



2018

Keeping Score When It Counts:

Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for
the 2018 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams

by Richard E. Lapchick
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*Graduation Rate Study of NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams Reveals
A Slight Decrease In the Disparity Between the Graduation Success Rates of White and
African-American Student-Athletes While the Overall Graduation Rates Increased*

Presented by:
The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport
with the **DeVos Sport Business Management Program**
in the **College of Business Administration**
of the





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Graduation Rate Study of NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams Reveals a Slight Decrease in the Disparity Between the Graduation Success Rates of White and African-American Student-Athletes While the Overall Graduation Rates Increased

Orlando, FL...March 12, 2018 – 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: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2018 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams.”** This study provides the most comprehensive analysis of the academic performance of student-athletes on teams participating in the 2018 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament. The study examined the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR) for the men's tournament teams as reported by the NCAA. This study also compared the graduation rate data of white and African-American male basketball student-athletes.

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. This study was co-authored by Brett Estrella. Graphs and tables were generated by Zachary Gerhart.

Richard Lapchick said, “Overall, the graduation rate for male basketball student-athletes in the 2018 tournament teams increased from 76 in 2017 to 78 percent in 2018 (see [Appendix A](#)). The GSR for white male basketball student-athletes declined from 93 percent in 2017 to 92 percent in 2018, the GSR for African-American male basketball student-athletes remained the same at 74 percent in 2018. The gap between the rates of white and African-American male basketball student athletes decreased by one percentage point to 18 percent in 2018 from 19 percent in 2017. This decrease is a positive sign following last year's findings where the discrepancy increased for the first time since the 2011 season. This ties the smallest gap between graduation rates of white and African-American male basketball student athletes since we started issuing the reports more than 15 years ago.” (see [Appendix B](#)).

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MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE

For the first time since the NCAA's new APR standard was set in place, not a single tournament-bound team fell below the 930 benchmark (see [Appendix C](#)). To put this in perspective, just four years ago in 2014, eight teams did not meet this standard. This is an important milestone in men's basketball student-athlete academic progress. In 2017, one team fell below a 930 APR.

Lapchick added, "The most troubling statistics in our annual studies have been the large disparity between the GSR of white basketball student-athletes and African-American basketball student-athletes. Although it has shown a decrease of one percentage point this year, a gap of 18 percent remains unacceptable. I hope to see this year's progress continue into the years to come until we eliminate this gap between the two groups of student-athletes."

Lapchick noted some disappointing results. "In 2018, 26 percent of the men's teams had a GSR disparity of greater than 30 percent between white student-athletes and African-American student-athletes vs. 18 percent of teams with that disparity in the 2016 tournament two years ago. Additionally, 15 percent of teams in 2018 vs. 13 percent in 2017 had a GSR disparity of greater than 40 percent."

More GSR comparisons include:

- 94 percent (64 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 50 percent or more of their men's basketball student-athletes in 2018, up from 93 percent (63 teams) in 2017.
- 82 percent (56 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 60 percent or more of their men's basketball student-athletes in 2018. This is an increase from 78 percent (53 teams) in 2017.
- 69 percent (47 teams) of the 68 tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their men's basketball student-athletes in 2017, up from 69 percent (47 teams) in 2017.

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. For the last few years we have needed to raise the bar and move toward 60 percent graduation rate being the acceptable standard for the APR. This year 82 percent of the teams in the men's tournament would already meet such a new standard (see [Appendix D](#)). The percentage of teams with an APR greater than 950 increased to 93 percent in 2018, up from 90 percent in 2017. 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.

Lapchick noted, “Race remains a continuing academic issue, not only in college sports, but also in higher education in general. The 18 percentage point gap between graduation rates for white and African-American male basketball student-athletes 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. In 2017, the graduation rate for African-American male college students as a whole was only 40 percent, a full 34 percentage points lower than that for African-American male basketball student-athletes. This is one of higher education’s most egregious failings.”

There are schools that show us the path. In 2018, the following 12 men’s tournament teams had an overall GSR rate of 100 percent: Bucknell University, Creighton University, Davidson College, Duke University, Gonzaga University, Kansas State University, University of Alabama, University of Arizona, University of Kansas, University of Pennsylvania, Villanova University, and Wright State University.

