



Media Contact: Kelvin Ang
Kelvinangjy@knights.ucf.edu, 315-450-1420

Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2011 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams

Graduation Rate Study of NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams Reveals Marked Improvement in Overall Graduation Rates But Large Continuing Disparities between the Success of White and African-American Student-Athletes

Orlando, FL...March 14, 2011 – The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida released its annual study, **“Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2011 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams,”** which is the most comprehensive analysis to date of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament-bound teams. The study examines the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR) for the tournament teams as reported by the NCAA. The study also compares the performance in the classroom for African-American and white basketball student-athletes. Dr. Richard Lapchick, the primary author of the study, is director of The Institute and Chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. The study was co-authored this year by Michael Kuhn and Elizabeth Schulz.

Lapchick noted, “The report presents good news about the overall graduation rates, which continued to rise for both white and African-American basketball student-athletes. Academic Progress Rates also rose. However, the staggering gap between the graduation rates of African-American and white student-athletes grew by four percentage points to an even more unacceptable 32 percent. This was the third successive year that the gap grew from 22 percent in 2009 to 28 percent in 2010 to the current 32 percent.

“There was a two percentage point increase for all male basketball student-athletes to 66 percent, while 91 percent of white and 59 percent of African-American men's Division I basketball student-athletes graduate. That was a seven percentage point increase for white male basketball student-athletes and a three percentage point increase for African-American male basketball student-athletes compared to last year's study.”

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR • KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • FITZ HILL, VISITING SCHOLAR
Tel: 407-823-1516 or 407-823-4887 • Fax: 407-823-3771 • Web: www.tidesport.org

~MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE~

Based on the GSR, 51 teams or 76 percent of the total graduated at least 50 percent of their basketball student-athletes (up from 69 percent in 2010). In addition, 42 teams (63 percent, a five percentage point increase from 2010) graduated at least 60 percent and 32 teams (48 percent, a three percentage point increase from 2010) graduated at least 70 percent. Only seven teams (10 percent, significantly down from 19 percent in 2010) graduated less than 40 percent.

Lapchick emphasized that “the GSR, developed in late 2005, provides a more accurate picture of the success student-athletes have in the classroom at NCAA member institutions. The GSR tells us far more than the Federal Graduation Ratesⁱ did in the past. Also, by utilizing four years of Academic Progress Rates (APR) data, a far better depiction of the academic performance of student-athletes is illustrated. Thus the APR rates are an important part of this study.”

Lapchick went on to say, “For years we have noted the deeply troubling disparity between the GSR of African-American and white men’s basketball student-athletes. While the actual graduation rates of African-American basketball student-athletes continue to increase, the gap increased to 32 percentage points! An ESPN poll conducted for Martin Luther King Day this year indicated that the greatest concern of both whites and African-Americans in the general public was this disparity. Hopefully that concern will generate new resources to address this problem.”

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 50 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 last year, teams that receive three straight years of historical penalties (below 900 APR or approximately a 45 percent GSR) face the potential of restrictions on postseason competition for the team, in addition to scholarship and practice restrictions.

In this year’s men’s Division I basketball tournament, 10 teams have APR scores below 925. This is a significant improvement from 19 teams in 2010 and of the 21 men’s teams below the 925 score in 2009. Also, there were 41 teams (60 percent) with an APR of 950 or above, 36 teams (53 percent) with an APR of 960 or above and 26 teams (38 percent) with an APR of 970 or above.

Lapchick continued, “Race remains a continuing academic issue. By itself, the increased 32 percentage point gap between graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes demonstrates that.

“However, it is equally important to note that African-American male basketball players graduate at a higher rate than African-American males who are not student-athletes. The graduation rate for African-

American male students as a whole is only 38 percent, a full 21 percentage points lower than for African-American male basketball student-athletes. Presently, too many of our predominantly white campuses are not fully welcoming places for students of color, whether or not they are athletes. There are lessons that our campuses could learn from athletics. We have to find new ways to narrow this gap and that includes looking at the urban high schools which many of our African-American student-athletes graduate from...answers there must come from schools systems themselves, perhaps with help from the Department of Education.”

The following results from 2011 also are alarming. The GSR data shows:

- **30 men’s tournament teams** (54 percent, an increase from 49 percent in 2010) have a 30 percentage point or greater gap between the graduation rates of their white and African-American basketball student-athletes.
- **36 men’s tournament teams** (64 percent, a decrease from 65 percent in 2010) have a 20 percentage point or greater gap between the graduation rates of their white and African-American basketball student-athletes.

