



TIDES

THE INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY AND ETHICS IN SPORT

MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE

Keeping Score When It Counts:

Assessing the Academic Records of the 2019 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams

by **Dr. Richard Lapchick**

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Executive Summary

Orlando, FL...March 18, 2019 – 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 2019 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 2019 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 Miranda Murphy.

Richard Lapchick said, “Overall, the graduation rate for male basketball student-athletes in the 2019 tournament teams increased from 78 in 2018 to 81 percent in 2019 (see Appendix A). The GSR for white male basketball student-athletes remained at 92 percent in 2019, the same rate as 2018. The GSR for African-American male basketball student-athletes increased from 74 percent in 2018 to 79 percent in 2019. The gap between the rates of white and African-American male basketball student-athletes decreased to 13 percent in 2019 from 18 percent in 2018. This decrease is a positive sign in reducing the gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American male basketball student-athletes. This is the smallest gap recorded between graduation rates of white

Overall DI Men's Basketball Student-Athlete GSR

78% ↑ **81%**
-2018- -2019-

Average GSR for African-American DI Men's Basketball Student-Athletes

74% ↑ **79%**
-2018- -2019-

Average GSR for White DI Men's Basketball Student-Athletes

92% **92%**
-2018- -2019-

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and African-American male basketball student-athletes since we started issuing the reports more than 16 years ago” (see Appendix B).

“Historically, this has been the most troubling statistic in the annual report. Hopefully, this year’s progress will continue in the years ahead until we eliminate this gap between the two groups of student-athletes completely.”

There was more good news that for the second consecutive year not a single tournament-bound team fell below the 930 APR benchmark (see Appendix C). Just five years ago in 2014, eight teams did not meet this standard. Furthermore, only 4 percent of teams in 2019 vs. 15 percent in 2018 had a GSR disparity of greater than 40 percent.

More noteworthy GSR comparisons include:

- 97 percent (66 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 50 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2019, up from 94 percent (64 teams) in 2018.
- 93 percent (63 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 60 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2019. This is an increase from 82 percent (56 teams) in 2018.
- 75 percent (51 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2019 up from 69 percent (47 teams) in 2018.

Lapchick noted some disappointing results. “In 2019, 19 percent of the men’s teams had a GSR disparity of greater than 30 percent between white student-athletes and African-American student-athletes. However, this was a decrease from 26 percent in 2018”.

Lapchick emphasized that, “We can do even better. 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. For the last few years we have needed to raise the bar and move toward 60 percent graduation rate being the acceptable standard for the APR. The NCAA started to do this by raising the APR minimum score to 930 which is at the 50 percent GSR equivalent. This year 93 percent of the teams in the men’s tournament would already meet such a new standard. Furthermore, 51 (75 percent) men’s tournament teams would be at 70 percent GSR or higher (see Appendix D). We need to raise the bar higher.”

“This is the best report to date. It shows we can do better when we work at it. Now we need to raise the expectation higher with a 60 percent GSR equivalent rate at the minimum. We can do it.”

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.

Lapchick noted, “The topic of race continues to be an academic issue seen in college sports and higher education in general. The 13 percentage point gap between graduation rates (GSR) for white and African-American male basketball student-athletes demonstrates this issue. We can look at the general student population using the FED (Federal) Graduation Rates which is calculated in a different way. African-American males who are not student-athletes graduate at a 41 percent rate while African-American females who are not student-athletes graduate at a rate of 51 percent. White males who are not student-athletes graduate at a 67 percent rate while white females who are not student-athletes graduate at a rate of 72 percent. The gap is 26 percent for white and African-American male students and 21 percent for white and African-American female students. Race remains an area of higher education that is in need of improvement. And the improvement needs to start in our education system long before college, especially in urban schools which are underfunded and under-resourced.”

There are schools that show us the path. In 2019, the following 16 men's tournament teams had an overall GSR rate of 100 percent: Arizona State University, Belmont University, Bradley University, Colgate University, Duke University, Gonzaga University, Iowa State University, Kansas State, University of Kansas, Liberty University, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Vermont, Villanova University, University of Washington, and Yale University.

The following 28 schools had an APR rate 980 or above: Auburn University, Baylor University, Belmont University, Bradley University, Colgate University, Farleigh Dickinson University - Metropolitan Campus, University of Florida, Gardner-Webb University, Gonzaga University, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Nevada - Reno, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Northeastern University, Northern Kentucky University, Old Dominion University, Saint Louis University, Saint Mary's College of California, Seton Hall University, Syracuse University, Temple University, University of Vermont, Villanova University, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin - Madison, and Yale University.

