



# TIDES

THE INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY AND ETHICS IN SPORT

MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE

## Keeping Score When It Counts:

Analyzing the Academic Performance of the  
2019 NCAA Division I Women's and Men's  
Sweet 16 Basketball Tournament Teams

by **Dr. Richard Lapchick**

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# *Keeping Score When It Counts:*

## *Analyzing the Academic Performance of the 2019 NCAA Women's and Men's Sweet 16 Basketball Tournament Teams*



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## Executive Summary


**Orlando, FL... March 27, 2019** - The 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 Sweet 16 round in the NCAA Division I Women's and Men's Basketball Tournaments. This study is a follow-up report to the annual study, "[Keeping Score When It Counts: Academic Progress/Graduation Success Rate Study of the 2019 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament Teams](#)," which compared the GSR and APR for all teams that were selected for the respective 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 the University of Central Florida (UCF). The study was co-authored this year by Yencheng Fan and data visualization was produced by Kasimu Greenidge and Daniel Martin.

Lapchick commented that, "We again see a positive trend of academic success and overall graduation rates of our men's and women's basketball teams that advanced to the Sweet 16 round of their respective NCAA basketball tournaments. It again breaks the common belief that to get to the top you have to cut corners. The GSR and APR for the remaining teams continued to be impressive and the women continue to be the most impressive."

Lapchick stated, "There are six women's and four men's Sweet 16 teams that had 100 percent graduation success rates. There are 11 women's and four men's teams with

### *Overall DI Men's Basketball Student-Athlete APR*

**973**  **976**  
-68 Teams- -16 Teams-

### *Overall DI Women's Basketball Student-Athlete APR*

**986**  **992**  
-64 Teams- -16 Teams-

### *Overall DI Men's Basketball Student-Athlete GSR*

**81%**  **80%**  
-68 Teams- -16 Teams-

### *Overall DI Women's Basketball Student-Athlete GSR*

**92%**  **93%**  
-64 Teams- -16 Teams-

Richard E. Lapchick, Director

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***“It again breaks the common belief that to get to the top you have to cut corners.”***

GSRs of at least 90 percent. In addition, 100 percent of the women’s teams and 94 percent of the men’s teams graduated at least 60 percent of their basketball student-athletes.

There was also positive news for both the women’s and men’s Sweet 16 teams regarding the APR rates. There were 11 men’s teams (69 percent) and 16 women’s teams (100 percent) with an APR of 960 or above; and nine men’s teams (56 percent) and 16 women’s teams (100 percent) with an APR of 970 or above.”

Lapchick added, “If making it to the Elite Eight was based on GSR rates, then the eight women’s teams would be South Dakota State, Stanford, Texas A&M, Connecticut, South Carolina, Iowa, Louisville and UCLA. For the men’s teams it would be Duke, Gonzaga, Michigan State, Michigan, Louisiana State, Purdue, Tennessee, and two teams tied for the final spot - Florida State and Kentucky.

If making it to the Elite Eight was based on APR rates, then the eight women’s teams would be Oregon State, Stanford, Louisville, Arizona State, Notre Dame, South Carolina, South Dakota State and three teams tied for the final spot, - North Carolina State, Iowa, and UCLA. For the men’s teams it would be Michigan State, Kentucky, North Carolina, Auburn, Gonzaga, Michigan, Florida State and two teams tied for the final spot - Virginia and Virginia Tech.”

If the Sweet 16 for men’s and women’s basketball teams were seeded based on Graduation Success Rates (GSR), then the complete seeding can be seen in Appendix 1.

If the Sweet 16 for men’s and women’s basketball teams were seeded based on Academic Progress Rates (APR), then the complete seeding can be seen in Appendix 2.

Lapchick added, “Comparing the 68 original qualifying teams and the remaining 16 teams, there was a significant decrease in the gap between the GSR of white male and African-American male basketball student-athletes. The GSR of white male basketball student-athletes in the Sweet 16 was 85 percent (down seven percentage points) versus 79

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

**79%**  
-68 Teams-

**79%**  
-16 Teams-

***Average GSR for white  
DI Men's Basketball Student-Athletes***

**92%**  
-68 Teams-



**85%**  
-16 Teams-

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

**13%**  
-68 Teams-



**6%**  
-16 Teams-

percent (no change) for African-American male basketball student-athletes in the Sweet 16, resulting in a six percentage point gap. The gap is a result of a decrease in the GSR for white male basketball student-athletes while there was no change in the GSR for African-American basketball student-athletes.