The following 25 schools had an APR rate 980 or above: Arizona State University, Bucknell University, Clemson University, College of Charleston, Creighton University, Davidson College, Duke University, Gonzaga University, Michigan State University, Providence College, Radford University, San Diego State University, Seton Hall University, Syracuse University, Texas A&M University, University of Florida, University of Kentucky, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, University of Oklahoma, University of Rhode Island, University of Texas, Villanova University, West Virginia University, and Wichita State University.

Note: The percentages for this report were calculated as follows:

1. *Overall rates were based on 68 teams.*
2. *Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 68 teams, as each team had at least one African-American basketball student-athlete who was eligible to graduate in the period recorded.*
3. *Rates for white student-athletes were based on 53 teams because the following 15 teams: Georgia State University, Gonzaga University, Marshall University, North Carolina Central University, Radford University, St. Bonaventure University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas Southern University, University of Alabama, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, University of Cincinnati, University of Houston, University of Miami (Florida), University of Missouri – Columbia, and Virginia Tech had no white basketball student-athletes that were eligible to graduate in the period recorded.*

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The institute reviewed the six-year graduation rates of each school's freshmen class that enrolled in 2010-11, and then it calculated a four-year class average (freshmen classes of 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11). The APR data does not include data from the 2016-17 academic performances of the teams in the study, but instead uses four years of data ending in the 2015-16 school year. This is the most updated data available on the NCAA website.

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.

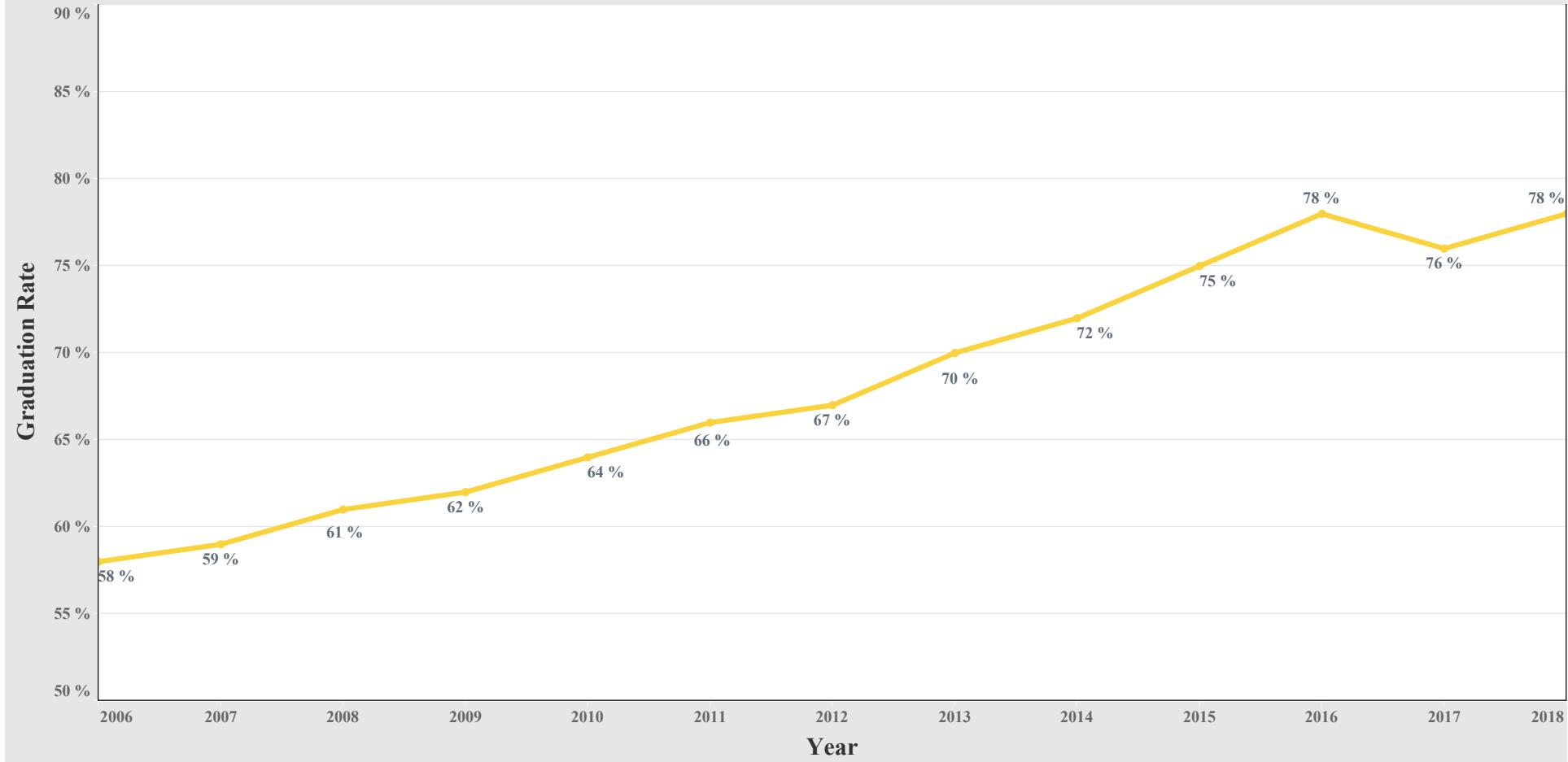
The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport ("TIDES" or the "Institute") serves as a comprehensive resource for issues related to gender and race in amateur, collegiate and professional sport. The Institute researches and publishes a variety of studies, including annual studies of student-athlete 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, 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.

