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## **Keeping Score When It Counts: Assessing the 2012-2013 Bowl-bound College Football Teams' Graduation Rates**

**Orlando, FL...December 3, 2012** – Overall academic progress continued while the substantial gap between white and African-American football student-athletes remains the same from last year for the 70 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools (formerly known as Division I-A schools) playing in this year's college football bowl games. The results were reported in a study released by The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida.

Richard Lapchick, director of TIDES and the primary author of the study, said, "The academic success of FBS football student-athletes continued to grow this year. The overall football student-athlete Graduation Success Rate (GSR) for bowl-bound teams improved from 68 percent to 69 percent. "

"This year, 96 percent of the schools (67 of the 70) had at least a 50 percent Graduation Success Rate for their football teams, a slight decrease from 97 percent in the 2011 study. In addition, 97 percent of the schools (68 of the 70) received a score higher than 925 on the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate (APR), which decreased from 99 percent last year. In spite of the decreases, the figures for both the GSR and APR were high."

Lapchick added, "The study showed that the graduation rates increased by one percent for both white and African-American football student-athletes. However that meant that the alarming 20 percent gap between white and African-American football student-athletes remained unchanged and persists as a major issue. Among the 70 bowl-bound teams this year, the average GSR for African-American football student-athletes is 62 percent, up from 61 percent in 2011. The average GSR for white football student-athletes went from 81 percent last year to 82 percent this year. Overall, this reflects the same 20 percentage point gap reported in 2011. In addition, 19 percent of the bowl-bound schools (13 out of 70) graduated less than half of their African-American football student-athletes, while only one school graduated less than half of its white football student-athletes."

Lapchick noted, "It must be emphasized that African-American and white football players graduate at a higher rate than their male non-athletic peers in the student body. The graduation rate for African-American male students as a whole is only 38 percent, in comparison to the 63

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percent graduation rate for white male students, according to the NCAA Education and Research Data. That 25 percent gap for the general student population remains scandalous and totally unacceptable for education in America. The problem goes back to the academic preparation students get before they ever get to college.”

Additional troubling statistics in the study are:

Among the bowl-bound teams:

- 64 schools (91 percent) had Graduation Success Rates of 66 percent or higher for white football student-athletes, which was more than 2.6 times the number of schools with equivalent Graduation Success Rates for African-American football student-athletes (25 schools or 36 percent). Although disturbing, this statistic stayed the same from last year.
- 69 out of the 70 schools (99 percent) of the schools graduated 50 percent or higher of their white football student-athletes while 57 of the 70 schools (81 percent) of the bowl-bound schools graduated 50 percent or higher of their African-American football student-athletes.
- One school (one percent) graduated 40 percent or less of their African-American football student-athletes, while no school graduated 40 percent or less of its white football student-athletes. This was the same as last year.

In addition, the size of the gap among some schools is alarming:

- 17 schools (24 percent) had Graduation Success Rates for African-American football student-athletes that were at least 30 percentage points lower than their rates for white football student-athletes, which was the same gap as the 2011 study.
- 36 schools (51 percent) had Graduation Success Rates for African-American football student-athletes that were at least 20 percentage points lower than their rates for white football student-athletes. This number of schools with this disparity level has decreased from last year by five percentage points.

Notre Dame (seven percentage points higher), Rice (10 percentage points higher), and San Jose State (11 percentage points higher) had Graduation Success Rates for African-American football student-athletes that exceeded their rates for white football student-athletes. There was only one school with this distinction in the 2011 study.

Only Rutgers and Boise State had overall GSR rates for football student-athletes that were better than the overall student-athletes. Northern Illinois and Northwestern had overall GSR rates for football student-athletes that were the same for overall student-athletes.

Lapchick said, “Notre Dame and Northwestern would have played for the National Championship if there was a national championship game based on Graduation Success Rates among bowl teams. Both teams graduated at least 97 percent of all football student-athletes and at least 94 percent of African-American football student-athletes. Notre Dame graduated 100 percent of their African-American football student-athletes.”

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Lapchick noted that, “Notre Dame and Alabama, which will contend for the National Championship, both had fine academic records. They had APR rates of 970 each. They graduated 97 percent and 75 percent of all their football student-athletes, 100 percent and 68 percent of their African-American and 93 percent and 90 percent of their white football student-athletes, respectively. They beat the national average for bowl teams in each category.”

The top 15 APR schools are represented in multiple conferences. The Atlantic Coast Conference had three schools in the top 15. Three conferences (Big 10, Conference-USA and the Mountain West) each had two teams in the top 15 and five conferences (Southeastern Conference, Big East, Pacific-12, Mid-American Conference, and Big 12) each had one team.

Both teams in three bowls have APRs higher or equal to 970 in 2012. Notre Dame and Alabama in the Discover BCS National Championship both have 970 APRs. The Rose Bowl has Stanford and Wisconsin with 977 and 975, respectively. The Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl has Rice and Air Force with 986 and 980, respectively.

NCAA statistics were used in this study. The Institute reviewed data collected by the NCAA from member institutions for the graduation rate study. The Institute reviewed the six-year graduation rates of each school’s freshman class that enrolled in 2005-2006, and it then calculated a four-class average (freshmen classes of 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006).

