
The University of Arizona Intercollegiate Athletics

Myths and Facts Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA)



Last update 8/22/07

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

MYTHS

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Myth: Athletics is Primarily Funded by the State and University

- Since 2004-05 ICA has been responsible for 100% of its operational budget. Revenue sources include: ticket sales, television revenues, concessions, donations and post-season bowls and tournaments. (The Arizona Board of Regents grants 315 tuition waivers to student-athletes at Arizona and ASU annually).

This self-sufficiency is a result of the following:

- Effective July 1, 2003 athletics no longer receives an annual \$1.2 million allocation of state-appropriated monies, and
- ICA agreed to help fund the new Student Union facility by giving back to the University its annual registration fee allocation of \$495,000. The annual allocation to the Athletics Department was reduced by \$100,000 per year, starting with the 1999-2000 fiscal year. By June 30, 2004 the Athletics Department no longer received any registration fee allocation. During this five-year period Athletics gave back to the University \$1,495,000. Thereafter, the Student Union will benefit in the amount of \$495,000 per year.

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Myth: Athletics Is The University's "Cash Cow"

- ICA is proud of the fiscal responsibility its staff has shown. ICA has exercised fiscal responsibility and has never been a "Cash Cow." (Note: Approximately 80% of Division 1A programs are now operating in the "red", which indicates that Arizona Athletics has displayed a high degree of fiscal restraint and managerial expertise to remain in the black.)
- ICA has had a positive year-end fund balance since fiscal year 1985. Since then ICA has maintained on average, a \$500,000 fund balance to safeguard against revenue shortfalls (e.g. gate receipts). Reserves in excess of \$500,000 have been used primarily to fund capital projects (e.g. gymnastics facility).
- The department dropped four sports in 1981. In 1984 the Athletics Department eliminated 9 positions, reduced 2 FTE's and dropped a sport to stabilize the budget. Since 2003, ICA has eliminated 31 positions through lay off and attrition. In 2004-05 the athletic department eliminated 16 positions in order to rein in expenditures. Currently, there is an ongoing comprehensive program review designed to safeguard fiscal stability for the future.

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Myth: University Funds are Used for ICA Capital Projects

- During the past 18 years more than \$60 million in capital improvements have been completed by ICA with self-generated funds. This includes the expansion and renovation of the gymnastics facility and Hillenbrand Aquatics and new practice gymnasium project that will be completed in the fall of 2008. Athletics has not received any State-appropriated funds for capital improvements since McKale Center was built in 1972.
 - Example: All funds required for the Eddie Lynch Athletics Pavilion and the new practice facility were/will be donated to Athletics from the private sector.
 - Example: The practice gymnastics' facility was built with windfall profits realized from participation in the 1994 Fiesta Bowl.

Myth: Athletics Does Not Pay For Its Scholarship Costs (Grants-in-Aid)

- ICA receives 315 tuition waivers from the Arizona Board of Regents; however, approximately \$3.2 million, or 8%, of its 2007-08 budget will be expended by ICA towards student/athlete financial aid. These dollars are used for room, board, books and benefit on-campus units (i.e. Housing, Student Union Food Services and Bookstore).

Moreover, the State provides the University (not ICA) an annual allocation per FTE student of approximately \$5,000 so the 315 student-athletes who receive tuition waivers bring approximately \$1.5 million annually to the University.

Myth: Millions Are Made Through Participation in Bowl Games And Post-Season Tournaments

- The University does not receive the full financial payout offered by a football bowl game. Instead, after expenses all bowl revenues are split equally among the Pac-10 institutions.
- The Athletics Department netted only \$180,000 after the Pac-10 split, from its 1998 participation in the Holiday Bowl.
- In 2006-07 fiscal year, the Athletics Department received \$2.3 million from funds generated by the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. However, this NCAA allocation was based on the following elements:
 - Pac-10 participation share from the NCAA Tournament (averaged over 6 years).
 - Number of institutional grants-in-aid.
 - Academic Program enhancement funds.
 - Number of institutionally sponsored sports.
 - Special Assistance Fund - distributed directly to student-athletes in need.
 - Student-Athlete Special Opportunity Fund – distributed to student-athletes.