Team	APR	Overall Men's Basketball Student- Athlete	African-American Basketball Student Athlete	White Men's Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student- Athletes (%)
		GSR	GSR	GSR	GSR
Arizona State University	990	93	90	100	87
Auburn University	978	60	62	100	82
Bucknell University	1000	100	100	100	95
Butler University	968	82	67	100	86
California State University, Fullerton	937	75	71	100	76
Clemson University	1000	88	83	100	91
College of Charleston	980	70	57	100	81
Creighton University	981	100	100	100	96
Davidson College	1000	100	100	100	98
Duke University	990	100	100	100	97
Florida State University	973	85	78	100	84
Georgia State University	953	58	60	N/A	81
Gonzaga University	995	100	100	N/A	99
Iona College	959	87	83	100	91
Kansas State University	965	100	100	100	84
Lipscomb	971	64	50	75	85
Long Island University - Brooklyn	970	93	89	100	90
Loyola University Chicago	969	88	67	100	99
Marshall University	960	70	67	N/A	85
Michigan State University	1000	71	67	100	87
Murray State University	958	64	70	0	83
New Mexico State University	966	60	75	100	75
North Carolina Central University	952	80	79	N/A	77
North Carolina State University	956	56	43	100	85
Providence College	984	55	44	100	92
Purdue University	960	92	83	100	84
Radford University	980	57	60	N/A	88
St. Bonaventure University	958	90	100	N/A	91
San Diego State University	980	50	38	100	79
Seton Hall University	1000	90	88	100	92
South Dakota State University	976	91	100	100	83
Stephen F. Austin State University	967	67	69	N/A	66
Syracuse University	1000	60	50	100	91
Texas A&M University	989	80	71	100	81
Texas Christian University	957	67	60	100	85
Texas Southern University	954	75	75	N/A	62
Texas Tech University	946	80	78	100	82
The Ohio State University	950	75	75	67	86
University at Buffalo	947	73	70	100	81
University of Alabama	979	100	100	N/A	90
University of Arizona	974	100	100	100	84
University of Arkansas (Fayetteville)	960	75	78	N/A	80
University of California Los Angeles	950	44	20	75	86
University of Cincinnati	974	47	46	N/A	86
University of Florida	990	73	71	100	83
University of Houston	964	40	33	N/A	74
University of Kansas	979	100	100	100	83
University of Kentucky	1000	78	60	100	85
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	946	86	75	100	81
University of Miami (Florida)	974	92	100	N/A	91
University of Michigan	995	90	67	100	91
University of Missouri, Columbia	934	73	70	N/A	91
University of Montana	965	82	75	86	80
University of Nevada, Reno	961	73	63	50	81
University of North Carolina Greensboro	975	85	83	80	83
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	985	40	43	100	84
University of Oklahoma	980	63	67	100	83
University of Pennsylvania	979	100	100	100	97
University of Rhode Island	989	69	63	100	84
University of Tennessee	965	89	100	0	85
University of Texas	989	71	50	100	87
University of Virginia	975	78	100	50	90
Villanova University	1000	100	100	100	95
Virginia Tech	963	80	71	N/A	90
West Virginia University	1000	80	75	100	80
Wichita State University	981	63	45	100	80
Wright State University	965	100	100	100	87
Xavier University	969	91	88	100	93

