

2018

Keeping Score When It Counts:

Analyzing the Academic Performance of the 2018 NCAA Division I
Women's and Men's Sweet 16 Teams

by Richard E. Lapchick
Edited by Brett Estrella

*This study is a follow-up report to the annual study, "Keeping Score When It Counts:
Academic Progress/Graduation Success Rate Study of the 2018 NCAA Division I Men's and
Women's Basketball Tournament Teams"*

Presented by:
The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport
with the **DeVos Sport Business Management Program**
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Keeping Score When It Counts: Analyzing the Academic Performance of the 2018 NCAA Division I Women's and Men's Sweet 16 Teams

Orlando, FL – March 20, 2018.....The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) has released a new study on the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR) of the teams in the NCAA Division I Women's and Men's Sweet 16. This study is a follow-up report to the annual study, **"Keeping Score When It Counts: Academic Progress/Graduation Success Rate Study of the 2018 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament Teams"** (published here: www.tidesport.org/d1-mens---womens-basketball.html), which compared the GSR and APR for all teams that were selected for the men's and women's 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 this year by Brett Estrella and charts were produced by Zachary Gerhart.

Lapchick commented that, "The generally positive news reported in the study of the full tournament continues in the Sweet 16 study. It again breaks the often held belief that to get to the top you have to cut corners. Most of the 32 remaining teams have commendable academic records bringing good news to the men's and women's Sweet 16 teams. The GSR and the APR rates of the teams are overwhelmingly high although the women's teams performed at a lower academic level than the entire 64-team women's field. Nonetheless, the women still do better than the men."

Lapchick stated, "There are five women's and five men's Sweet 16 teams that had 100 percent graduation success rates. There are eight women's and seven men's teams with GSRs of at least 90 percent. In addition, 100 percent of the women's teams and 100 percent of the men's teams graduated at least 60 percent of their basketball student-athletes.

There was also positive news for both the women's and men's Sweet 16 teams regarding the APR rates. There were 15 men's teams (94 percent) and 16 women's teams (100 percent) with an APR of 960 or above, and 11 men's teams (69 percent) and 16 women's teams (100 percent) with an APR of 970 or above."

Lapchick added, "There was a slight decrease in the gap between the GSR of white male and African-American male basketball student-athletes while the gap between white female and African-American female basketball student-athletes unfortunately increased by three percentage points. The GSR of white male basketball student-athletes was 97 percent (up two percentage points) versus 80 percent (up three percentage points) for African-American male basketball student-athletes resulting in an 17 percentage point gap. In the 2017 Sweet 16 report, the gap was 18 percentage points. This is still much larger than the 10

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percentage point gap that occurred in 2016.