The gap between white female and African-American female basketball student-athletes unfortunately increased by four percentage points. This increase is attributed to a two percentage point decrease in the GSR (86 percent) for African-American female basketball student-athletes and a corresponding two percentage point increase in the GSR (98 percent) for white female basketball student-athletes." The 12 percent gap is a two percentage point increase from 10 percent as outlined in the 2018 Sweet 16 report.

Other positive findings include:

- With the NCAA APR minimum at 930, none of the 32 teams in the men's and women's Sweet 16 was below that standard.
- 16 women's teams (100 percent) and 12 men's teams (94 percent) graduated at least 70 percent of their basketball student-athletes.
- The University of Oregon is the only school with teams in both the men's and women's 2019 Sweet 16 fields. The Oregon women's team outperformed the men's team with an APR of 986 and a GSR of 86.

Lapchick emphasized, "The men and women basketball student-athletes in the Sweet 16 tournaments have worked hard on the court and they continue to excel in the classroom. Colleges need to continue their hard work on the campuses to reduce the gaps between the GSR of white male and African-American male basketball student-athletes and white female and African-American female basketball student-athletes. This should be done by increasing the African-American student-athlete GSR, not by decreasing the white student-athlete GSR. However, the report in general is a clear indication that the academic reforms instituted more than a decade ago have helped and it is time to increase the acceptable standard for the APR of a 930 to an APR with a graduation rate equivalent to at least a 60 percent graduation rate."

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

1. All men's and women's graduation rates were based on

### *Average GSR for African-American DI Women's Basketball Student-Athletes*

**88%** ↓ **86%**  
-64 Teams- -16 Teams-

### *Average GSR for white DI Women's Basketball Student-Athletes*

**96%** ↑ **98%**  
-64 Teams- -16 Teams-

### *Gap in Average GSR's between white and African-American DI Women's Basketball Student-Athletes*

**8%** ↑ **12%**  
-64 Teams- -16 Teams-

16 teams.

2. GSR and APR scores are based on the most recent statistics provided by the NCAA.

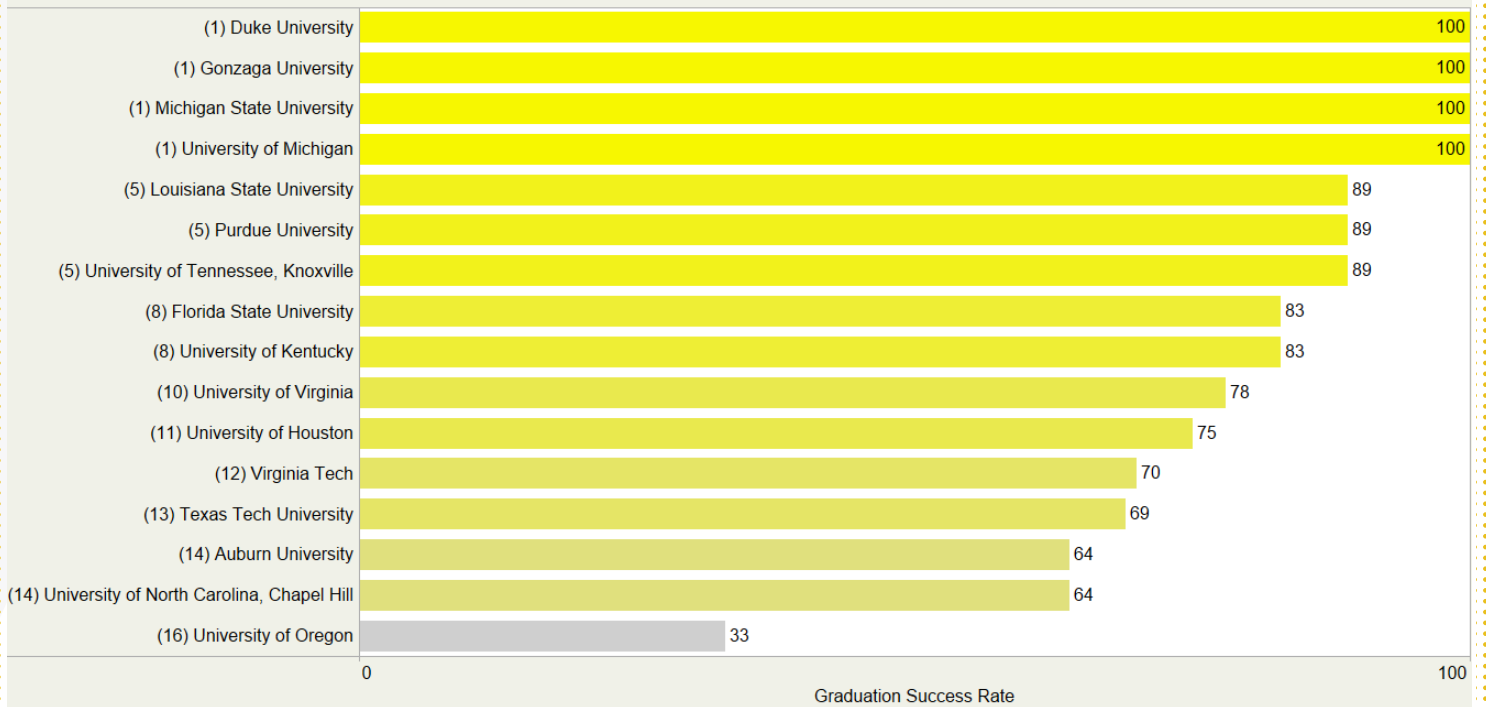
3. Disparity figures are based on the difference of the average GSR for white basketball student-athletes and African-American basketball student-athletes.