APPENDIX A

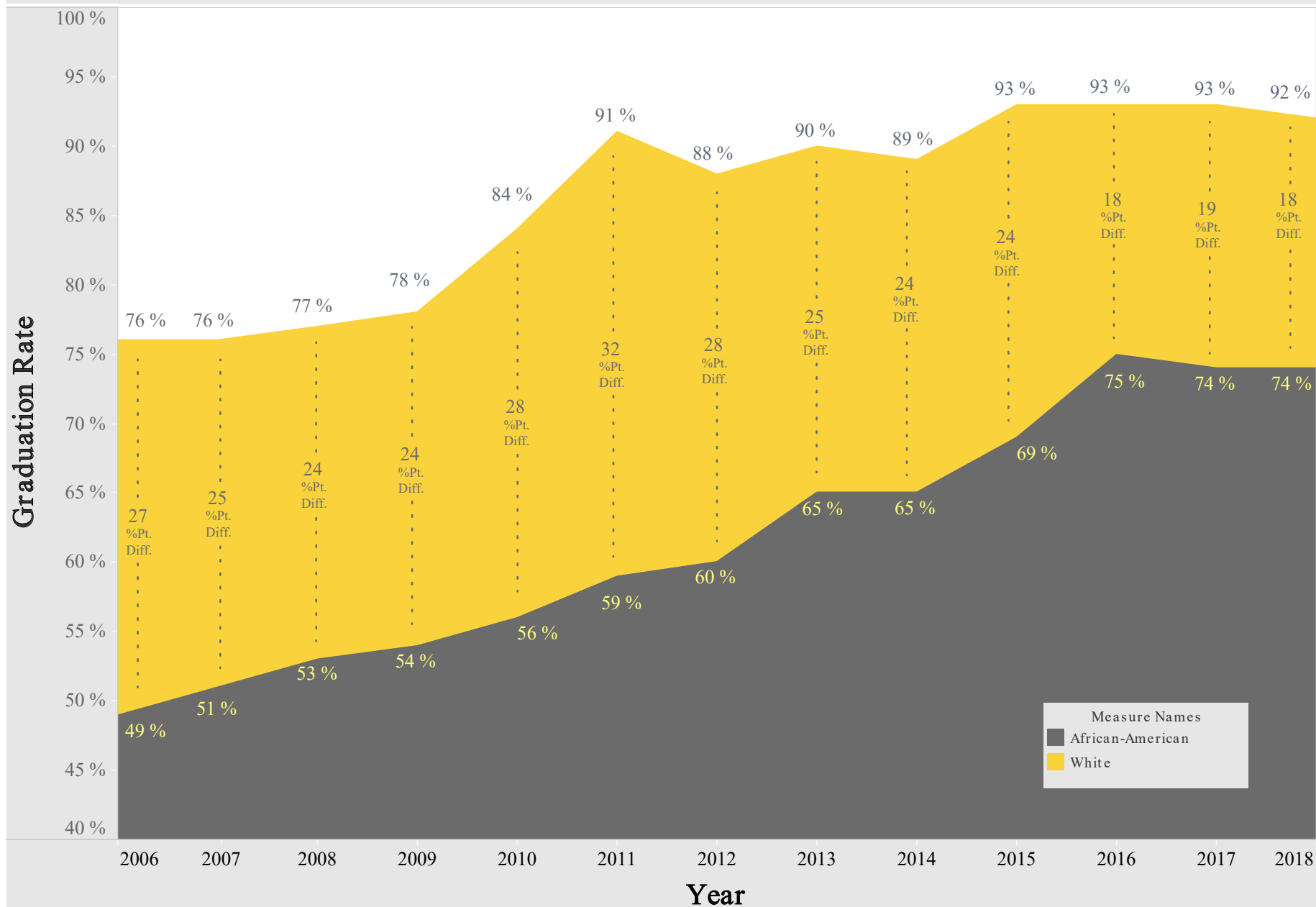
Year-by-Year Graduation Rates
For Male Basketball Athletes from 2006-2018



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Year-by-Year Graduation Rate Comparison

Between White and African-American Men's Basketball Student Athletes



APR for Each Team in NCAA Tournament

