



Academic Progress/Graduation Rate Study of Division I NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Teams Reveals Marked Improvement in Overall Graduation Rates But Large Continuing Disparities of the Success of White and African-American Student-athletes

Orlando, FL...March 12, 2006 – The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, at the University of Central Florida released its annual study, “Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Rates for 2006 NCAA Men’s Division I Basketball Tournament Teams” which is the most comprehensive analysis to date of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament-bound teams. The study takes a look at Federal Graduation Rates (FGRs), Graduation Success Rates (GSR), and the Academic Progress Rates (APR) for the tournament teams, as reported by the NCAA during the past two months. The study also compares the performance in the classroom for African-American and white basketball student-athletes. Dr. Richard Lapchick, the primary author of the study, is director of the Institute and Eminent Scholar Chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. The study was co-authored this year by Ryan Vandament.

Lapchick noted that “there is considerable good news for the tournament teams when we examine the Graduation Success Rates and the Academic Progress Rates in particular. The lingering bad news is the continuing disparity in the academic success between African-American and white men’s basketball student-athletes.”

The Federal Graduation Rates have been the traditional way to look at the academic success of student-athletes. The Institute has taken the position that the way FGRs are compiled gives an unfair depiction of a school because a student-athlete who transfers in good standing and graduates at another institution counts as a non-graduate at the initial school. Also, the methodology does not count as a graduate a junior college student who transfers into a four-year college and graduates, or a former student-athlete who returns and graduates more than six years after original enrollment. The Institute supports the NCAA’s new Graduation Success Rates, which accounts for these factors, as a better way to fairly measure the results.

Of the 65 Division I Men’s basketball teams selected to participate in the 2006 NCAA Basketball Tournament, 35 teams or 54 percent (**Penn and the U.S. Air Force do not report FGRs so the number of schools eligible are 63**) of the total **did not** graduate at least 50 percent of their basketball student-athletes based on FGRs. In the 2005 report, 42 men’s teams failed to reach the 50 percent mark.

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Lapchick emphasized that “the new GSR, developed in late 2005, provides a more accurate picture of the success student-athletes have in the classroom at NCAA member institutions. Based on the GSR, 41 teams or 64 percent (**Penn did not report a GSR so the number of schools eligible are 64**) of the total graduated at least 50 percent of its basketball student-athletes. As one can see, 20 percent more tournament teams graduated at least 50 percent of basketball student-athletes under the GSR than the Federal Graduation Rate. In addition 29 teams or 45 percent graduated at least 60 percent, 23 teams or 36 percent graduated at least 70 percent. Only 16 teams or 25 percent graduated less than 40 percent. We are doing better than we had thought using the FGR. The GSR tells us far more than the Federal Graduation Rates or the new Academic Progress Rates. We are probably two years away from having enough data for the APRs to be most useful.”

In examining the Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores of tournament-bound teams, only two teams (Hampton and Kent State) in the 2006 Men’s Basketball Tournament will be subject to contemporaneous penalties under the 925 “cut” score. Thirty (30) teams or 46 percent did not receive a score of 925 or more on the NCAA’s APR. There is currently a margin of error used in the calculation that provides protection to certain institutions which have a small sample size of data or some teams who would have been subject to penalties by their APR scores, but did not have to take any actual penalties because they did not have any students leave ineligible in the last year or received a waiver from penalties. These margins of error will be eliminated when a four-year rolling average APR can be determined.

The APR was created in 2004 as an integral piece of the extensive academic reform package developed to more accurately measure student-athletes’ success in the classroom and encourage an increase of the graduation rates at member institutions by providing sanctions in the form of lost scholarships when teams fail to meet the NCAA standard for academic performance. Lapchick said, “I believe the APR reforms are more important than any previous attempt to help keep the student in the student-athlete.”

In spite of all the general progress, Lapchick “remains alarmed at the persistent gap between African-American and white basketball student-athletes.”

