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Keeping Score When It Counts: Academic Progress/Graduation Success Rate Study of 2017 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament Teams

Study Reveals Women Are Doing Better Than Men But The Gap Between African-American and White Women Decreased While the Gap between African-American and White Men Increased

Orlando, FL... March 14, 2017– The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) released its annual study, **“Keeping Score When It Counts: Academic Progress/Graduation Success Rate Study of 2017 NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Basketball Tournament Teams,”** which compares graduation rates and academic progress rates for Division I teams that have been selected for the men’s and women’s brackets of the 2017 NCAA 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 by Keng-Haw Liang.

This study is a follow-up report to the men’s tournament study that was released on March 12, 2017 <http://nebula.wsimg.com/59044c814cb5c6d51899def0a4385893?AccessKeyId=DAC3A56D8FB782449D2A&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>. The study compared the academic performance of male and female basketball student-athletes and of African-American and white basketball student-athletes by examining the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and the Academic Progress Rates (APR) for the tournament teams. The women graduated at a rate of 90 percent vs. 76 percent for the men. There was one mens team in the tournament with an APR below a 930 while the women had none

Lapchick stated, “Once again, the women’s teams bring good news to the report this year with 23 women’s teams that have a 100 percent graduation rate in the 2017 field and 11 teams that scored a perfect APR score of 1000. Student-athletes on women’s basketball teams graduate at a significantly higher rate than student-athletes on men’s basketball teams.

The gap between white and African-American student-athletes has always been significantly smaller on women’s teams than on men’s teams. The disparity between graduation rates of white and African-American female student-athletes decreased by one percentage point which resulted in a nine percentage point gap. This is compared to the one percentage point increase in the disparity between graduation rates of white and African-American male student-athletes which resulted in a 19 percentage point gap for men’s teams.

All of the women’s teams graduated more than 60 percent of their student-athletes except Robert Morris University and Texas Southern University.

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This year Bucknell and Creighton had a team in the men's and women's tournament each of which had a 100 percent graduation rate.

Lapchick said, "There are many categories where the women outperform the men academically. White female basketball student-athletes on tournament teams graduated at a rate of 96 percent compared to 87 percent for African-American female basketball student-athletes. White male basketball student-athletes on tournament teams graduated at the rate of 93 percent versus only 74 percent of African-American male basketball student-athletes. The 10 percentage point women's gap is far less than the 19 percent men's gap. The gap for women decreased from 10 percent in 2016 to nine in 2017. The gap for men slightly increased from 18 percent in 2016 to 19 percent in 2017.

In 2017, 100 percent of the women's tournament teams graduated at least 50 percent of their basketball student-athletes. In comparison, 93 percent of the men's teams in this year's tournament graduated at least 50 percent of their basketball student-athletes. Thus, there is a seven percentage point gap between women's and men's basketball graduation rates at the 50 percent mark in the 2017 tournament."

Lapchick added that, "while there is some good news in the reports regarding GSRs and APRs, it is still not acceptable that in 2017, 5 percent of the women's tournament teams and 22 percent of the men's teams had a 30 percentage point or greater gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes."

In addition:

- 94 percent of the women's teams compared to 69 percent of the men's teams graduated at least 70 percent creating a 25 percent gap.
- 97 percent of the women's teams compared to 78 percent of the men's teams graduated at least 60 percent resulting in a 19 percent gap.
- No women's team graduated less than 40 percent while two men's teams were below this mark.

Based on Graduation Success Rate data, additional highlights from the study include the following:

70 percent graduation rates

- **95 percent** of the women's tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, while **92 percent** graduated 70 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes, which resulted in an **three percentage point gap, which was a three percentage point decrease from six percent in 2016.**
- Among the men's teams, **90 percent** of the men's tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, while only **65 percent** graduated 70 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes, resulting in a **25 percent percentage point gap** among the men, which was a **three percentage point increase from 22 percent in 2016.**

60 percent graduation rates

- **99 percent** of the women's tournament teams graduated at least 60 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, while **94 percent** graduate 60 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes which resulted in a **five percentage point gap.** This was a **two percentage percentage point decrease** from there being a **seven percent disparity in 2016.**

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- Among the men's teams, **93 percent** graduated 60 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, while only **75 percent** graduate 60 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes. This resulted in an **18 percent percentage point gap**. This was a **one point** increase from the **17 percent disparity in 2016**.

50 percent graduation rates

- **100 percent** of the women's teams graduated at least 50 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, and **97 percent** graduated 50 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes which resulted in a three percentage point gap. This was a one percentage point increase from there being a two percent disparity in 2016.
- **99 percent** of the men's tournament teams graduated 50 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, while only **87 percent** graduated 50 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes. This resulted in a **12 percent gap** among the men, which remained the same as the 12 percentage point gap in 2016.

There are **23** women's teams that had a 100 percent graduation rate: Belmont University, Bucknell University, University of Connecticut, Creighton University, University of Dayton, DePaul University, Drake University, Florida State University, Gonzaga University, University of Northern Iowa, University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, Iowa State University, University of Kentucky, University of Oklahoma, University of Pennsylvania, Quinnipiac University, Stanford University, University of Toledo, Troy University, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Washington, West Virginia University, and Western Illinois University.

