



TIDES

THE INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY AND ETHICS IN SPORT

MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE

Keeping Score When It Counts:

Assessing the Academic Records of the
2022-2023 Bowl-Bound College Football Teams

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Executive Summary

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The overall academic success of college football student-athletes increased this year and the gap between white and Black football student-athletes decreased for the 82 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) bowl-bound schools. The results were reported in “**Keeping Score When It Counts: Assessing the Academic Records of the 2022-23 Bowl-Bound College Football Teams**,” a study released by The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) which is in the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at the University of Central Florida.

There is one additional bowl game, between two HBCU (Historically Black College or University) schools that compete in the Football Championship Series (FCS) with representatives from the MEAC and the SWAC. This bowl is the Cricket Celebration Bowl, which this year takes place between Jackson State University and North Carolina Central University. The data for this game is not included in the calculations presented in this report, because these schools are not FBS schools.

Richard Lapchick, director of TIDES and the primary author of the study said, “The academic success of FBS football student-athletes has **improved** this year. The overall football student-athlete Graduation Success Rate (GSR) for bowl-bound teams reached an all-time high for the TIDES report at **83.0** percent, a slight **1.7** percent increase from **81.3** percent in 2021.

Overall Football Student-Athlete GSR

81.3%  83.0%

2021 2022

Average GSR for Black Football Student-Athletes

78.0%  79.5%

2021 2022

Average GSR for White Football Student-Athletes

89.7%  91.1%

2021 2022

Lapchick added, “A positive trend that continued in 2022 is that every school participating in a bowl game had at least a **50** percent GSR for their football teams for the **fifth** time in **six** years.

Lapchick stated, “While the gap between white and Black football student-athletes decreased slightly this year, it continues to be a major issue. The gap this year is **11.6** percent which is the closest the gap has been in the history of this report, down from **11.7** percent last year. Among the **82** bowl-bound teams, the average GSR for Black student-athletes is **79.5** percent, up from **78.0** percent in 2021. The average GSR for white football student-athletes increased from **89.7** in 2021 to **91.0** percent in 2022.

Lapchick continued, “The University of Michigan, Ohio State University, the University of Georgia, and Texas Christian University, will contend in the College Football Playoff for the National Championship. Ohio State and Michigan had high graduation rates, while Georgia and TCU had lower graduation rates. Ohio State and Michigan had higher academic standing, but Georgia and TCU struggled academically.

The four schools graduated **94** percent, **86** percent, **54** percent, and **74** percent of all their football student-athletes, respectively. As for their Black football student-athletes, they graduated **90** percent, **83** percent, **47** percent, and **73** percent, respectively. Their white football student-athletes graduated at rates of **100** percent, **93** percent, **80** percent, and **76** percent, respectively. The substantial graduation rate gap between white and Black football student-athletes at a school competing for a national championship is disturbing.

All four schools did well with their Academic Progress Rates (APR). APRs for the four schools were Ohio State **991**, Michigan **980**, Georgia **967**, and TCU **955**. Once again, Michigan and Ohio State were in higher academic standing, than Georgia and TCU in APR.

Troubling statistics in the study of the bowl-bound teams included:

- **80** schools (**97.6** percent) had GSRs of **70** percent or higher for white football student-athletes, which was around **1.2** times the number of schools with equivalent GSRs for Black football student-athletes (**67** schools or **81.7** percent).
- East Carolina University had a GSR for Black football student-athletes that was **40** percentage points lower than their rate for white football student-athletes. In 2022 there were **five** bowl bound teams that had a GSR for their Black football student-athletes at least **30** percentage points **lower** than that of their white football student-athletes.
- In 2022, **24.4** percent of bowl-bound schools (**20** total) had GSRs for Black football student-athletes that were at least **20** percentage points lower than their rates for white football student-athletes.

There were **seven** schools that had a GSR for their Black football student-athletes that exceeded their rates for white football student-athletes, **one** more than 2021. They were Mississippi State University, University of Wyoming, University of Connecticut, Brigham Young University, University of Alabama-Birmingham, University of Maryland, and the University of Pittsburgh.

For the second year in a row, there were eight schools that had an overall GSR for football student-athletes that was better than the overall GSR for student-athletes of the school. Those schools were the University of Florida, Oregon State University, the United States Air Force Academy, University of Toledo, Middle Tennessee State, Kansas State University, University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Louisville.