Based on Graduation Success Rate data, problems emerging from the study include the following:

66 percent (38) of the men’s tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **while only 33 percent (21)** graduated 70 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes **creating a 33 percent gap.**

74 percent (43) of the men’s tournament teams graduated 60 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **while only 44 percent** of schools (28) graduated 60 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes **resulting in a 30 percent gap.**

88 percent (51 schools) graduated 50 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **but only 57 percent** (36 schools) graduated 50 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes **creating a 31 percent gap.**

91 percent (53 schools) graduated 40 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **compared to the 63 percent** (40) which graduated 40 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes **yielding a 28 percent gap.**

95 percent (55 schools) graduated 30 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **while 75 percent** (47) graduated 30 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes **creating a 20 percent gap.**

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At the lowest end of the GSR data, **only five percent** (3 schools) graduated 20 percent or less of their white basketball student-athletes **yet 14 percent** (9 schools) graduated 20 percent or less of their African-American basketball student-athletes

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

Overall rates were based on 64 teams (Pennsylvania, like other Ivy League Schools, does not report graduation rates)

Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 63 teams (Utah State had no African-American basketball student-athletes in the NCAA from which the study's data was gathered)

Rates for white student-athletes were based on 58 teams (California, Georgetown, Hampton, Southern, Syracuse, and Texas also had no white basketball student-athletes in the period under review.)

Lapchick noted, "NCAA President Myles Brand has led the charge in recent years and the overall GSR shows that. African-American student-athletes are doing better historically. We will release a study on National Student-Athlete Day on April 6, 2006 on the substantial progress that has been made over the last 20 years."

Lapchick continued, "However, race remains a continuing academic issue, reflected in the remaining cavernous gaps between graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes shown above and in the sections that will follow here. Among all college sports, men's basketball has the worst record for graduation rates. This is in a sport in which 60.7 percent of Division I male basketball student-athletes are African-American. Overall in Division I, GSR data indicates only 58 percent of male basketball student-athletes graduate compared to **69 percent** of male student-athletes in general. While white basketball student-athletes graduate at 76 percent, only 49 percent of African-American male basketball student-athletes graduate. This 27 percent disparity is alarming."

"Nonetheless, it needs to be noted that African-American basketball players graduate at a higher rate than African-American males who are not student-athletes. The graduation rate for African-American male students as a whole is only 35 percent, versus the overall rate of 59 percent for male white students, which is a scandalous 24 percentage point gap. One of the benefits of examining graduation rates is that they focus light on the fact that too many of our predominantly white campuses are not welcoming places for students of color, whether or not they are athletes."

More distressing results are:

The GSR data shows **25 men's tournament teams** (44 percent) (**The statistical pool here was 57 schools, because 8 schools did not have data for either white or African-American student-athletes so they were omitted from the category**) have a 30 percentage point or greater gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes.

31 men's teams (54 percent) have a 20 percentage point or greater gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes.

37 men's teams (65 percent) had a 10 percentage point or higher gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes.

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Looking at all Division I teams, the disparity for GSR between whites and African-Americans is almost as troubling as there are 123 teams (43 percent **-there are 44 schools that either didn't have an African-American or white student-athlete on their team in this period leaving 283 schools in the statistical pool**) with at least a 30 percent difference; 160 teams (57 percent) with at least a 20 percent difference; and 186 teams (66 percent) with at least a 10 percent difference between white and African-American basketball student-athletes.

2 tournament-bound schools (Nevada and Northern Iowa) and 9 overall Division I basketball teams did not graduate a single African-American basketball student-athlete during the period using the GSR. Using the Federal Graduation Rates, 8 tournament-bound schools and 41 overall Division I basketball teams did not graduate a single African-American basketball student-athlete during the period.

3 tournament-bound schools (Northwestern State, UAB, and Wichita State) and 17 overall Division I basketball teams did not graduate a single white basketball student-athlete during the period.

52 of the institutions (80 percent) had GSRs for all student-athletes that were higher than those of basketball student-athletes.