Lapchick concluded, “As always, there are schools that win big enough to be here in March *and* graduate their student-athletes. If we were to choose a Top 10 for Graduation Success Rates, these schools would be there: Belmont, Notre Dame, Villanova, Wofford, Illinois, BYU, Utah State, Xavier, Vanderbilt and Arkansas – Little Rock. All of these teams had GSR greater than 92 percent. Seven teams achieved a 100 percent GSR: Belmont, Notre Dame, Villanova, Wofford, Illinois, BYU, and Utah State.”

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The Institute reviewed the six-year graduation rates of each school’s freshman class that enrolled in 2003-04, and it then calculated a four-class average (freshmen classes of 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04). The APR data in this study does not include data from the 2009-10 academic performances of the teams, but instead uses the four-year data from the 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 academic years. This is the third 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 percentages were calculated as follows:

1. *Overall rates were based on 67 teams (Princeton, like other Ivy League Schools, does not report graduation rates).*
2. *Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 67 teams (Princeton does not report graduation rates).*
3. *Rates for white student-athletes were based on 56 teams (In addition to Princeton not reporting graduation rates, Clemson, Temple, Missouri, Georgetown, St. Johns, Cincinnati, Virginia Commonwealth, Memphis, Hampton, Long Island, and Alabama State had no white basketball student-athletes in the graduating class in the period under review).*
4. *The disparity figures are based on 56 teams because Princeton does not report graduation rates. In addition, Clemson, Temple, Missouri, Georgetown, St. Johns, Cincinnati, Virginia*

Commonwealth, Memphis, Hampton, Long Island, and Alabama State had no white basketball student-athletes in the graduating class in the period under review.

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.

Graduation Rates for 2011 Men's Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament					
School	APR	Overall Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Basketball Student-Athlete
Akron	951	77	0	100	38
Alabama State	907	54	71	-	63
Arizona	944	65	14	100	20
Arkansas-Little Rock	962	76	92	100	92
Belmont	995	90	100	100	100
Boston	964	94	100	80	90
Bucknell	994	95	80	100	91
Butler	1000	84	50	100	83
BYU	995	78	100	100	100
Cincinnati	945	77	58	-	53
Clemson	946	83	80	-	71
Connecticut	930	83	25	50	31
Duke	980	97	80	100	83
Florida	956	82	33	100	44
Florida State	944	79	63	100	73
George Mason	995	77	55	100	67
Georgetown	937	94	75	-	78
Georgia	944	77	30	100	36
Gonzaga	976	92	50	86	73
Hampton	948	70	71	-	67
Illinois	979	86	100	100	100
Indiana State	935	80	40	100	67
Kansas	1000	77	67	100	80
Kansas State	924	81	14	100	40
Kentucky	954	74	31	100	44
Long Island	940	82	71	-	78
Louisville	951	80	50	100	50
Marquette	975	92	83	100	91
Memphis	974	76	50	-	58
Michigan	956	79	33	100	36
Michigan State	1000	80	38	100	50
Missouri	979	80	38	-	44
Morehead State	906	64	33	50	43
North Carolina	995	87	83	100	88
Northern Colorado	969	82	100	78	77
Notre Dame	983	99	100	100	100
Oakland	962	85	71	75	75
Ohio State	929	79	55	100	64
Old Dominion	947	69	50	33	63
Penn State	995	90	80	100	86
Pittsburgh	962	81	60	50	64
Princeton	996				
Purdue	919	78	50	83	67
Richmond	967	93	50	100	83
San Diego State	921	67	71	100	58
St. John's	961	89	67	-	70
St. Peter's College	928	74	67	100	70

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR • KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • FITZ HILL, VISITING SCHOLAR

Tel: 407-823-1516 or 407-823-4887 • Fax: 407-823-3771 • Web: www.tidesport.org

~MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE~

Graduation Rates for 2011 Men's Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament					
School	APR	Overall Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Basketball Student-Athlete
Syracuse	912	83	44	75	54
Temple	934	76	30	-	33
Tennessee	935	74	33	50	40
Texas	1000	70	17	60	42
Texas A&M	986	72	63	100	64
UAB	825	67	18	100	25
UC Santa Barbara	902	84	33	100	77
UCLA	968	79	63	100	70
UNC Asheville	960	64	57	50	50
UNLV	947	72	33	100	67
USC	924	78	38	100	42
UT San Antonio	885	60	50	100	50
Utah State	946	83	100	100	100
Vanderbilt	980	93	100	100	93
VCU	975	75	64	-	56
Villanova	980	94	100	100	100
Washington	990	87	17	100	44
West Virginia	990	76	57	80	71
Wisconsin	966	81	50	100	70
Wofford	972	95	100	100	100
Xavier	985	94	89	100	92

ⁱ 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.