NCAA statistics were used in this study. The Institute reviewed data collected by the NCAA from member institutions for the graduation rate study. The Institute reviewed the six-year graduation rates of each school’s freshman class that enrolled in 2015-16, and it then calculated a four-class average for the Graduation Success Rate (freshmen classes of 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16).

Due to the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCAA canceled APR public release for 2021 and 2022. The APR resumed this fall, in this year's study, all bowl-bound teams surpassed an APR of 930, as reported by the NCAA using data from 2020-21.

This year **13** of the **41** (**31.7** percent) bowl games have APRs higher or equal to **970**. This is compared to **13** of **43** (**30.2** percent) bowl games in 2021 and **6** of **28** (**21.4** percent) bowl games in 2020. The Sugar Bowl has the University of Alabama and Kansas State University with APRs of **997** and **978** respectively. The Rose Bowl has the University of Utah and Penn State University with APRs of **991**, and **970** respectively. The Cotton Bowl has the University of Southern California and Tulane University with APRs of **975** and **970**, respectively. The Boca Raton Bowl has Liberty and Toledo with APRs of **976** and **978**, respectively. The Armed Forces Bowl has The United States Air Force Academy and Baylor University with APRs of **975** and **994**, respectively. The Gasparilla Bowl will feature Wake Forest and Missouri with APRs of **990** and **983**. The Hawai'i Bowl will be between Middle Tennessee State and San Diego State University with APRs of **979** and **971**. The University of Central Florida and Duke will compete in the Military Bowl with APRs of **984** and **985**. The Guaranteed Rate bowl will be between Wisconsin and Oklahoma State with APRs of **992** and **973**. The Fenway Bowl will feature Cincinnati and Louisville with APRs of **991** and **988**. Texas and Washington will play in the Alamo Bowl with APRs of **971** and **993**. The Las Vegas Bowl will be between Florida and Oregon State with APRs of **981** and **973**. Lastly, Notre Dame and South Carolina will compete in the Gator Bowl both with APRs of **984**.

The NCAA created the APR in 2004 as part of an academic reform package designed to more accurately measure student-athletes' academic success as well as improve graduation rates at member institutions. The APR holds each team accountable for the success of student-athletes in the classroom and their progression towards graduation. Individual teams are penalized if they fall below an APR score of 930, which is an expected graduation rate of 50 percent of its student-athletes. Up to 10 percent of scholarships can be taken

Keeping Score at a Glance

Bowl-Bound Schools with GSR for Black Football Student-Athletes exceeding White Football Student-Athletes

6  **7**
-2021- -2022-

"This year, every school participating in a bowl game had at least a 50 percent GSR for their football teams for the fifth time in six years."

away. Teams can also be subject to historical penalties for poor academic performance over time.

According to the NCAA, the APR is calculated as follows:

- Each student-athlete receiving athletically related financial aid earns one point for staying in school and one point for being academically eligible.
- A team's total points are divided by points possible and then multiplied by 1,000 to equal the team's Academic Progress Rate.
- In addition to a team's current-year APR, its rolling four-year APR is also used to determine accountability.

The new postseason eligibility structure took effect in the 2012-13 academic year, with a three-year implementation window, which moved the benchmark from **900** to **930**. For access to postseason competition in 2021-2022, teams must achieve a **930** four-year average APR or a **940** average over the most recent two years to participate in championships.

Bowl-bound FBS schools in "Power Five" conferences (Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, and Southeastern Conference) averaged **1.4** points higher in APR with a score of **970** than bowl-bound schools in "Group of Five" conferences (American Athletic Conference, Conference USA, Mid-American Conference, Mountain West Conference, and Sun Belt Conference) with an average score **968.6**. Bowl-bound schools in the Atlantic Coast Conference had the **highest** APR among all FBS conferences and the Mountain West had the **highest** GSR for Black football student-athletes with multiple schools represented.

The APR data does not include data from the 2021-22 academic performances of the teams in the study but instead uses four years of data ending in the 2019-20 school year. This is the most updated data available on the NCAA website and provided by the NCAA.