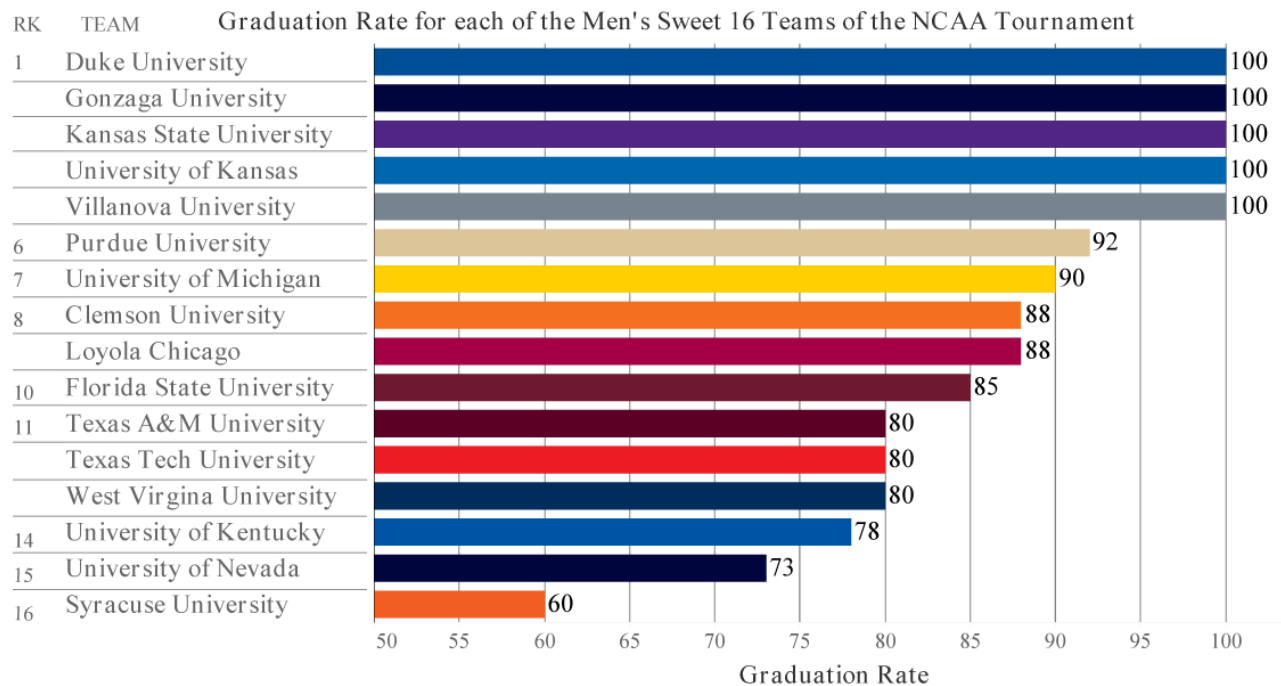
The women's Sweet 16 teams did considerably worse than the entire women's field regarding the gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American student-athletes. White female basketball student-athletes graduated 96 percent (up from 95 percent) compared to 86 percent (down two percentage points) for African-American female basketball student-athletes. The 10 percent gap is a three percentage point increase from 7 percent in 2017 and is more than three times the 3 percent gap among all the women's teams. However, the women's gap is still much more favorable than the gap on the men's teams which remains cavernous at 17 percent.

Other positive findings include:

- With the NCAA APR cut rate at 930, none of the 32 teams in the men's and women's Sweet 16 was below that standard.
- 16 women's teams (100 percent) and 15 men's teams (94 percent) graduated at least 70 percent of their basketball student-athletes.

Duke University and Texas A&M University have teams in both the men's and women's 2018 Sweet 16 fields. Between the two schools, Duke achieved the highest level of success in the classroom with both the men's and women's teams having an APR of 970 or above and a graduation rate above 90 percent!

If the Sweet 16 for men's and women's basketball teams were seeded based on Graduation Success Rates (GSR), then the complete seeding would be:

