



Media Contact: Jessica Bartter  
 jbartter@bus.ucf.edu, 407-823-4884

## Keeping Score When It Counts: Sweet 16 Men's and Women's Teams A Look at Their Academic Success

**Orlando, FL – March 25, 2009...**If the Sweet 16 for men's/women's basketball teams were based on Graduation Success Rates<sup>1</sup>, then the complete seeding would be (team's overall GSR is in parentheses after the school's name):

<b>Men's</b>	<b>Women's</b>
#1. Duke (89%)	#1. (tie) Connecticut (100%)
#1. (tie) Villanova (89%)	#1. (tie) Ohio State (100%)
#3. North Carolina (86%)	#1. (tie) Stanford (100%)
#4. Xavier (82%)	#1. (tie) Vanderbilt (100%)
#5. Purdue (77%)	#5. (tie) Iowa State (93%)
#6. Pittsburgh (69%)	#5. (tie) Pittsburg (93%)
#7. Gonzaga (67%)	#7. Arizona State (90%)
#8. Kansas (64%)	#8. Purdue (89%)
#9. Michigan State (60%)	#9. Baylor (88%)
#10. Memphis (55%)	#10. Michigan State (85%)
#10. (tie) Oklahoma (55%)	#11. Louisville (80%)
#12. Syracuse (50%)	#12. California, Berkeley (71%)
#13. Louisville (42%)	#13. (tie) Oklahoma (69%)
#14. Missouri (36%)	#13. (tie) Rutgers (69%)
#15. Connecticut (33%)	#15. (tie) Maryland (67%)
#16. Arizona (20%)	#15. (tie) Texas A&M (67%)

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida released a new study on the Graduation Success Rates and Academic Progress Rates of the teams in the men's and women's Sweet 16. It is a follow-up to its annual study, "Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Rates and Academic Progress Rates (APR) for 2009 NCAA Men's and Women's Division I Basketball Tournament Teams," which compared graduation success and academic progress rates for Division I teams that had been selected for the men's and women's brackets of the 2009 NCAA Basketball Tournaments. The author of the study is Dr. Richard Lapchick, who is director of The Institute and of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. The study was co-authored this year by Will Johnson, Chris Kamke, Cara Lopresti, and Nathalie Reshard.

Lapchick noted "Seven of the Sweet 16 women's teams had a higher graduation success rate than the men's team with the highest GSR. In addition, **100 percent** of the women's teams graduated at least 50

percent of its basketball student-athletes compared to 12 men's teams or **75 percent**. Whether it is all 64 teams or the Sweet 16 teams, the women do better than the men academically."

"There was good news for many of the Sweet 16 men's and women's teams with their APR rates. There were nine men's teams (56 percent) and 14 women's teams (88 percent) with an APR of 950 or above, seven men's teams (44 percent) and 12 women's teams (75 percent) with an APR of 960 or above and five men's teams (31 percent) and eight women's teams (50 percent) with an APR of 970 or above."

In this year's Sweet 16, only Oklahoma and Purdue among the men's teams (13%) have APR scores below 925. Purdue is the only men's team that will be subject to contemporaneous penalties by the NCAA. All the women's teams were above the 925 score.

In addition:

- 16 women's teams (**100 percent**) compared to nine of the men's teams (**56 percent**) graduated at least 60 percent of their overall basketball student-athletes.
- 12 women's teams (**75 percent**) compared to five of the men's (**31 percent**) teams graduated at least 70 percent.
- No women's team graduated less than 40 percent while three of the men's teams (**19 percent**) were below that mark.

Lapchick emphasized, "Race remains an ongoing academic issue because of the continued gap between graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes including a significant disparity between white and African-American basketball student-athletes. The good news is that the GSR rates for both whites and African-Americans are going up and the gap has narrowed slightly.

"Yet it is the disparity that is troublesome. White male basketball student-athletes graduate at 80 percent versus only 58 percent of African-American male basketball student-athletes. White female basketball student-athletes graduate at 89 percent, while 75 percent of African-American female basketball student-athletes graduate. These 22 and 14 percent disparities are alarming, yet slightly improved from the 24 and 16 percent gaps respectively a year ago."