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Myth: Athletics Covers Up Its Problems

- The Athletics Department is held responsible to as many or more agencies and regulations than any other unit on campus:
 - ICA is governed by the rules and regulations of the:
 - Arizona Board of Regents
 - University
 - Pac-10 Conference
 - National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA)
 - ICA is required to provide the NCAA with an annual revenue and expense audit conducted by an outside firm.
 - Every 10 years the athletic department is required to go through a NCAA Self-Study review, completed by members outside ICA. The review determines ICA's certification status with the NCAA. The UA completed the first round of the NCAA certification in 1997 and was certified in all areas (Governance & Compliance, Fiscal Integrity, Academic Integrity and Equity). An interim report was filed in 2003. The second certification cycle began in 2006-07 and will conclude by Spring 2008.

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Myth: Athletics Covers Up Its Problems (continued)

- Every three years the NCAA requires that a group external to the University of Arizona audit the ICA Compliance Department.
 - Every three years the NCAA requires that a group external to ICA perform a thorough review of the CATS Academic program.
 - Every year the Department of Athletics reports academic, budget and student-athlete welfare issues to the Arizona Board of Regents.
 - The University Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (ICAC), comprised of faculty, community representatives and the ASUA president, are appointed by and responsible to the President and regularly monitor academic performance, student-athletes welfare issues and ICA policies.
- ICA staff provides annual reports to the faculty and is available for any inquiries.
 - ICA has met with the University's Committee of Eleven on several occasions.

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Myth: Athletics Covers Up Its Problems (continued)

- ICA programs are exposed daily to the media and are under constant scrutiny.
- ICA is held accountable annually for the Academic Progress Rate (APR), a key NCAA measure that identifies high & low academic performing teams. Low performing teams may be penalized through loss of scholarships, practice time and post-season eligibility.

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Myth: University Rules Do Not Apply To Student-Athletes

- Student-athletes are held to the same UA admission requirements as the general student body.
- Student-athletes must also meet NCAA requirements for initial (test scores, core classes and core GPA) and continuing eligibility certification (progress toward degree, etc).
- Academics certification for athletics eligibility is performed outside of ICA by the Office of the Registrar and the Faculty Athletics Representative.
- Continuing eligibility rules for student-athletes involve:
 - University rules;
 - NCAA rules (governed by status in school: progress toward degree; 40%/ 60% / 80% rule; GPA Requirements; 75% -25% academic year vs. summer school rule).
 - Arizona Board of Regents and NCAA rules: must meet minimum GPA/hour requirements each semester; and must meet certain academic requirements to receive a post-eligibility scholarship;
 - Specific ICA and team rules.

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Myth: University Rules Do Not Apply To Student-Athletes (continued)

- Student-athletes must also adhere to:
 - University Code of Conduct;
 - Intercollegiate Athletics Code of Conduct;
 - C.A.T.S. Academics Accountability System;
 - NCAA Code of Ethics;
 - Drug Testing Policy
 - State and Federal Laws

- Since March 2006 the CATS Academics Services Program (advising, counseling, learning strategies, tutoring, etc.) has reported outside ICA to University College.

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Myth: Student-Athletes Are Dumb Jocks

- In 13 out of the past 15 years, student-athletes have graduated at an equal or higher rate when compared to the general student body (the highest student-athlete graduation rate recorded in the last 5 years was 65% in 2004 as compared to the general student rate of 55%).
- In 2005, the Persistence Graduation Rate (excluding those who left in good standing) shows a 90% overall student-athlete graduation rate (89% for men and 91% for women). Ten teams have a 100% persistence graduation rate.
- More than 81% of the student-athletes who exhausted their eligibility graduated in 2005.
- In the 2006-07 academic year, 20 student-athletes achieved a 4.0 GPA and 169 (35%) achieved a 3.0 or higher GPA.
- Ten ICA teams had a 2.8 or higher combined GPA for the 2006-07 year.
- The highest GPA in 2006-07 for a men's team was 3.08 (men's tennis) and for a women's team was 3.14 (swimming/diving & gymnastics).