Using the Graduation Success Rates for all Division I Men's teams, a disturbing 96 (9 teams did not report overall GSR for their respective teams. This changed the number in the statistical pool from 327 to 318) teams (30 percent) had lower than 50 percent graduation rate for men (181 teams or 57 percent were below this for the Federal Graduation Rates). **(The number in the statistical pool for the FGRs is 315 instead of 327 because 12 schools did not report FGRs.)**

While 36 of the teams (13 percent) had lower than 50 percent GSR for white male basketball student-athletes, 133 teams (41 percent) had lower than 50 percent GSR for African-American male basketball student-athletes **(43 teams did not have white players on their respective teams and 10 teams did not have African-American players on their respective teams. Thus the statistical school for total schools with white players was 284 (327- 43 = 284) and 317 (327- 10 = 317) for schools with African-American players).**

Ryan Vandament, who co-authored the study, explained why the Institute issues the annual report. "The Institute publishes the graduation rates in order to give college basketball fans a realistic picture on how well colleges and universities are doing off the basketball court. Institutions of higher education promise all student-athletes a meaningful education. We try to see if they have met those promises."

"I used to call the story for men who play college basketball 'a continuing nightmare that had spanned generations of student-athletes playing basketball.'" Lapchick added. "With this new report, we are seeing the early positive results of the initiative led by NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand to provide incentives for schools with high graduation rates and to impose penalties, such as losing scholarships; on schools that fail to make reasonable goals for graduation rates. I am confident it will get better each year. However, across all areas of higher education – including sport -, we still need to make students of color feel welcome on our campuses and make them confident that they can succeed."

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Lapchick concluded, “As always, there are schools that win big enough to be here in March *and* graduate their student-athletes. If we were to choose a Top Ten for Graduation Success Rates, these schools would be there: Bucknell, Florida, Illinois, Villanova, Davidson, Pacific, Indiana, Washington, Marquette, and Xavier. The Final Four would include Bucknell, Florida, Illinois and Villanova.

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The Institute reviewed 1998 – 99 graduation (six-year) rates, with a four class average (freshman classes of 1995 – 96, 1996 – 97, 1997 – 98, and 1998 – 99).

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport serves as a comprehensive resource for issues related to gender and race in amateur, collegiate and professional sports. The Institute researches and publishes a variety of studies, including annual studies of student-athlete graduation rates and racial attitudes in sports, 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. Additionally, the Institute conducts diversity management training in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports. 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 sport and social issues.

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Academic Rates for 2006 Men's Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament

School		Overall Basketball Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student- Athlete	APR
Alabama	FGR	38	33	50	55	902+
	GSR	42	30	100	69	
Albany	FGR	50	33	67	66	957
	GSR	63	33	80	73	
Arizona	FGR	38	13	80	58	N/A
	GSR	42	13	100	66	
Arkansas	FGR	19	9	25	41	979
	GSR	21	9	50	60	
Belmont	FGR	80	67	86	62	990
	GSR	80	67	86	78	
Boston College	FGR	31	20	75	82	917+
	GSR	60	60	75	93	
Bradley	FGR	64	67	100	77	947
	GSR	73	80	67	88	
Bucknell	FGR	100	100	100	92	974
	GSR	100	100	100	94	
California**	FGR	29	33	-	67	921+
	GSR	44	50	-	73	
Connecticut	FGR	33	14	100	62	889+
	GSR	50	33	50	76	
Davidson	FGR	83	0	83	92	1000
	GSR	93	100	89	97	
Duke	FGR	40	17	67	90	978
	GSR	50	25	67	96	
Florida	FGR	64	56	80	58	903+
	GSR	100	100	100	91	
George Mason	FGR	78	83	0	54	918+
	GSR	82	75	100	77	
George Washington	FGR	50	50	0	71	941
	GSR	55	40	67	90	
Georgetown**	FGR	42	42	-	93	963
	GSR	50	50	-	97	
Gonzaga	FGR	38	0	40	68	980
	GSR	55	100	33	82	
Hampton**	FGR	50	50	-	60	827
	GSR	50	50	-	79	
Illinois	FGR	60	40	67	71	990
	GSR	100	100	100	90	
Indiana	FGR	70	50	71	64	922+
	GSR	91	80	100	81	
Iona	FGR	50	43	50	64	913+
	GSR	50	50	100	76	
Iowa	FGR	33	25	50	69	950
	GSR	39	27	50	75	
Kansas	FGR	50	25	67	64	N/A
	GSR	43	17	63	68	
Kent State	FGR	53	56	40	63	856
	GSR	75	75	67	77	
Kentucky	FGR	21	14	20	50	922+
	GSR	33	17	100	69	