Lapchick concluded, "This is the best report to date. It shows we can do better when we work at it. Now we need to raise the expectation higher with a 60 percent GSR equivalent rate at the minimum. We can do it."

* The graduation rates for the student body in general are based on the Federal (FED) Graduation Rates which is different than the Graduation Success Rate (GSR) which applies only to student-athletes. We are showing it here to demonstrate the tremendous gap in the general student population.

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 55 teams because University of Cincinnati, Farleigh Dickinson University - Metropolitan Campus, Georgia State Uni-

Race as a Factor in Graduation Rates for Student-Athletes and Students in the General Population

41% **VS.** **79%**

African-American Male Student Body Graduation Rate*

African-American DI Men's Basketball Student-Athlete GSR

67% **VS.** **92%**

White Male Student Body Graduation Rate*

White DI Men's Basketball Student-Athlete GSR

Gap in Average GSR's between White and African-American DI Men's Basketball Student-Athletes

17% **↓** **13%**
-2018- **-2019-**



versity, University of Houston, Michigan State University, North Carolina Central University, Northeastern University, Old Dominion University, Prairie View A&M University, Saint Mary's College of California, Seton Hall University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, had no white basketball student-athletes that were eligible to graduate in the period recorded.

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



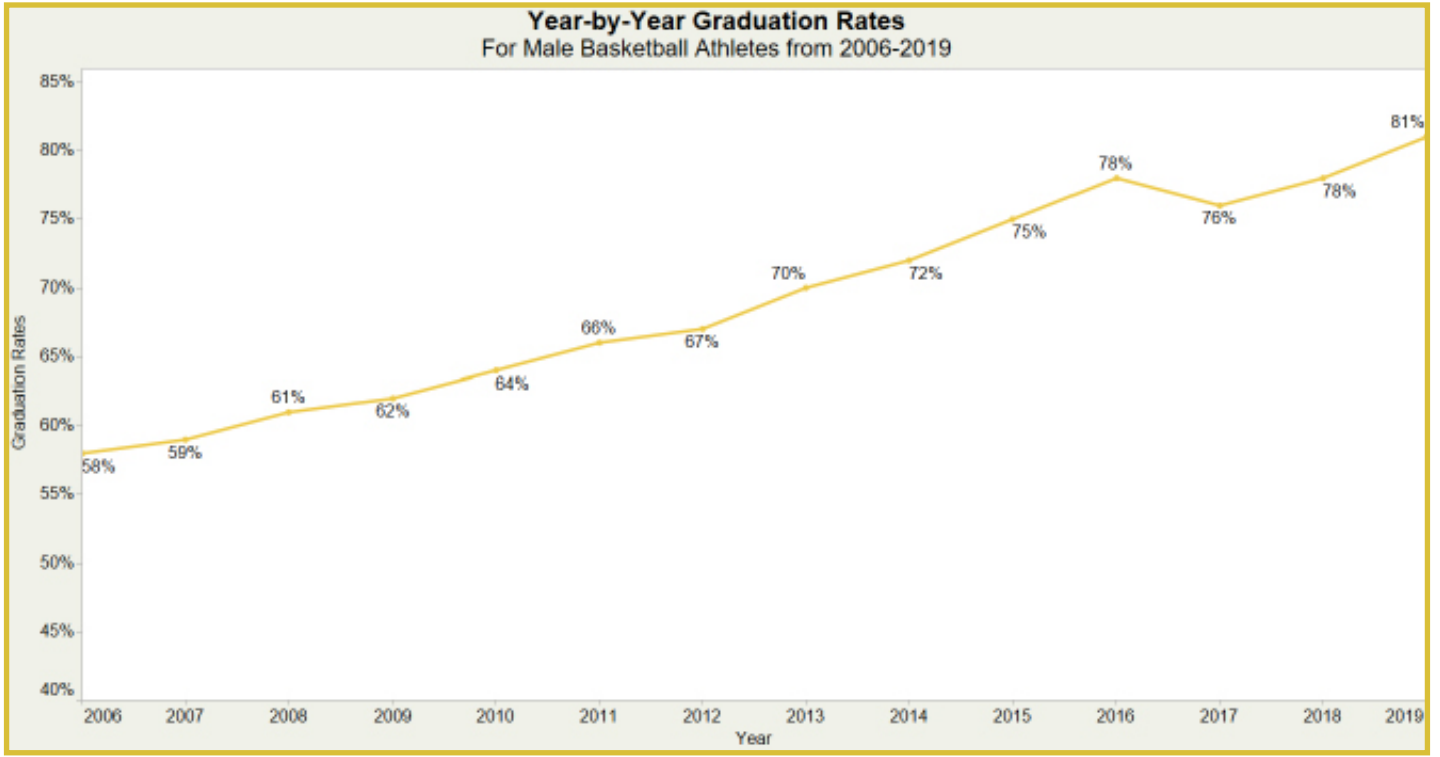
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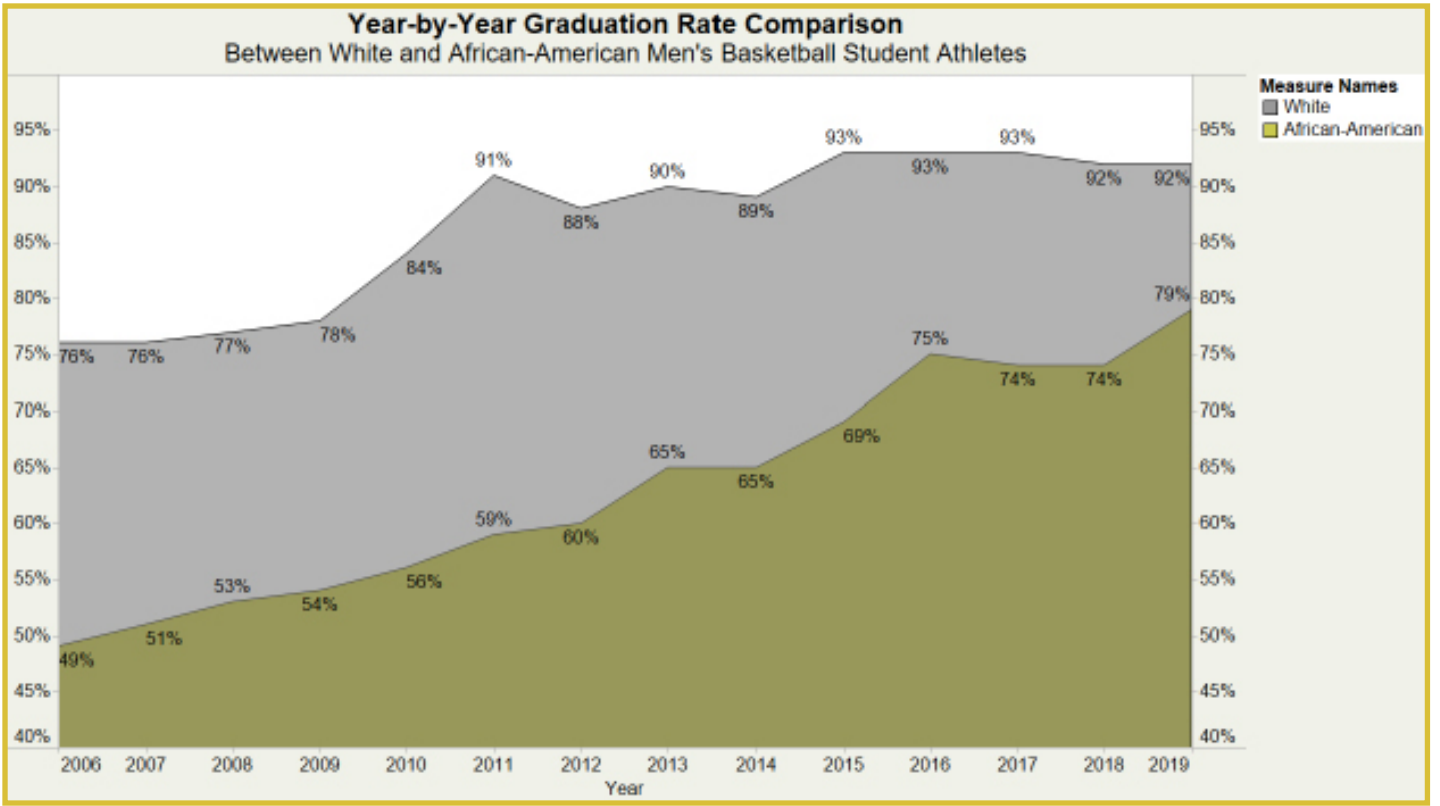
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School Name	Conference	APR	Overall Men's Basketball Student-Athletes (GSR %)	African-American Men's Basketball Student-Athletes (GSR %)	White Men's Basketball Student-Athletes (GSR %)	Overall Student-Athletes (GSR %)
Abilene Christian University	Soutland Conference	934	45	29	75	75
Arizona State University	Pac-12 Conference	975	100	100	100	88
Auburn University	Southeastern Conference	995	64	67	100	84