The Institute has taken the position that Federal Graduation Rates (FGR) give an unfair depiction of a

school because it does not account for transfer students. A student-athlete who transfers in good standing and graduates at another institution counts as a non-graduate at the initial school. The FGR also does not count a junior college student who transfers into a four-year college and graduates as a graduate, or a former student-athlete who returns and graduates more than six years after original enrollment. The Institute supports the NCAA's use of the GSR, developed in 2002, which accounts for these factors, as a better way to fairly measure the results.

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 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 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 social issues in sport.



BOWL GAMES									
Bowl Name	School Name	Conference	APR	Overall Football Student-Athletes (%)	Black Football Student-Athletes (%)	White Football Student-Athletes (%)	Overall Student-Athletes (%)	Overall Football and Student-Athlete Diff (%)	White and Black Diff (%)
National Championship	Winner of Fiesta Bowl Winner of Peach Bowl								
Fiesta Bowl (CFP) Semi	TCU (3)	Big 12	955	74%	73%	76%	89%	-15%	-3%
	Michigan (2)	Big Ten	980	94%	90%	100%	96%	-2%	-10%
Peach Bowl (CFP) Semi	Ohio State (4)	Big Ten	991	86%	83%	93%	91%	-5%	-10%
	Georgia (1)	SEC	967	54%	47%	80%	86%	-32%	-33%
Sugar Bowl	Alabama	SEC	997	89%	87%	95%	93%	-4%	-8%
	Kansas State	Big 12	978	94%	96%	100%	93%	1%	-4%
Rose Bowl	Utah	Pac-12	991	90%	93%	100%	93%	-3%	-7%
	Penn State	Big Ten	970	89%	84%	95%	92%	-3%	-11%
Cotton Bowl	USC	Pac-12	975	79%	78%	80%	93%	-14%	-2%
	Tulane	American	970	88%	85%	100%	94%	-6%	-15%
Orange Bowl	Tennessee	SEC	946	82%	76%	100%	93%	-11%	-24%
	Clemson	ACC	999	92%	89%	100%	95%	-3%	-11%
Bahamas Bowl	Miami (OH)	MAC	977	90%	86%	95%	95%	-5%	-9%
	UAB	Conference USA	945	80%	86%	71%	94%	-14%	15%
Cure Bowl	UTSA	Conference USA	953	87%	85%	86%	87%	0%	-1%
	Troy	Sun Belt	952	75%	70%	94%	85%	-10%	-24%
Boca Raton Bowl	Liberty	Independents	976	73%	72%	76%	89%	-16%	-4%
	Toledo	MAC	978	93%	91%	96%	92%	1%	-5%
New Mexico Bowl	SMU	American	977	86%	84%	92%	91%	-5%	-8%
	BYU	Independents	953	80%	100%	87%	82%	-2%	13%
Independence Bowl	Louisiana	Sun Belt	955	82%	81%	100%	86%	-4%	-19%
	Houston	American	948	66%	64%	85%	80%	-14%	-21%
LendingTree Bowl	Rice	Conference USA	994	93%	91%	94%	95%	-2%	-3%
	Southern Miss	Sun Belt	934	68%	62%	88%	84%	-16%	-26%
LA Bowl	Washington State	Pac-12	959	86%	78%	86%	91%	-5%	-8%
	Fresno State	Mountain West	964	67%	56%	85%	82%	-15%	-29%
New Orleans Bowl	Western Kentucky	Conference USA	960	75%	73%	83%	86%	-11%	-10%
	South Alabama	Sun Belt	949	80%	75%	95%	91%	-11%	-20%
Myrtle Beach Bowl	Marshall	Sun Belt	963	78%	71%	89%	92%	-14%	-18%
	UConn	Independents	970	91%	93%	89%	93%	-2%	4%
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl	Eastern Michigan	MAC	978	78%	74%	80%	87%	-9%	-6%