Lapchick noted, "There are 11 teams within the women's basketball tournament field and seven in the men's field that scored a perfect APR score of 1000."

The NCAA has raised its standards to a 930 or greater APR. No team in the women's field was below 930. On the men's side, University of New Orleans was the lone team to fall under the 930 score.

As in the men's report, Lapchick emphasized that, "Athletes are used to competing by raising the bar. The academic reforms have led to positive change since their passage more than a decade ago. We need to raise the bar and move toward 60 percent graduation rate being the acceptable standard for the APR. This year 78 percent of the teams in the men's tournament and 97 percent in the women's tournament would already meet such a new standard. The NCAA started to do this by raising the APR minimum score to 930. We need to raise the bar higher."

The APR, developed in 2004, is a four-year average of academic performance that rewards student-athletes for remaining eligible as well as continuing their education at the same school. The NCAA voted to institute stricter policies with regards to APR performance and postseason athletic participation by raising the score from 925 to 930, equivalent to a 50 percent graduation rate, to qualify for postseason participation the following year. The current system provides that teams scoring below a 930 APR can lose up to 10 percent of their scholarships. Teams can also be subject to historical penalties for poor academic performance over time.

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The APR data does not include data from the 2015-16 academic performances of the teams in the study, but instead uses the four years of data ending in the 2014-15 school year. This is the most updated data available on the NCAA website.

Lapchick noted, "Race remains a continuing academic issue, not only in college sports, but also in higher education in general. The 19 percentage point gap between graduation rates for white and African-American male basketball student-athletes and nine percent gap among the women demonstrates that. However, it must be emphasized that African-American male basketball student-athletes graduate at a much higher rate than African-American males who are not student-athletes. The graduation rate for African-American male college students as a whole is only 42 percent, a full 32 percentage points lower than that for African-American male basketball student-athletes.

Lapchick stated that, "We are confident that women's basketball student-athletes will continue to succeed and hope that the men will resume doing better. Women's basketball student-athletes epitomize the balance that is needed to be a successful contemporary student-athlete."

Note: The percentages for the women's report were calculated as follows:

1. *Overall rates were based on 64 women's teams.*
2. *Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 62 teams due to Gonzaga University – Spokane and Creighton University had no reported African-American basketball student-athlete data in the period recorded.*
3. *Rates for white student-athletes were based on 56 teams due to Hampton University, Louisiana State University, University of Miami (Fla.), Robert Morris University, University of South Florida, Temple University, Texas Southern University and University of California, Los Angeles. Florida had no reported white basketball student-athlete data in the period recorded.*
4. *The disparity figures were based on 54 teams due to a lack of reporting for white or African-American student-athletes or there was not a certain race represented on a team.*

Note: The percentages for the men's report were calculated as follows:

1. *Overall rates were based on 68 men's teams.*
2. *Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 67 teams due to Princeton University had no African-American basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.*
3. *Rates for white student-athletes were based on 56 teams due to Jacksonville State University, New Mexico State University, North Carolina Central University, Princeton University, Seton Hall University, Texas Southern University, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, University of Cincinnati, University of Miami (Florida), University of New Orleans, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University had no white basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.*
4. *The disparity figures were based on 56 teams due to the fact that the 14 teams listed above either had no white basketball student-athletes or African-American basketball student-athletes in the period reported.*

The GSR was developed in 2005 in response to the demand for a more accurate measure of graduation performance of NCAA athletics programs. In order to calculate the GSR, the NCAA tracks student-athletes for six years following their entrance to an NCAA member institution to monitor the graduation rates of member institutions and their athletic programs. The GSR is used by the NCAA as a measuring device to signal performance of NCAA athletic programs while the APR is used to determine penalties for academically underperforming athletic programs.

