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Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2016 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams

Graduation Rate Study of NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams Reveals Improvement in the Graduation Rates for African-American Student-Athletes and a Significant Decline in the Large Disparities between the Academic Success of white and African-American Student-Athletes

Orlando, FL...March 14, 2016 – 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 2016 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 2016 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament.

The study examined the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR) for 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 Justin Veldhuis.

Richard Lapchick said, “The 2016 report brings the best news for the academic progress of African-American student-athletes since we have been publishing the report. While the GSR numbers for white male basketball student-athletes remained the same at 93 percent in 2015 and 2016, the GSR for African-American male basketball student-athletes increased from 69 percent in 2015 to 75 percent in 2016. That closed the cavernous 24 percent gap in 2015 to a still large but significantly smaller gap of 18 percent between the rates of white and African-American male basketball student-athletes.

Only Southern University fell below the 930 APR standard in 2016. There was also one team below the standard in 2015.

Lapchick added, “Although there was a great improvement, the most troubling statistic in our study is the still too large disparity between the GSR of white basketball student-athletes and African-American basketball student-athletes: 18 percent in 2016 is better, but there is more room for improvement.”

Lapchick noted further improvement: “In 2016, 18 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. 41 percent of teams with that disparity in the 2015 tournament. Additionally, 12 percent of teams in 2016 vs. 28 percent in 2015 had a GSR disparity of greater than 40 percent.”

Three other categories were examined for GSR with improvement in the latter two.

- 93 percent (63 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 50 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2016, the same as in 2015.
- 81 percent (55 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 60 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2016, up from 79 percent (54 teams) in 2015.
- 71 percent (48 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2016, up from 65 percent (44 teams) in 2015.

Stephen F. Austin State University, the University of Cincinnati and the University of Connecticut had GSRs below 40 percent in 2016. However, it should be noted that the APRs of these schools is showing that future GSRs will be much higher. UCONN got a strong 983 while Stephen F. Austin scored 962 and Cincinnati achieved a 942.

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 81 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 increased to 78 percent in 2016, from 76.5 percent in 2015.

Lapchick noted, “Race remains a continuing academic issue, not only in college sports, but also in higher education in general. The 18 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 33 percentage points lower than that for African-American male basketball student-athletes.”

There are schools that show us the path. In 2016, the following 11 men’s tournament teams had an overall GSR rate of 100 percent: Butler University, College of the Holy Cross, Duke University, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Dayton, University of Iowa, University of Kansas, University of Notre Dame, University of Texas – Austin, Villanova University and Weber State University.

The following schools had an APR rate 970 or above:

Butler University, College of the Holy Cross, Duke University, Gonzaga University, Indiana University -- Bloomington, Michigan State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Purdue University, Seton Hall University, South Dakota State University, Stony Brook University, Syracuse University, Temple University, University of Arizona, University of Colorado-Boulder, University of Connecticut, University of Dayton, University of Iowa, University of Kansas, University of Kentucky, University of Miami, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina-Asheville, University of Northern Iowa, University of Notre Dame, University of Pittsburgh, University of Texas – Austin, University of Utah, University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Vanderbilt University, Villanova University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Weber State University, West Virginia University and Yale 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 58 teams because Hampton University, Oregon State University, Seton Hall University, Southern University, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, University of Miami, University of Pittsburgh and Virginia Commonwealth University had no white basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.*
4. *The disparity figures for the gap in graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes were based on 58 teams due to the fact that the 10 teams listed above either had no white basketball student-athletes or 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 2008-09, and then it calculated a four-year class average (freshmen classes of 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09). The APR data does not include data from the 2014-15 academic performances of the teams in the study, but instead uses four years of data ending in the 2013-14 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 Student-Athlete	African-American Men's Basketball Student Athlete	White Men's Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athletes (%)	
		GSR	GSR	GSR	GSR	
Austin Peay State University	962	93		92	100	79
Baylor University	963	91		90	100	88
Butler University	974	100		100	100	88
California State University, Bakersfield	946	73		100	67	71
California State University, Fresno	945	57		40	100	74
College of the Holy Cross	995	100		100	100	98
Duke University	995	100		100	100	98
Farleigh Dickinson University	933	77		75	100	71
Florida Gulf Coast University	955	53		63	75	69
Gonzaga University	984	88		100	100	97
Hampton University	951	58		58	N/A	67
Indiana University, Bloomington	1000	67		75	100	87
Iona College	949	92		88	100	90
Iowa State University	969	75		57	100	80
Michigan State University	975	63		40	100	87
Middle Tennessee State University	971	100		100	100	87
Oregon State University	939	78		86	0	82
Providence College	957	70		63	100	91
Purdue University	985	85		75	100	84
Saint Joseph's University	948	88		100	100	92
Seton Hall University	995	70		67	N/A	90
South Dakota State University	974	80		100	83	83
Southern University	727	42		42	N/A	60
Stephen F. Austin State University	962	39		33	100	60
Stony Brook University	995	91		86	100	81
Syracuse University	970	55		50	60	90
Temple University	985	82		83	100	85
Texas A&M University, College Station	944	54		45	100	78
Texas Tech University	935	92		88	100	79
University of Arizona	1000	80		71	100	78
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	958	92		89	N/A	83
University at Buffalo	960	80		67	100	78
University of California, Berkeley	954	55		43	50	79
University of Cincinnati	942	36		40	N/A	79
University of Colorado, Boulder	975	83		67	100	86
University of Connecticut	983	20		20	N/A	85
University of Dayton	974	100		100	100	95
University of Hawaii, Manoa	954	62		40	100	78
University of Iowa	973	100		100	100	89
University of Kansas	995	100		100	100	84
University of Kentucky	995	90		83	100	81
University of Maryland, College Park	948	91		100	100	85
University of Miami (Florida)	990	93		100	N/A	89
University of Michigan	995	89		80	100	89
University of North Carolina, Asheville	970	90		83	100	85
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	952	80		83	100	85
University of North Carolina, Wilmington	958	46		22	100	81
University of Northern Iowa	995	75		67	75	80
University of Notre Dame	974	100		100	100	98
University of Oklahoma	969	71		70	100	84
University of Oregon	945	50		50	67	80
University of Pittsburgh	1000	62		62	N/A	82
University of Southern California	959	82		75	100	81
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga	944	50		42	67	70
University of Texas at Austin	1000	100		100	100	85
University of Tulsa	961	83		71	100	87
University of Utah	980	90		100	75	83
University of Virginia	984	64		80	33	86
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay	960	91		83	100	92
University of Wisconsin, Madison	985	67		60	71	85
Vanderbilt University	983	83		80	100	93
Villanova University	988	100		100	100	94
Virginia Commonwealth University	990	83		75	N/A	76
Weber State University	980	100		100	100	69
West Virginia University	978	83		75	100	82
Wichita State University	942	63		60	75	80
Xavier University	949	91		88	100	94
Yale University	980	95		100	91	98
Average	966.25	78		75	93	83