Baylor University	Big 12 Conference	1000	71	82	100	90
Belmont University	Ohio Valley Conference	1000	100	100	100	97
Bradley University	Missouri Valley Conference	995	100	100	100	94
Colgate University	Patriot League	990	100	100	100	97
Duke University	Atlantic Coast Conference	968	100	100	100	98
Farleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus	Northeast Conference	984	83	75	N/A	88
Florida State University	Atlantic Coast Conference	978	83	78	100	82
Gardner-Webb University	Big South Conference	981	89	80	100	83
Georgia State University	Sun Belt Conference	948	55	56	N/A	81
Gonzaga University	West Coast Conference	995	100	100	100	99
Iona College	Metro Atlantic Athletic University	974	93	90	100	91
Iowa State University	Big 12 Conference	969	100	100	100	88
Kansas State	Big 12 Conference	965	100	100	100	85
Liberty University	Big South Conference	944	100	100	100	87
Louisiana State University	Southeastern Conference	953	89	80	100	89
Marquette University	Big East Conference	950	80	75	100	95
Michigan State University	Big Ten Conference	1000	100	100	N/A	88
Mississippi State University	Southeastern Conference	964	64	56	100	89
Murray State University	Ohio Valley Conference	963	50	55	0	86
New Mexico State University	Western Athletic Conference	947	71	100	100	80
North Carolina Central University	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference	944	92	91	N/A	80
North Dakota State University	The Summit League	974	80	67	86	85
Northeastern University	Colonial Athletic Association	980	90	100	N/A	83
Northern Kentucky University	Horizon League	986	82	67	100	77
Ohio State University	Big Ten Conference	936	70	67	100	86
Old Dominion University	Conference USA	995	82	80	N/A	84
Prairie View A&M University	Southwestern Athletic Conference	930	67	70	N/A	66
Purdue University	Big Ten Conference	965	89	75	100	85
Saint Louis University	Atlantic 10 Conference	985	81	80	100	93
Seton Hall University	Big East Conference	990	91	86	N/A	95
St Johns University (New York)	Big East Conference	964	89	80	100	93
St Mary's College of California	West Coast Conference	984	79	75	N/A	90
Syracuse University	Atlantic Coast Conference	1000	70	57	100	92