Distressing results on the topic of race and academics for the Sweet 16 teams' GSR data are:

- Two women's Sweet 16 teams (**14 percent**) and six men's Sweet 16 teams (**46 percent**) have graduation rates for African-American basketball student-athletes that were at least 30 percent lower than their rates for white basketball student-athletes.
- Four women's teams (**29 percent**) and eight men's teams (**62 percent**) have graduation rates for African-American basketball student-athletes that were at least 20 percent lower than their rates for white basketball student-athletes.

Lapchick concluded that "No matter how many teams we examine, overall women basketball student-athletes succeed academically better than their male counterparts. And no matter whether we look at women's or men's college basketball, the gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes is too big and must be narrowed. I believe that NCAA President Myles Brand's reform package is leading us in the right way but the job is not done. The increasing graduation rates and the closing of the gaps show this."

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The Institute reviewed 2001-02 graduation (six-year) rates, with a four-class average (freshman classes of 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01, and 2001-02). The APR data in this study does not include data from the 2007-08 academic performances of the teams in the study, but

instead uses the four-year data from the 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 academic years. This is the first year without the squad-size adjustment for most teams that was in place until teams accumulated four years of APR data.

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

1. The disparity figures for men's teams are based on 13 teams because Memphis, Louisville, and Villanova, had no white basketball student-athletes in the graduating class in the period under review.
2. The disparity figures for women's teams are based on 14 teams because Iowa State had no African-American basketball student-athletes and Cal, Berkeley had no white basketball student-athletes in the graduating class in the period under review.

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

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport serves as a comprehensive resource for issues related to gender and race in amateur, collegiate and professional sports. The Institute researches and publishes a variety of studies, including annual studies of student-athlete graduation rates and racial attitudes in sports, 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. Additionally, The Institute conducts diversity management training in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports. 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 sport and social issues.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 or a former student-athlete who returns and graduates more than six years after original enrollment. The Institute supports the NCAA's new Graduation Success Rates, developed in 2005, which accounts for these factors, as a better way to fairly measure the results.

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 by providing sanctions in the form of lost scholarships when teams fail to meet the NCAA standard for academic performance. Teams that score below a 925, which is equivalent to an NCAA GSR rate of approximately 60 percent, can lose up to 10 percent of their scholarships. Teams can also be subject to historical penalties for poor academic performance over time. Starting next year, teams that receive three straight years of historical penalties (below 900 APR) face the potential of restrictions on postseason competition for the team, in addition to scholarship and practice restrictions.

## APPENDIX

2009 Men's Sweet Sixteen: Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR)					
School	APR	Overall Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Basketball Student-Athlete
Arizona	933	64	0	100	20
Connecticut	946	81	22	0	33
Duke	984	97	86	100	89
Gonzaga	965	89	0	86	67
Kansas	981	70	67	60	64
Louisville*	941	75	33	-	42
Memphis*	927	72	44	-	55
Michigan State	963	79	43	100	60
Missouri	957	71	25	100	36
North Carolina	995	85	80	100	86
Oklahoma	911	69	44	100	55
Pittsburgh	935	84	70	100	69
Purdue	894	79	83	83	77
Syracuse	955	83	50	50	50
Villanova*	990	95	86	-	89
Xavier	977	92	78	100	82
2009 Women's Sweet Sixteen: Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR)					
School	APR	Overall Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Basketball Student-Athlete
Arizona State	987	69	75	100	90
Baylor	967	84	89	88	88
California, Berkeley *	970	76	67	-	71
Connecticut	972	81	100	100	100
Iowa State **	975	71	-	93	93
Louisville	962	75	86	75	80
Maryland	966	79	69	100	67
Michigan State	955	79	80	86	85
Ohio State	993	78	100	100	100
Oklahoma	973	69	60	100	69
Pittsburg	982	84	100	89	93
Purdue	941	79	100	80	89
Rutgers	957	80	80	100	69
Stanford	990	95	100	100	100
Texas A&M	948	72	67	80	67
Vanderbilt	965	94	100	100	100
*Team had no white basketball student-athletes for GSR purposes					
**Team had no African-American basketball student-athletes for GSR purposes					