School		Overall	African-American	White	Overall	APR
		Basketball Student-Athlete	Basketball Student-Athlete	Basketball Student-Athlete	Student- Athlete	
Louisiana State	FGR	20	23	0	54	860
	GSR	31	29	100	67	
Marquette	FGR	85	71	100	82	918+
	GSR	86	71	100	94	
Memphis	FGR	13	14	0	45	902+
	GSR	25	14	100	63	
Michigan State	FGR	64	50	75	66	949
	GSR	73	67	75	76	
Monmouth	FGR	39	33	36	70	942
	GSR	69	80	57	92	
Montana	FGR	43	50	67	60	904+
	GSR	50	38	75	68	
Murray State	FGR	29	25	50	60	918+
	GSR	57	60	100	80	
NC State	FGR	54	55	50	54	922+
	GSR	78	86	50	68	
Nevada	FGR	20	0	0	50	917+
	GSR	14	0	100	63	
North Carolina	FGR	75	83	100	70	989
	GSR	82	83	100	80	
North Carolina, Wilmington	FGR	63	60	67	77	990
	GSR	85	78	100	86	
Northern Iowa	FGR	17	0	50	62	971
	GSR	30	0	100	81	
Northwestern State	FGR	36	44	0	42	981
	GSR	61	73	0	63	
Ohio State	FGR	25	25	33	62	911+
	GSR	45	50	50	78	
Oklahoma	FGR	25	0	100	55	908+
	GSR	33	11	100	62	
Oral Roberts	FGR	31	0	71	56	990
	GSR	33	8	75	79	
Pacific	FGR	73	100	78	70	990
	GSR	93	67	111	76	
Pennsylvania**	FGR	-	-	-	0	984
	GSR	-	-	-	0	
Pittsburgh	FGR	13	9	50	57	905+
	GSR	29	27	100	74	
San Diego State	FGR	23	29	0	55	N/A
	GSR	38	43	33	76	
Seton Hall	FGR	36	25	100	62	930
	GSR	55	57	100	82	
South Alabama	FGR	20	0	33	33	858^
	GSR	71	43	100	76	
Southern**	FGR	40	40	-	53	856^
	GSR	33	33	-	54	
Southern Illinois	FGR	38	40	100	61	961
	GSR	67	60	100	77	
Syracuse**	FGR	53	50	-	76	967
	GSR	75	75	-	84	
Tennessee	FGR	33	25	100	55	918+
	GSR	46	33	100	71	

School		Overall Basketball Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student- Athlete	APR
Texas**	FGR	10	13	0	56	861
	GSR	25	30	-	73	
Texas A&M	FGR	18	33	0	63	N/A
	GSR	46	50	40	73	
U.S. Air Force*	FGR	-	-	-	-	984
	GSR	85	87	86	93	
UAB	FGR	0	0	0	56	933
	GSR	29	25	0	65	
UCLA	FGR	31	13	100	62	915+
	GSR	38	27	100	70	
Utah State***	FGR	75	-	75	62	882+
	GSR	80	-	100	74	
Villanova	FGR	69	67	100	80	1000
	GSR	100	100	100	95	
Washington	FGR	67	75	75	68	878+
	GSR	90	86	100	84	
West Virginia	FGR	63	50	67	59	899+
	GSR	67	60	100	74	
Wichita State	FGR	25	33	0	51	915+
	GSR	50	55	0	70	
Winthrop	FGR	67	100	33	65	952
	GSR	77	80	50	85	
Wisconsin	FGR	60	50	67	70	926
	GSR	58	40	71	82	
Wisconsin, Milwaukee	FGR	23	22	25	70	939
	GSR	28	23	40	81	
Xavier	FGR	62	78	25	79	972
	GSR	86	92	50	93	

N/A - No Data Available

*Pennsylvania and U.S. Air Force do not report Federal Graduation Rates

**California, Georgetown, Hampton, Sothern, Syracuse, and Texas had no white basketball student-athletes

***Utah State had no African-American basketball student-athletes

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