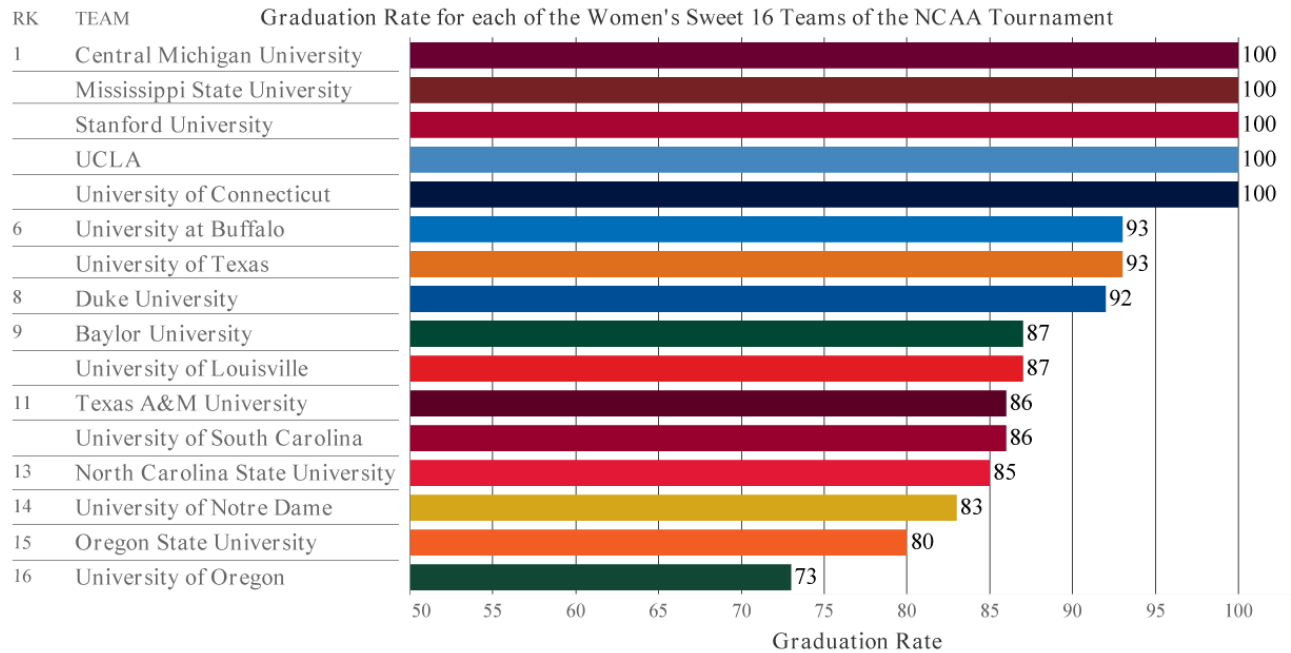


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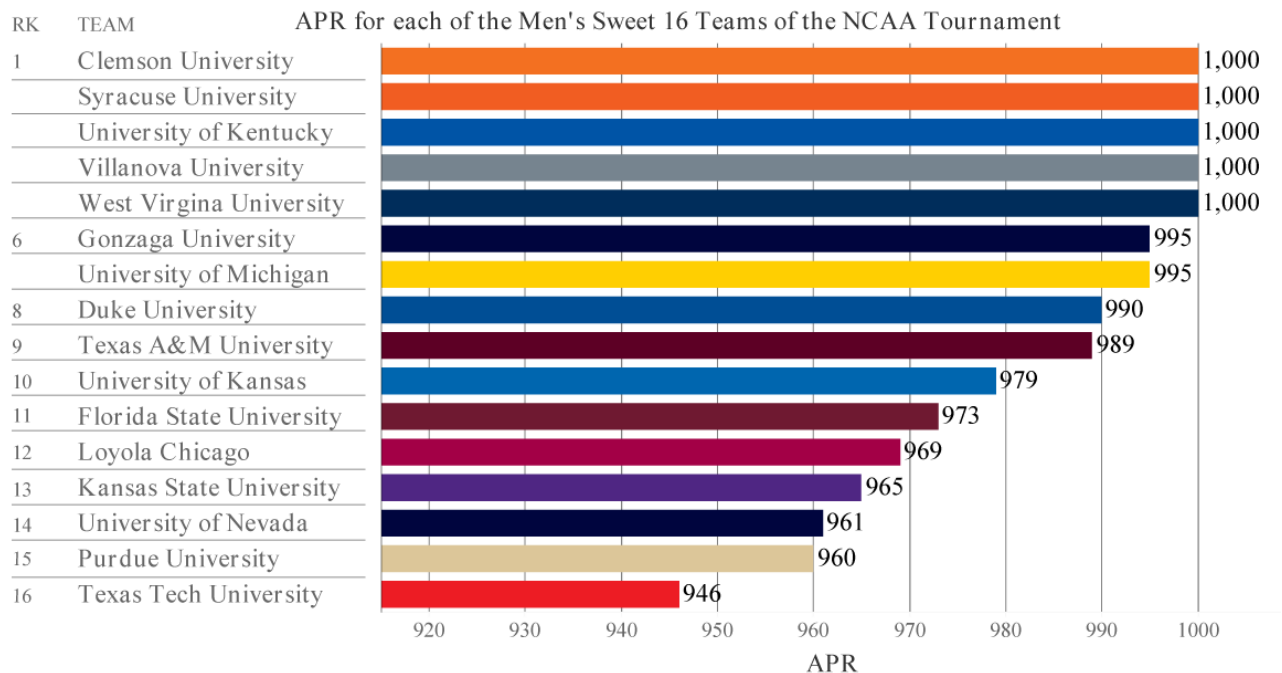
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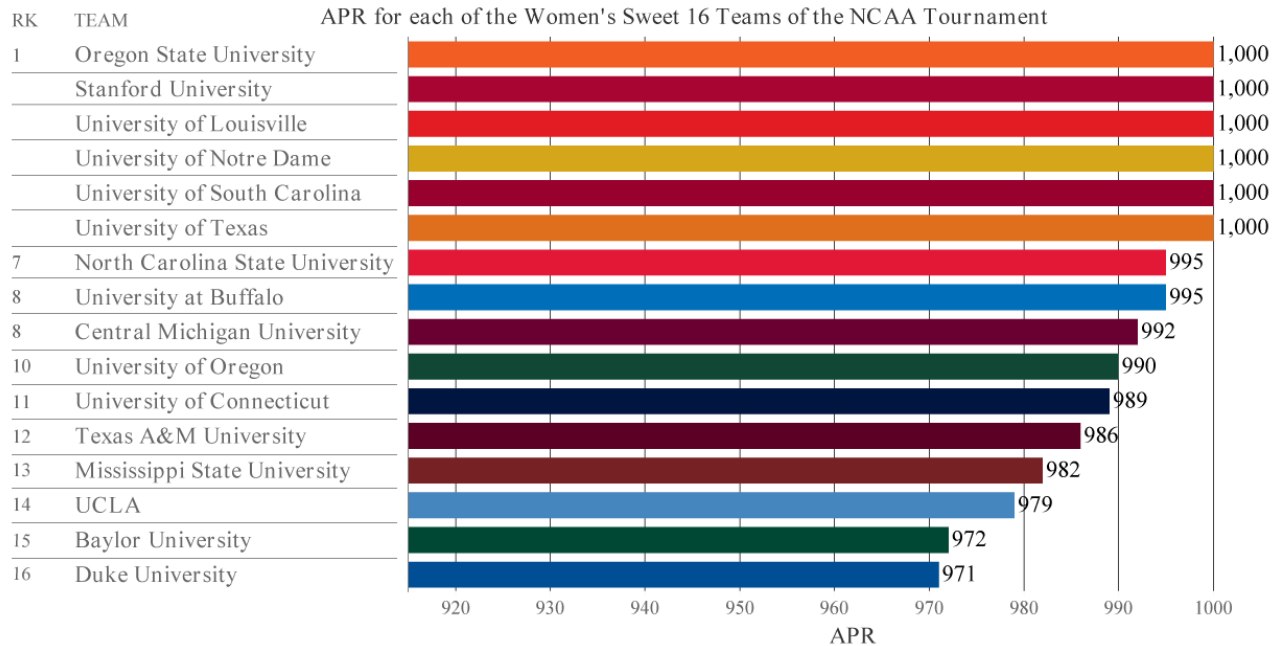
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Based on Academic Progress Rates (APR), the Sweet 16 seeding for men's and women's basketball teams would be as follows:





Lapchick emphasized, “There is a lot of academic sweetness to this year’s Sweet 16. Nonetheless, we still need to further close the gaps between the GSR of white male and female basketball student-athletes and African-American male and female basketball student-athletes. In particular, the increase in the women’s gap is certainly a point of concern. But this is still a good year! It is a clear indication that the academic reforms instituted more than a decade ago have helped.”

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

1. All men’s and women’s graduation rates were based on 16 teams.
2. GSR and APR scores are based on the most recent statistics provided by the NCAA.
3. Disparity figures are based on the difference of the average GSR for white basketball student-athletes and African-American basketball student-athletes.
4. One men’s Sweet 16 team (Gonzaga University) did not have any white basketball student-athletes who were eligible to graduate in the period recorded.

THE INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY AND ETHICS IN SPORT (TIDES)

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, 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

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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.