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## **Keeping Score When It Counts: Analyzing the Academic Performance of the 2016 NCAA Division I Women's and Men's Sweet 16 Teams**

**Orlando, FL – March 23, 2016** .....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 NCAA Division I Women's and Men's Sweet 16. This study is a follow-up report to the annual study, **"Keeping Score When It Counts: Academic Progress/Graduation Success Rate Study of the 2016 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament Teams"** (published here: <http://www.tidesport.org/d1-men-s---women-s-basketball.html>), which compared the GSR and APR for all teams that were selected for the men's and women's basketball 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 UCF. The study was co-authored this year by Justin Veldhuis.

Lapchick commented that, "The generally positive news reported in the study of the full tournament continues in the Sweet 16 study. It breaks the often held belief that to get to the top you have to cut corners. Most of the 32 remaining teams have commendable academic records bringing good news to the men's and women's Sweet 16 teams. The GSR and the APR rates of the teams are overwhelmingly high. Nonetheless, the women still do better than the men."

Lapchick stated, "There are five women's and four men's Sweet 16 teams that had 100 percent graduation success rates. There are 11 women's and six men's teams with GSRs above 90 percent. In addition, 94 percent of the women's teams and 81 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 13 men's teams (81 percent) and 16 women's teams (100 percent) with an APR of 950 or above, 12 men's teams (75 percent) and 15 women's teams (94 percent) with an APR of 960 or above, and 10 men's teams (63 percent) and 15 women's teams (94 percent) with an APR of 970 or above."

Lapchick added, "There was a drop in both the gap between the GSR of white male and African-American male basketball student-athletes, and the gap between white female and African-American female basketball student-athletes. The GSR of white male basketball student-athletes was 89 percent (the same as from 2015) versus 79 percent (up five percentage points) for African-American male basketball student-athletes resulting in a 10 percent gap. In the 2015 Sweet 16, the gap was 15 percent.

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White female basketball student-athletes graduated 94 percent (down from 100 percent) compared to 87 percent (down one percentage point) for African-American female basketball student-athletes. The 7 percent gap was five percentage points less than in 2015. While the gaps need to be narrowed, this is marked improvement over other years.

Other positive findings include:

- With the new NCAA APR cut rate at 930, none of the 32 teams in the men's and women's Sweet 16 was below that standard.
- 15 women's teams (94 percent) and 10 men's teams (63 percent) graduated at least 70 percent of their basketball student-athletes.
- No women's or men's team graduated less than 40 percent of their basketball student-athletes.

Syracuse University and the University of Notre Dame have teams in both the men's and women's 2016 Sweet 16 fields. Notre Dame achieved the highest level of success on the court and in the classroom with both the men's and women's teams having an APR of 970 or above and a graduation rate above 80 percent.

If the Sweet 16 for men's and women's basketball teams were seeded based on Graduation Success Rates (GSR), then the complete seeding would be:

**Men's**

#1 (tie) Duke University (100)  
 #1 (tie) University of Kansas (100)  
 #1 (tie) University of Notre Dame (100)  
 #1 (tie) Villanova University (100)  
 #5 University of Miami (93)  
 #6 University of Maryland, College Park (91)  
 #7 Gonzaga University (88)  
 #8 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (80)  
 #9 Iowa State University (75)  
 #10 University of Oklahoma (71)  
 #11 (tie) Indiana University, Bloomington (67)  
 #11 (tie) University of Wisconsin, Madison (67)  
 #13 University of Virginia (64)  
 #14 Syracuse University (55)  
 #15 Texas A&M University, College Station (54)  
 #16 University of Oregon (50)

**Women's**

#1 (tie) DePaul University (100)  
 #1 (tie) Stanford University (100)  
 #1 (tie) University of California, Los Angeles (100)  
 #1 (tie) University of Connecticut (100)  
 #1 (tie) University of Kentucky (100)  
 #1 (tie) University of Washington (100)  
 #7 Mississippi State University (95)  
 #8 Syracuse University (93)  
 #9 University of Texas at Austin (92)  
 #10 University of Tennessee, Knoxville (90)  
 #11 Oregon State University (86)  
 #12 (tie) Baylor University (85)  
 #12 (tie) Florida State University (85)  
 #14 The Ohio state University (83)  
 #15 University of Notre Dame (82)  
 #16 University of South Carolina (53)

Based on Academic Progress Rates (APR), the Sweet 16 seeding for men's and women's basketball teams would be as follows:

<b>Men's</b>
#1 Indiana University, Bloomington (1000)
#2 (tie) Duke University (995)
#2 (tie) University of Kansas (995)
#4 University of Miami (990)
#5 Villanova University (988)
#6 University of Wisconsin, Madison (985)
#7 (tie) University of Virginia (984)
#7 (tie) Gonzaga University (984)
#9 University of Notre Dame (974)
#10 Syracuse University (970)
#11 (tie) Iowa State University (969)
#11 (tie) University of Oklahoma (969)
#13 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (952)
#14 University of Maryland, College Park (948)
#15 University of Oregon (945)
#16 Texas A&M University, College Station (944)

<b>Women's</b>
#1 (tie) DePaul University (1000)
#1 (tie) Stanford University (1000)
#3 University of Texas at Austin (996)
#4 Syracuse University (991)
#5 University of South Carolina (990)
#6 University of Kentucky (987)
#7 (tie) Oregon State University (984)
#7 (tie) University of Notre Dame (984)
#9 University of Connecticut (982)
#10 University of California, Los Angeles (980)
#11 Florida State University (979)
#12 (tie) University of Tennessee, Knoxville (978)
#12 (tie) University of Washington (978)
#14 The Ohio State University (976)
#15 Baylor University (974)
#16 Mississippi State University (958)

Lapchick emphasized, "As far as academics go, this is the sweetest Sweet 16 ever. That being said, we still need to further close the gaps between the GSR of white male and female basketball student-athletes and African-American male and female basketball student-athletes. But this is a good year! The fact that this year's numbers are better than last year is a clear indication that the academic reforms instituted more than a decade ago have helped."

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

1. All men's and women's graduation rates were based on 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. One men's Sweet 16 team (University of Miami) did not have any white basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.

**THE INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY AND ETHICS IN SPORT (TIDES)**

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.

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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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