Myth: Student-Athletes Are Dumb Jocks (continued)

National Awards and Scholarships earned by UA student-athletes:

- Academic All-Americans (78)
- Pac-10 Conference Postgraduate Scholarships since 2000 (31)
- Pac-10 Leadership Awards, which began in 2002 (3)
- NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships (3)
- Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars (3)
- Academic All-American Hall of Fame (1)
- Flinn Scholar (1)
- National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete (1)
- Burger King Scholar-Athlete (1)
- Woody Hayes Scholar-Athlete (1)
- NCAA Woman of the Year (1)
- Pac-10 Sportsmanship Award (1)

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INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

FACTS

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Fact: Athletics Gives Back

- ICA gives back to the campus and the community in a variety of ways. Some of the major contributions are:
 - In 2006-07, 127 student-athletes and the UA cheerleaders and mascots participated in community service/philanthropic endeavors reaching over 52,000 individuals.
 - In the last 13 years, ICA has given approximately \$2.3 million to the UA marching band (\$80,000 annually), and pays all expenses for Bowls and post-season band travel. The \$2.3 million includes \$90,000 for new equipment.
 - ICA donates more than \$20,000 of ICA resources annually toward Run'N'Roll and Red-Blue Wildchair Basketball Exhibition Disability Resources fundraisers.
 - Student Fees totaling \$1,495,000, from fiscal year 1999-00 through 2003-04 were given back to the University to help finance the new Student Union. Thereafter, the Student Union receives \$490,000 per year that once went to athletics.

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Fact: Athletics Gives Back (continued)

- ICA offers faculty/staff season tickets at a 15% discount off regular price. Discounted value exceeds \$200,000 annually.
- UA students receive discounted ticket prices (from 60% to 80% off the regular price) for football and men's basketball and free admission to all other sporting events. Discounted value exceeds \$1.5 million per year.
- ICA supports UA student spirit groups (i.e. cheerleaders, mascots, etc.) - \$40,000 per year.
- Faculty Fellows support - \$5,000 per year.
- Alumni Homecoming function - \$5,000 per year.

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Fact: Athletics Gives Back (continued)

- ICA employs UA students (non-athletes) in part-time positions that are paid wages in excess of \$550,000 per year.
- ICA gives the Student Union \$325,000 per year in trademarks and licensing fees.
- ICA staff and student-athletes donate time and effort to many Tucson charities and organizations.
- In 2006-07, more than 3,100 items were provided to local non-profits for raffles, door prizes and silent auctions.
- Nearly 800 individuals participated in ICA facility tours, 45% being middle school age or younger.

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Fact: ICA is One of the Top Programs in the Country

- The Arizona Wildcats have won 18 National Team Championships and 37 Pacific-10 Conference Team Championships.
- Arizona Wildcats have won 110 Individual National Championships.
- UA Athletics has been ranked as a top 10 program in the Director's Cup nine times and has finished as high as 4th.
- More than 90 Arizona student-athletes have competed in the Olympics, with seven gold medalists in the 2004 Athens Games.
- More than 100 former student-athletes are currently playing sports professionally in the NFL, NBA, MLB, PGA, LPGA, WNBA, as well as competing on the world stage in Olympic sports.

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Fact: ICA is One of the Top Programs in the Country (continued)

- Since 1994, nine female student-athletes have received eleven Honda Awards. The Honda Award is the nation's most prestigious award honoring female amateur student-athletes. Arizona has had numerous finalists for the National Player of the Year award in several sports.
- The national Life Skills Program offered by the NCAA and the Division IA Athletics Director's Association was modeled after ICA's C.A.T.S. Program (Commitment to an Athletes Total Success).
 - In 1999, the CATS program received an award from the Division 1A Athletics Directors Association as one of the top Life Skills programs in the nation.
- Seventy-eight (78) student-athletes have earned the prestigious honor of Academic All-America, which ranks Arizona at #26 nationally as determined by CoSIDA.

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