4. Two women's Sweet 16 teams, University of South Carolina and Mississippi State University, did not have any white basketball student-athletes who were eligible to graduate in the period recorded and one women's Sweet 16 team, South Dakota State University, did not have any African-American basketball student-athletes.

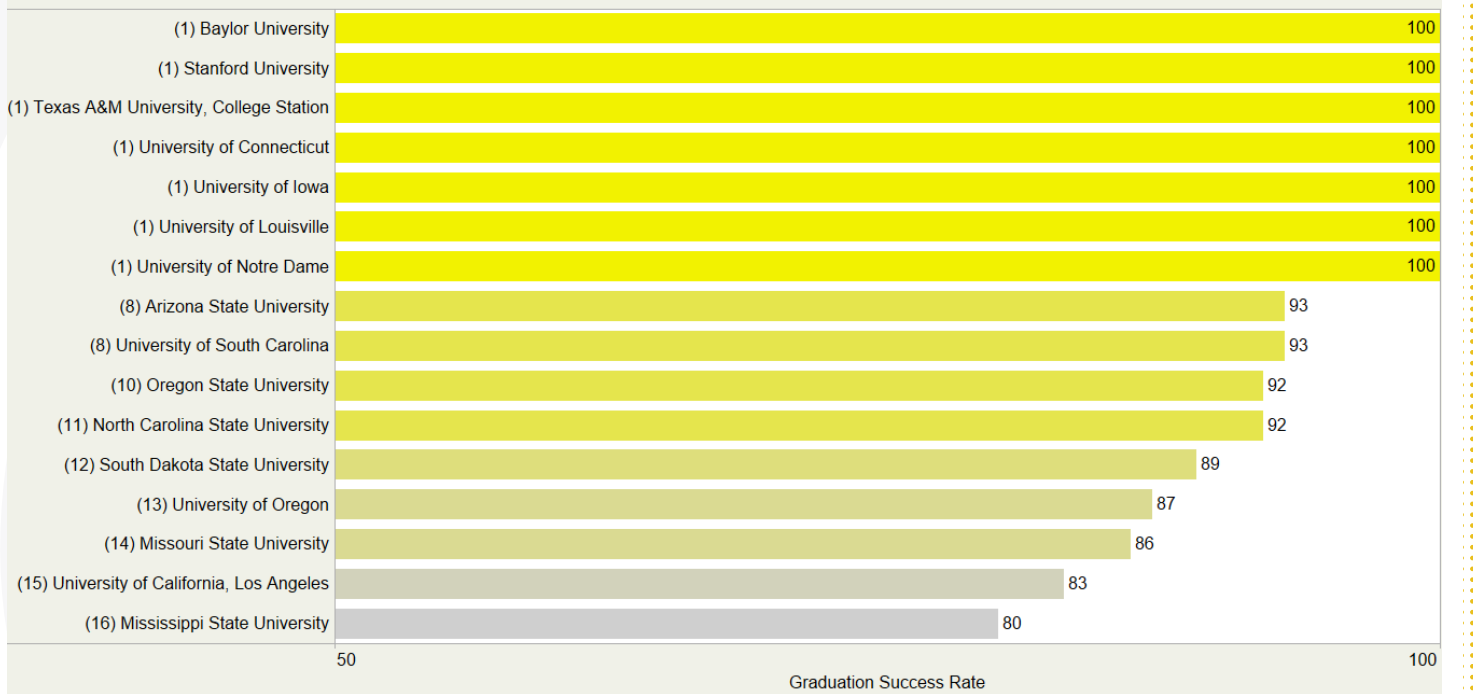