Temple University	American Athletic Conference	1000	83	83	100	87
Texas Tech University	Big 12 Conference	948	69	57	100	84
University of Buffalo, the State University of New York	Mid-American Conference	958	67	64	100	83
University of California, Irvine	Big West Conference	954	64	60	80	85
University of Central Florida	American Athletic Conference	974	73	63	100	89
University of Cincinnati	American Athletic Conference	969	71	69	N/A	89
University of Florida	Southeastern Conference	990	75	78	100	85
University of Houston	American Athletic Conference	959	75	71	N/A	79
University of Iowa	Big Ten Conference	961	82	67	86	90
University of Kansas	Big 12 Conference	974	100	100	100	83
University of Kentucky	Southeastern Conference	1000	83	67	100	88
University of Louisville	Atlantic Coast Conference	995	90	80	100	88
University of Maryland, College Park	Big Ten Conference	960	64	67	100	84
University of Michigan	Big Ten Conference	995	100	100	100	93
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Big Ten Conference	957	77	63	100	93
University of Mississippi	Southeastern Conference	979	73	78	100	85
University of Montana	Big Sky Conference	975	83	80	83	77
University of Nevada, Reno	Mountain West Conference	980	57	71	50	77
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	Atlantic Coast Conference	1000	64	67	100	83
University of Oklahoma	Big 12 Conference	969	63	67	100	85
University of Oregon	Pac-12 Conference	957	33	50	67	83
University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Southeastern Conference	959	89	100	0	86
University of Vermont	America East Conference	986	100	100	100	93
University of Virginia	Atlantic Coast Conference	970	78	100	33	92
University of Washington	Pac-12 Conference	986	100	100	100	89
University of Wisconsin-Madison	Big Ten Conference	985	91	75	100	90
Utah State University	Mountain West Conference	948	78	67	80	92
Villanova University	Big East Conference	1000	100	100	100	94
Virginia Commonwealth University	Atlantic 10 Conference	970	83	83	N/A	78
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Atlantic Coast Conference	970	70	50	N/A	92
Wofford College	Southern Conference	973	86	75	100	97
Yale University	The Ivy League	987	100	100	100	99

