 #9 University of Georgia (975)
 #10 (tie) Louisiana State University (972)
 #10 (tie) University of Delaware (972)
 #12 University of Notre Dame (968)
 #13 Baylor University (967)
 #14 (tie) University of California-Berkeley (956)
 #14 (tie) University of Maryland-College Park (956)
 #16 University of Louisville (941)

Lapchick stated, "It is clear that elite women's basketball teams are performing at higher levels in the classroom than the elite men's teams. There are seven women's and two men's Sweet 16 teams that had 100 percent graduation success rates. There are 13 women's and two men's teams with GSRs **above** 90 percent. In addition, 100 percent of the women's teams graduated at least 60 percent of their basketball student-athletes compared to 69 percent of the men's teams.

There was even better news for both the women's and men's Sweet 16 teams when we examined the APR rates. There were 13 men's teams (81 percent) and 15 women's teams (94 percent) with an APR of 950 or above, 11 men's teams (69 percent) and 14 women's teams (88 percent) with an APR of 960 or above, and eight men's teams (50 percent) and 11 women's teams (69 percent) with an APR of 970 or above.

Additional significant findings on graduation rates include:

- In this year's Sweet 16, there are no men's teams and no women's team that had an APR score below 925.
- With the new NCAA APR cut rate at 930, one of the Sweet 16 men's teams (University of Oregon) and none of the women's teams would have failed to meet that standard.
- All 16 women's teams (100 percent) and nine men's teams (56 percent) graduated at least 70 percent of their basketball student-athletes. In comparison to last year's Sweet 16, the women's field had a six percentage point increase from 94 percent in 2012, while the men's field increased by 12 percentage points from 44 percent in 2012.

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- No women's team graduated less than 40 percent while one men's team (six percent) was below that mark (University of Florida). There was no change in the number of women's or men's teams graduating less than 40 percent from 2012 to 2013. This year's Sweet 16 fields have three teams in both the men and women's tournaments: the University of Louisville, Duke University and the University of Kansas. Duke University and the University of Kansas have achieved high levels of success on the court and in the classroom. Both of these men's and women's teams have an APR of 980 or above and a graduation rate above 85 percent. Louisville's women had a 93 percent graduation rate and a 941 APR while their men's team had 75 percent graduation rate and a 965 APR.

Among the Sweet 16 teams, the GSR of white male basketball student-athletes is 95 percent versus only 68 percent for African-American male basketball student-athletes. This was no change for white basketball student-athletes, but an eight percent increase for African-American student athletes from 2012. This created an overall men's basketball GSR disparity gap of 27 percent between white and African-American basketball student-athletes, which was an improvement from last year's rate of 35 percent.

White female basketball student-athletes graduated at 96 percent, while the GSR of African-American female basketball student-athletes was 92 percent which was a seven percentage point increase for African-American student-athletes (85 percent in 2012) and no change for white student-athletes. This resulted in a seven percentage point decrease in the overall women's basketball GSR disparity from 11 percent in 2012 to four percent in 2013.

Lapchick emphasized, "While race remains an ongoing academic issue as demonstrated by the continued disparity gap between the graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes, it is heartening to see a decrease in the gap between the overall GSR of women Sweet 16 teams from 11 percent to four percent and a decrease in the gap between the overall GSR of men's Sweet 16 teams from 35 percent to 27 percent. However, even with the improvements in this year's Sweet 16 teams, the men's disparity gap of 27 percent remains unacceptable."

Other notable results on the topic of race and academics for the Sweet 16 teams' GSR data include:

- One women's teams and seven men's teams have a GSR disparity between African-American and white basketball student-athletes greater than 30 percent. Last year's study showed three women's teams and nine men's teams at this disparity level.
- Three women's teams and eight men's teams have a GSR disparity of over 20 percent. In comparison to last year's Sweet 16 teams, the men's and women's field has three less teams at this level.

Lapchick concluded that, "No matter how many teams we examine, overall women basketball student-athletes achieved greater academic success than their male counterparts. And no matter whether we look at women's or men's college basketball, there is a gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes. However, at an four percentage point gap, the Sweet 16 women's teams are far closer than the men's alarming 27 percentage point gap."

Note: The men's and women's percentages were calculated as follows:

1. All men's and women's graduation rates were based on 16 teams.
2. GSR and APR scores are based on the most recent statistics provided by the NCAA.
3. Disparity figures are based on the difference of the average GSR for white basketball student-athletes and African-American basketball student-athletes.

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4. One men's Sweet 16 teams (University of Miami - Florida) do not have any white basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.

THE INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY AND ETHICS IN SPORT (TIDES)

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.