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. The APR holds each team accountable for the success of student-athletes in the classroom and their progression towards graduation. Individual teams are penalized if they fall below an APR score of 925, which is an expected graduation rate of 50 percent of its student-athletes. As of now, scholarship reductions are the only penalties: up to 10 percent of scholarships can be taken away. Historical penalties will be imposed on schools who continue to fall below the 925 APR. This year, two bowl bound teams (Louisville and Louisiana at Monroe) had an APR below 925, which is the up one from last year’s report. No programs were subject to penalties by the NCAA due to their APR score. It should be noted that the new NCAA APR standard will be 930 and will be implemented in the 2012-2013 academic year.

It is noteworthy to mention that The Ohio State University, The Pennsylvania State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill were banned from participating in postseason play due to NCAA violations, while the University of Miami (FL) voluntarily decided not to be considered for a bowl bid.

The APR data does not include data from the 2011-12 academic performances of the teams in the study but instead uses four years of data ending in the 2010-11 school year. This is the most updated data available on the NCAA website.

The study was co-authored by Devin Beahm and Theo Trotman.

The Institute has taken the position that Federal Graduation Rates (FGR) gives 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 as a graduate or a former student-athlete who returns and graduates more than six years after original enrollment. The Institute supports the NCAA's use of the Graduation Success Rates (GSR), developed in 2005, which accounts for these factors, as a better way to fairly measure the results.

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 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 social issues in sport.

## Academic Rates for Teams in the 2012 - 2013 NCAA FBS Bowl Games

Bowl Name	Participants	APR	Graduation Success Rates (GSR)			
			Overall Football Student-Athlete	African-American Football Student-Athlete	White Football Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athlete
Discover BCS National Championship Game	Notre Dame	970	97	100	93	99
	Alabama	970	75	68	90	85
GoDaddy.com	Kent State	935	57	48	77	74
	Arkansas State	948	70	59	90	71
BBVA Compass	Pittsburgh	955	70	63	82	78
	Ole Miss	933	59	51	83	76
AT&T Cotton	Texas A&M	946	69	57	96	74
	Oklahoma	970	47	40	63	72
Tostitos Fiesta	Oregon	948	64	49	76	80
	Kansas State	943	58	55	64	77
Allstate Sugar	Louisville	911	63	56	81	80
	Florida	972	75	74	85	82
Discover Orange	Northern Illinois	987	83	79	93	83
	Florida State	937	55	45	100	78
Rose Bowl Game presented by Vizio	Wisconsin	975	65	51	87	83
	Stanford	977	90	78	94	96
Capital One	Georgia	970	69	69	69	81
	Nebraska	966	68	65	76	77
Outback	South Carolina	966	55	45	80	78
	Michigan	943	69	59	78	84
Heart of Dallas	Purdue	950	59	50	73	78
	Oklahoma State	928	62	56	84	77
TaxSlayer.com Gator	Mississippi State	959	60	56	88	80
	Northwestern	995	97	94	100	97
Chick-fil-A	LSU	964	77	76	81	80
	Clemson	983	75	73	100	84
AutoZone Liberty	Iowa State	938	62	45	88	80
	Tulsa	925	70	59	81	83
Hyundai Sun	USC	947	57	46	67	79
	Georgia Tech	974	55	49	68	76
Franklin American Mortgage Music City	NC State	931	62	51	89	77
	Vanderbilt	978	85	83	89	91
Buffalo Wild Wings	TCU	973	79	70	96	87
	Michigan State	943	64	55	79	85
Valero Alamo	Texas	937	58	46	83	76
	Oregon State	955	60	50	72	75
Kraft Fight Hunger	Navy	973	87	78	90	93
	Arizona State	937	63	62	80	80
New Era Pinstripe	West Virginia	953	79	72	88	83
	Syracuse	950	79	73	94	87
Bell Helicopter Armed Forces	Rice	986	93	100	90	95
	Air Force	980	86	75	89	89
Meineke Car Care of Texas	Minnesota	932	69	52	82	83
	Texas Tech	946	66	58	84	73
Russell Athletic	Rutgers	982	91	90	94	88
	Virginia Tech	968	75	71	83	88
AdvoCare V100 Independence	Ohio	949	74	56	97	80
	Louisiana at Monroe	917	54	49	64	63
Bridgepoint Education Holiday	Baylor	956	63	58	80	82
	UCLA	956	62	51	84	84
Belk	Cincinnati	939	70	59	83	78
	Duke	989	92	91	94	98
Military Bowl presented by Northrop Grumman	San Jose State	959	48	56	45	60
	Bowling Green	951	69	59	89	82
Little Caesars Pizza	Western Kentucky	951	67	58	75	79
	Central Michigan	941	47	41	56	75
Sheraton Hawaii	Fresno State	948	68	50	83	71
	SMU	941	74	71	78	85
MAACO Las Vegas	Washington	949	74	68	79	81
	Boise State	989	81	69	85	76
R + L Carriers New Orleans	East Carolina	952	61	51	82	74
	Louisiana at Lafayette	948	59	52	67	67
Beef 'O'Brady's St. Petersburg	UCF	974	81	78	86	85
	Ball State	946	57	53	61	77
S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia	BYU	932	63	41	78	76
	San Diego State	949	64	56	71	73
Famous Idaho Potato	Toledo	960	64	57	83	78
	Utah State	959	80	74	90	83
Gildan New Mexico	Nevada	949	75	74	78	80
	Arizona	951	53	47	73	68
	2012-13 Averages	APR	Overall Football Student-Athlete	African-American Football Student-Athlete	White Football Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athlete
		955	69	62	82	80

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