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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. 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 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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Team	APR	Overall Women's Basketball GSR	African-American Women's Basketball GSR	White Women's Basketball GSR	Overall Student-Athlete GSR
Arizona State University	986	93	88	100	87
Auburn University	1000	83	88	100	80
Baylor University	972	80	73	100	87
Belmont University	991	100	100	100	98
Boise State University	970	75	60	100	81
Bucknell University	989	100	100	100	95
Creighton University	1000	100	N/A	100	98
DePaul University	995	100	100	100	92
Drake University	995	100	100	100	89
Duke University	984	89	83	100	97
Elon University	1000	93	100	100	91
Florida Gulf Coast University	991	88	100	78	74
Florida State University	975	100	100	100	87
Gonzaga University	1000	100	N/A	100	98
Hampton University	968	93	92	N/A	69
Iowa State University	972	100	100	100	82
Kansas State University	991	90	100	83	82
Long Beach State University	980	90	75	100	82
Louisiana State University	949	92	91	N/A	88
Marquette University	975	90	83	100	92
Michigan State University	968	90	80	100	87
Mississippi State University	972	94	88	100	86
Montana State University-Bozeman	996	83	100	89	81
New Mexico State University	932	64	33	100	76
North Carolina State University	990	85	80	100	83
Ohio State University	975	86	89	75	87
Oregon State University	1000	91	75	100	82
Purdue University	985	92	86	100	84
Quinnipiac University	992	100	100	100	90
Robert Morris University	963	53	40	N/A	84
Stanford University	1000	100	100	100	98
Temple University	978	79	83	N/A	88
Texas A&M University	973	81	77	100	81
Texas Southern University	957	54	50	N/A	53
Troy University	961	100	100	100	80
University at Albany	1000	87	82	100	83
University of California, Berkeley	973	70	80	50	79
University of California, Los Angeles	988	100	100	N/A	86
University of Central Arkansas	966	76	56	100	75
University of Connecticut	983	100	100	100	86
University of Dayton	1000	100	100	100	95
University of Kentucky	987	100	100	100	82
University of Louisville	996	83	75	100	83
University of Maryland	990	89	83	100	85
University of Miami (Fla.)	967	90	89	N/A	90
University of Missouri	991	93	86	100	88
University of North Carolina - Asheville	1000	69	71	67	86
University of Northern Iowa	987	100	100	100	80
University of Notre Dame	1000	83	83	83	98
University of Oklahoma	986	100	100	100	85
University of Oregon	986	79	80	67	80
University of Pennsylvania	996	100	100	100	97
University of South Carolina	995	87	83	100	91
University of South Florida	982	92	86	N/A	86
University of Syracuse	996	93	91	100	90
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	991	93	100	88	77
University of Tennessee at Knoxville	979	92	83	100	83
University of Texas	1000	86	80	100	84
University of Toledo	996	100	100	100	83
University of Washington	981	100	100	100	86
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay	990	100	100	100	96
West Virginia University	995	100	100	100	83
Western Illinois University	987	100	100	100	79
Western Kentucky University	950	91	90	100	83
Average	984	90	87	96	85

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Team	APR	Overall Men's Basketball Stud	African-American Basketball S	White Men's Basketball Stud	Overall Student-Athletes (%)
		GSR	GSR	GSR	GSR
Baylor University	975	71	73	100	87
Bucknell University	1000	100	100	100	95
Butler University	974	100	100	100	88
Creighton University	986	100	100	100	98
Duke University	995	100	100	100	97
East Tennessee State University	933	75	67	100	79
Florida Gulf Coast University	980	50	40	67	74
Florida State University	978	92	89	100	87
Gonzaga University	995	90	100	100	98
Iona College	943	85	78	100	91
Iowa State University	979	78	71	100	82
Jacksonville State University	974	53	50	N/A	70
Kansas State University	975	88	100	100	82
Kent State University	976	80	88	100	83
Marquette University	962	67	63	100	92
Michigan State University	1000	63	40	100	87
Middle Tennessee State University	976	100	100	100	87
Mount St. Mary's University	951	79	82	50	90
New Mexico State University	957	43	50	N/A	76
North Carolina Central University	969	62	58	N/A	75
Northern Kentucky University	980	53	29	71	76
Northwestern University	979	93	100	100	97
Oklahoma State University	965	57	25	100	68
Princeton University	978	100	N/A	N/A	98
Providence College	979	40	33	100	91
Purdue University	965	92	83	100	84
Saint Mary's College of California	960	75	75	100	92
Seton Hall University	1000	80	80	N/A	91
South Dakota State University	975	91	100	100	82
Southern Methodist University	939	85	71	100	80
Texas Southern University	959	57	52	N/A	53
Troy University	970	87	83	100	80
University of Arizona	979	91	86	100	81
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	954	50	57	N/A	78
University of California, Davis	963	78	100	100	88
University of California, Los Angeles	962	50	17	80	86
University of Cincinnati	969	50	55	N/A	82
University of Dayton	956	100	100	100	95
University of Florida	1000	88	100	100	83
University of Kansas	990	100	100	100	85
University of Kentucky	1000	82	71	100	82
University of Louisville	1000	77	63	100	83
University of Maryland, College Park	953	83	100	100	85
University of Miami (Florida)	980	91	100	N/A	90
University of Michigan	995	91	80	100	90
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	960	73	70	100	90
University of Nevada, Reno	957	58	43	50	79
University of New Orleans	888	33	33	N/A	61
University of North Carolina Wilmington	980	46	30	100	81
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	974	50	60	100	82
University of North Dakota	947	70	100	57	83
University of Notre Dame	974	100	100	100	98
University of Oregon	945	38	50	67	80
University of Rhode Island	947	67	67	100	85
University of South Carolina, Columbia	989	75	71	100	91
University of Southern California	959	67	67	50	83
University of Vermont	990	100	100	100	89
University of Virginia	979	70	80	33	87
University of Wisconsin, Madison	976	73	75	71	86
Vanderbilt University	977	82	75	100	93
Villanova University	994	100	100	100	94
Virginia Commonwealth University	995	82	75	N/A	77
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	952	80	71	N/A	92
Wake Forest University	983	70	63	100	92
West Virginia University	1000	85	78	100	83
Wichita State University	957	63	54	100	81
Winthrop University	966	100	100	100	88
Xavier University	964	91	88	100	93
Average	971.73	76	74	93	85

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