## Appendix 1

### Men's Graduation Success Rate NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 Teams

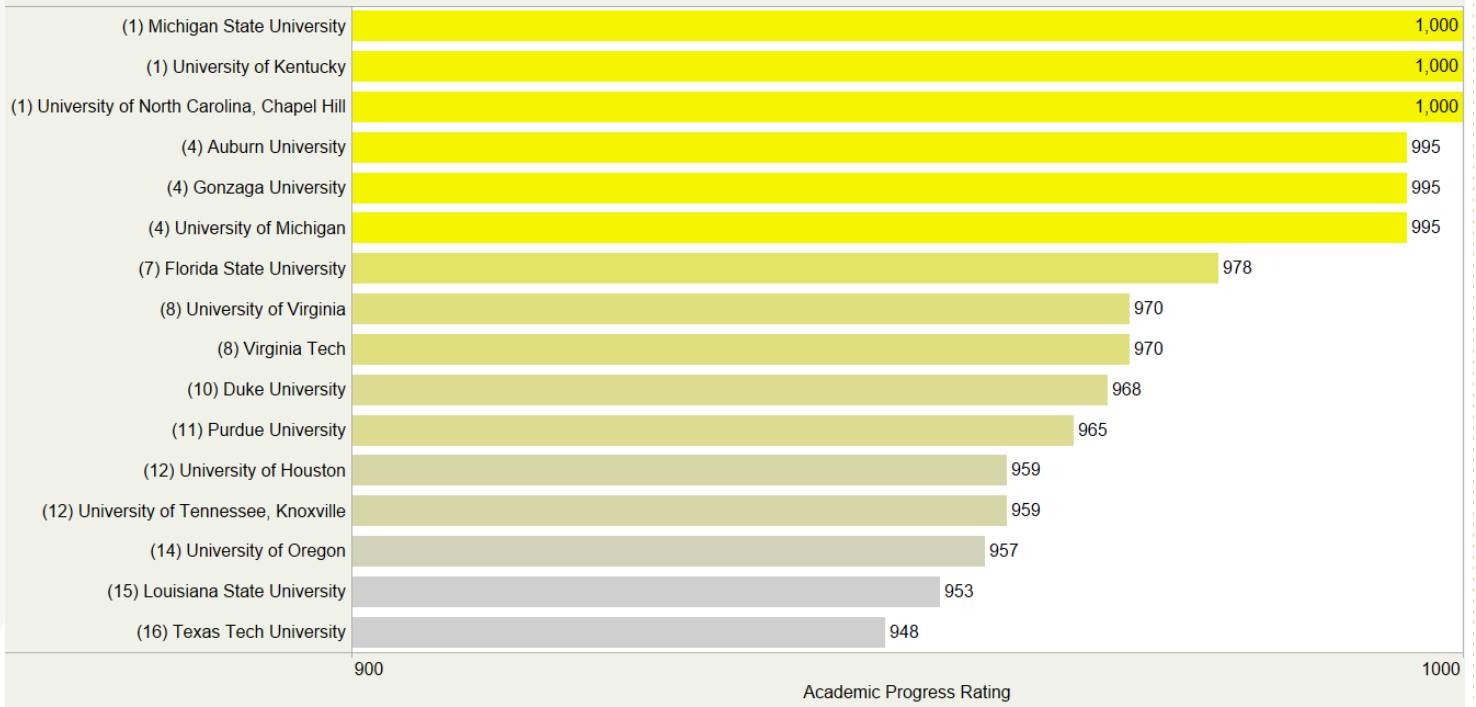


### Women's Graduation Success Rate NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 Teams



## Appendix 2

### Men's Academic Progress Rate NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 Teams



### Women's Academic Progress Rate NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 Teams

