



Media Contact:

Brandon Moyer – Brandon.moyer@knights.ucf.edu (804) 814-7275

Michaela Robbins – Mrobbi12@knights.ucf.edu (423) 991-7212

Keeping Score When It Counts: Analyzing the Academic Performance of the 2015 NCAA Division I Women’s and Men’s Sweet 16 Teams

Orlando, FL – March 25, 2015The 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 2015 NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Basketball Tournament Teams,”** <http://www.tidesport.org/2015%20Women's%20&%20Men's%20Basketball%20March%20Tournament%20Report.pdf> 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 Evanna Howell and Maclin Simpson.

Lapchick commented that, “There is good news regarding academic success in general for both the men’s and women’s Sweet 16 teams. The GSR and the APR rates of the teams are overwhelmingly high. As in the past, the women still do better than the men.

Lapchick stated, “It is clear that elite women’s basketball programs are performing at higher levels in the classroom than the elite men’s teams. There are five women’s and two men’s Sweet 16 teams that had 100 percent graduation success rates. There are 11 women’s and three men’s teams with GSRs above 90 percent. In addition, 100 percent of the women’s teams and 88 percent of the men’s teams graduated at least 60 percent of their basketball student-athletes.

There was good news for both the women’s and men’s Sweet 16 teams when we examined the APR rates. There were 15 men’s teams (94 percent) and 16 women’s teams (100 percent) with an APR of 950 or above, 13 men’s teams (81 percent) and 14 women’s teams (88 percent) with an APR of 960 or above, and 10 men’s teams (63 percent) and 12 women’s teams (75 percent) with an APR of 970 or above.”

Lapchick added, “The GSR of white male basketball student-athletes is 89 percent (down nine percentage points from 2014) versus 74 percent (up 19 percentage points) for African-American male basketball student-athletes resulting in a still too large 15 percent gap. In the 2014 Sweet 16, the gap was a deplorable 43 percent.

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR

C. KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • SCOTT BUKSTEIN, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Tel: 407.833.4516 or 407.833.4887 • Fax: 407.833.3771 • Web: www.tidesport.org

White female basketball student-athletes graduated 100 percent (up three percentage points) compared to 88 percent (up four percentage points) for African-American female basketball student-athletes. The 12 percent gap was one percentage point less than in 2014.”

Other positives 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 12 men’s teams (75 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.

Five schools have teams in both the men and women’s 2015 Sweet 16 fields: Duke University, Gonzaga University, University of Louisville, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and University of Notre Dame. Duke University, Gonzaga University, and University of Notre Dame achieved the highest level of success on the court and in the classroom. Both of their men’s and women’s teams have an APR of 960 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	Women’s
#1 (tie) Duke University (100)	#1 (tie) University of Dayton (100)
#1 (tie) University of Notre Dame (100)	#1 (tie) University of Connecticut (100)
#3 Gonzaga University (91)	#1 (tie) University of Tennessee -- Knoxville (100)
#4 (tie) University of Kentucky (89)	#1 (tie) Duke University (100)
#4 (tie) West Virginia University (89)	#1 (tie) University of Notre Dame (100)
#4 (tie) Xavier University (89)	#6 (tie) Stanford University (93)
#7 (tie) University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (88)	#6 (tie) Arizona State University (93)
#7 (tie) University of Utah (88)	#8 (tie) Gonzaga University (92)
#9 University of Arizona (82)	#8 (tie) University of Iowa (92)
#10 North Carolina State University (80)	#8 (tie) University of Maryland – College Park (92)
#11 University of Oklahoma (77)	#11 University of Texas at Austin (90)
#12 Michigan State University (73)	#12 University of Louisville (89)
#13 Wichita State University (64)	#13 (tie) University of South Carolina (83)
#14 University of California, Los Angeles (60)	#13 (tie) Florida State University (83)
#15 University of Louisville (58)	#15 Baylor University (60)
#16 University of Wisconsin, Madison (40)	#16 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (69)

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

Men's

- #1 University of Louisville (1000)
- #2 (tie) Duke University (995)
- #2 (tie) University of Notre Dame (995)
- #4 University of Kentucky (989)
- #5 University of Arizona (984)
- #6 Michigan State University (980)
- #7 (tie) Gonzaga University (979)
- #7 (tie) University of Utah (979)
- #9 University of Wisconsin, Madison (975)
- #10 West Virginia University (974)
- #11 University of California, Los Angeles (969)
- #12 Wichita State University (961)
- #13 University of Oklahoma (960)
- #14 North Carolina State University (959)
- #15 Xavier University (958)
- #16 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (938)

Women's

- #1 (tie) Stanford University (1000)
- #2 University of Dayton (995)
- #3 Gonzaga University (991)
- #4 University of South Carolina (990)
- #5 University of Connecticut (989)
- #6 University of Texas at Austin (986)
- #7 (tie) University of Tennessee -- Knoxville (979)
- #7 (tie) Florida State University (979)
- #7 (tie) Baylor University (979)
- #10 (tie) Duke University (978)
- #10 (tie) Arizona State University (978)
- #12 University of Iowa (977)
- #13 University of Notre Dame (968)
- #14 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (963)
- #15 University of Maryland, College Park (959)
- #16 University of Louisville (958)

Lapchick emphasized, "While race has persisted as an ongoing academic issue, it is especially disheartening to see the large gaps between the graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes of Sweet 16 teams."

Other notable results on the topic of race and academics for the Sweet 16 teams' GSR data include:

- Three women's teams and three men's teams had a GSR disparity between African-American and white basketball student-athletes of 30 percent or more. Last year's study showed two women's teams and ten men's teams with a 30 percent or more disparity.
- Five women's teams and five men's teams have a GSR disparity of 20 percent or more. In comparison to last year's Sweet 16 teams, the number of women's teams with a 20 percent or more gap increased by one while the number of men's teams with a 20 percent or more gap decreased by seven.

Lapchick concluded that, "Whether we examine 16 or 68 teams, overall women basketball student-athletes achieved greater academic success than their male counterparts. And no matter whether we look at women's or men's college basketball, there is a gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes. The fact that this year's numbers are much 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 Louisville) did not have any white basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.
5. One women's Sweet 16 team (Gonzaga University) did not have any African-American basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR

C. KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • SCOTT BUKSTEIN, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Tel: 407.822.4516 or 407.822.4887 • Fax: 407.822.2771 • Web: www.tidsonest.org

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.

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.

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR

C. KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • SCOTT BUKSTEIN, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Tel: 407.933.4516 or 407.933.4887 • Fax: 407.933.2771 • Web: www.tidesport.org