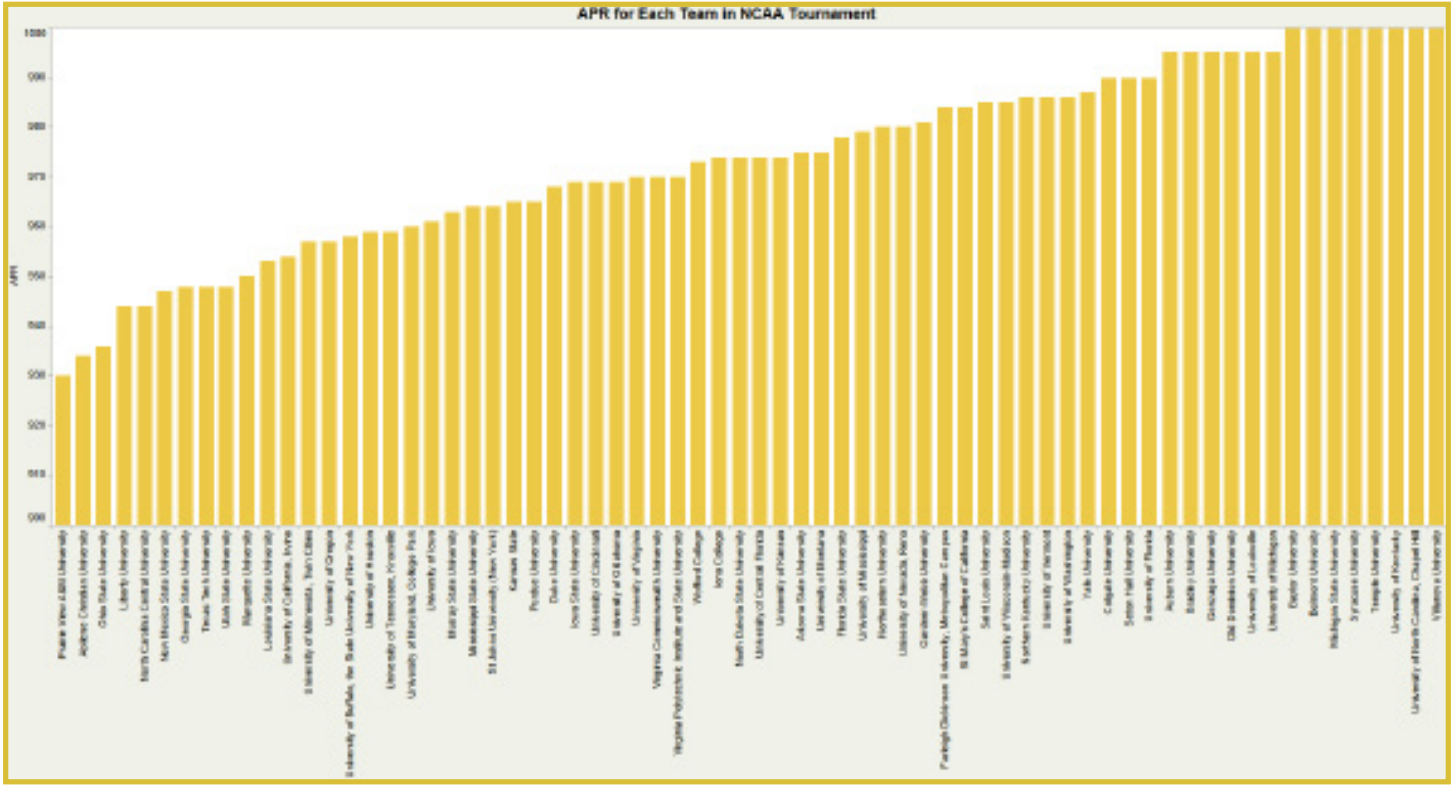
Appendix A



Appendix B



Appendix C



Appendix D