	San Jose State	Mountain West	961	71%	62%	86%	83%	-12%	-24%
Frisco Bowl	North Texas	Conference USA	960	80%	75%	92%	85%	-5%	-17%
	Boise State	Mountain West	990	91%	86%	92%	93%	-2%	-6%
Armed Forces Bowl	Baylor	Big 12	975	91%	90%	94%	94%	-3%	-4%
	Air Force	Mountain West	994	93%	86%	100%	91%	-2%	-14%
Gasparilla Bowl	Wake Forest	ACC	990	93%	92%	95%	96%	-3%	-3%
	Missouri	SEC	983	76%	70%	88%	86%	-10%	-18%
Hawai'i Bowl	Middle Tennessee State	Conference USA	979	95%	93%	100%	94%	1%	-7%
	San Diego State	Mountain West	971	86%	85%	91%	86%	0%	-6%
Camellia Bowl	Georgia Southern	Sun Belt	952	69%	66%	69%	85%	-16%	-3%
	Buffalo	MAC	968	87%	86%	87%	91%	-4%	-1%
Quick Lane Bowl	New Mexico State	Independents	940	85%	80%	94%	86%	-1%	-14%
	Bowling Green	MAC	963	73%	62%	85%	88%	-15%	-23%
Military Bowl	UCF	American	984	90%	83%	90%	90%	0%	-7%
	Duke	ACC	985	95%	91%	100%	98%	-3%	-9%
Birmingham Bowl	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt	964	83%	85%	89%	87%	-4%	-4%
	East Carolina	American	961	70%	60%	100%	85%	-15%	-40%
First Responder Bowl	Memphis	American	972	93%	89%	100%	93%	0%	-11%
	Utah State	Mountain West	969	85%	77%	89%	90%	-5%	-12%
Liberty Bowl	Kansas	Big 12	961	85%	85%	93%	90%	-5%	-8%
	Arkansas	SEC	957	87%	82%	100%	87%	0%	-18%
Holiday Bowl	North Carolina	ACC	977	71%	63%	90%	91%	-20%	-27%
	Oregon	Pac-12	960	76%	65%	91%	84%	-8%	-26%
Guaranteed Rate Bowl	Wisconsin	Big Ten	992	88%	86%	90%	91%	-3%	-4%
	Oklahoma State	Big 12	973	82%	87%	89%	88%	-6%	-2%
Fenway Bowl	Cincinnati	American	991	91%	86%	100%	95%	-4%	-14%
	Louisville	ACC	988	94%	94%	100%	92%	2%	-6%
Pinstripe Bowl	Syracuse	ACC	957	82%	77%	95%	93%	-11%	-18%
	Minnesota	Big Ten	988	90%	83%	100%	94%	-4%	-17%
Cheez-It Bowl	Oklahoma	Big 12	968	75%	69%	91%	88%	-13%	-22%
	Florida State	ACC	958	63%	51%	86%	85%	-22%	-35%
Alamo Bowl	Texas	Big 12	971	73%	68%	92%	89%	-16%	-24%
	Washington	Pac-12	993	87%	83%	96%	91%	-4%	-13%
Duke's Mayo Bowl	Maryland	Big Ten	944	88%	78%	71%	88%	0%	7%
	North Carolina State	ACC	974	79%	78%	93%	92%	-13%	-15%
Music City Bowl	Iowa	Big Ten	968	80%	65%	88%	88%	-8%	-23%
	Kentucky	SEC	971	88%	85%	94%	92%	-4%	-9%
Las Vegas Bowl	Florida	SEC	981	96%	94%	100%	94%	2%	-6%
	Oregon State	Pac-12	973	90%	93%	93%	88%	2%	0%
Gator Bowl	Notre Dame	Independents	984	89%	86%	89%	97%	-8%	-3%
	South Carolina	SEC	984	89%	89%	94%	94%	-5%	-5%
Sun Bowl	Pittsburgh	ACC	984	94%	95%	91%	92%	2%	4%
	UCLA	Pac-12	947	66%	64%	85%	88%	-22%	-21%
Arizona Bowl	Ohio	MAC	965	93%	93%	94%	94%	-1%	-1%
	Wyoming	Mountain West	974	90%	90%	88%	91%	-1%	2%
Reliaquest	Mississippi State	SEC	962	80%	82%	67%	90%	-10%	15%
	Illinois	Big Ten	989	91%	86%	96%	94%	-3%	-10%
Citrus Bowl	LSU	SEC	933	69%	63%	100%	92%	-23%	-37%
	Purdue	Big Ten	970	81%	70%	89%	88%	-7%	-19%
Texas Bowl	Texas Tech	Big 12	955	71%	61%	92%	84%	-13%	-31%
	Ole Miss	SEC	999	82%	78%	100%	88%	-6%	-22%
Averages			970	83.0%	79.5%	91.1%	90.0%	-7.1%	-11.6%