



The Irish Interpreter

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Measuring Academic Progress for Student-Athletes

In 2004, the NCAA adopted a comprehensive academic reform package designed to improve the academic success and graduation of all student-athletes. New measures of academic performance were implemented which included the NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) and the Academic Progress Rate (APR). The GSR looks back at historical academic success by measuring graduation of all student-athletes, including transfer students and students who leave campus in good academic standing. The centerpiece of the academic reform package was the development of an academic measurement for sports teams, known as the Academic Progress Rate.

The APR was developed as a more real-time assessment of teams' academic performance than the six-year graduation rate calculation historically used to measure academic progress for student-athletes. The APR includes eligibility, retention, and graduation as factors in the rate calculation and provides a much clearer picture of the current academic culture in each sport.

The APR awards one point each term to each scholarship student-athlete who meets academic eligibility standards and an additional point is awarded if they remain with the institution. A team's APR is the total points earned by the team at a given time divided by the total points possible. An APR score of 925 (out of 1,000) translates to an approximate 60% Graduation Success Rate. High performing teams receive public recognition from the NCAA. Teams that score below 925 will be subject to immediate or contemporaneous penalties, such as losing up to 10 percent of their scholarships. Teams that score below 900 (approximately 45% Graduation Success Rate) face additional sanctions under the historical penalty structure: First-year sanction is a public warning letter for poor performance; second-year sanctions include restrictions on scholarships, recruiting and practice time; third year sanctions results in loss of postseason competition for the team; four consecutive years of poor academic performance results in restricted membership status for an institution (this means the school will not be considered a Division I college or university).

The most recent APR data was released May 2 by the NCAA. The 2007 report released by the NCAA features a three-year compilation of APR data from the 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 academic years. All 26 athletics programs at the University of Notre Dame exceeded the APR standards – and nine Irish teams earned perfect 1,000 scores.

Among Notre Dame's most significant peer group (the NCAA Division I-A football-playing schools), no other institution had more programs post more perfect 1,000 scores than Notre Dame's nine except Boston College with 10 (with the Eagles sponsoring 29 programs compared to Notre Dame's 26). The U.S. Naval Academy, Rice and Stanford each had seven 1,000 scores. Duke had six and Northwestern

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Academic Progress Rate for Student-Athletes

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Member institutions must provide graduation rate data, the academic progress rate and the graduation success rate to prospective student-athletes and to prospective student-athletes' parents or legal guardians. The information must be provided at the earliest opportunity after the institution's first in-person encounter with the prospect or upon request.

five.

These most recent multi-year APR numbers indicate nearly all 6,110 Division I teams are meeting or exceeding the benchmarks for academic performance, said NCAA president Myles Brand. Only 112 teams will be sanctioned for poor performance, while 839 teams are being publicly recognized for APRs in the top 10 percent of each sport.

APR scores per institution, along with penalties per school and teams receiving public recognition, are available online at ncaa.org. The NCAA announced that 839 teams posted multi-year APR scores in the top 10 percent of all squads in their respective sports. The public recognition awards were part of the broad Division I academic reform effort.

Notre Dame had 11 of its programs honored for the multi-year achievement -- men's basketball, men's cross country, men's fencing, men's golf, men's indoor track and field, men's outdoor track and field, women's fencing, women's soccer, women's softball, women's tennis and women's volleyball. Among Division I football-playing institutions, the only schools that had more programs honored than the 11 by Notre Dame were the U.S. Naval Academy (14), Boston College (12) and Stanford (12). Duke and Rice also had 11 programs honored. Next in line were Northwestern (nine) and North Carolina (seven).

Notre Dame's APR report:

http://web1.ncaa.org/app_data/apr2006/513_2006_apr.pdf

Notre Dame's Graduation Success Rate:

http://web1.ncaa.org/app_data/gsr2006/513.pdf

Notre Dame's Federal graduation rates:

http://web1.ncaa.org/app_data/inst2006/513.pdf

New Legislation Update...

Effective August 1, 2007 for individuals who enroll full time at a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2007: prospective student-athletes must complete his or her core-curriculum requirements not later than the high school graduation date of the prospect's class [as determined by the first year of enrollment in high school (ninth grade)]; however, if the prospect graduates from high school within the described timeframe, he or she may use one core course completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year), but not later than the end of the academic year immediately after the high school graduation date of the prospect's class. The previous legislation allowed prospective student-athletes to purposefully delay high school graduation to meet NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. There will continue to be legitimate instances in which a student does not or cannot graduate from high school within the normal timeframe. The initial-eligibility waiver process will provide a mechanism to review such cases and waive this requirement when circumstances warrant an exception.

In The NCAA News: Division I Baseball Gets Academic Facelift

The Division I Board of Directors approved a package from the Baseball Academic Enhancement Working Group that includes a requirement for academic certification for student-athletes in the fall term to be eligible to participate in the spring.

The package also retains the financial aid model of 11.7 equivalencies, but limits counters to 27 and requires individual aid packages to include at least 33 percent athletics aid. The regular-season squad size is capped at 35. The recommendations, passed as emergency legislation, will take effect August 1, 2008.

The aid change is intended to solidify institutions' financial commitment to student-athletes. In return, the package also requires student-athletes to commit to institutions by eliminating the one-time transfer exception, which will require four-year transfers to serve one academic year of residence before becoming eligible to compete in baseball.

The final part of the package requires baseball programs with a rolling, four-year average Academic Progress Rate under 900 to be subject to playing and practice season restrictions beyond those already imposed by the Academic Performance Program. For example, baseball teams not meeting the minimum academic standard of 900 over a four-year period would be forced to reduce the number of contests to 50 and the number of playing and practice season days to 119. Currently 56 contests and 132 days are allowed in the playing and practice season.

The working group was formed one year ago at the Board's direction and was charged with rectifying baseball's poor academic performance. Most troubling were data indicating that baseball student-athletes come to college with good academic credentials that are not borne out by their academic performance once they are in the collegiate setting. Baseball's APR has been among the lowest in each year of data collection.

Employing Student-Athletes

Per NCAA legislation, all student-athletes are eligible to work during the academic year and vacation periods. It is permissible for representatives of Notre Dame's athletics interests to employ current student-athletes. However, student-athletes must be paid only for work actually performed. In addition, student-athletes must be paid at a rate commensurate with the going rate in the area for similar services. Compensation may not be based upon the student-athlete's publicity, reputation, fame or personal following resulting from the student-athlete's athletics ability. In addition, student-athletes cannot be provided with any benefits not provided to other employees. This includes the use of vehicles, transportation to or from work, meals, loans, advances or time-off. Employers may not advertise a student-athlete's employment to generate extra business, nor may they use a student-athlete's name or pictures to advertise, promote or recommend the sale or use of any commercial product or service.

The Athletic Compliance Office is responsible for monitoring the employment of student-athletes. Prior to beginning practice and competition in the fall, student-athletes who were employed the previous summer fill out a "Summer Job Report" detailing their summer job experience with information such as employer name and address, duties and responsibilities, rate of pay and hours worked. Student-athletes are required to notify the Athletic Compliance Office regarding their employment during the academic year as well. The Athletic Compliance Office verifies and monitors student-athlete employment information.

If you have any questions regarding NCAA rules and regulations, especially relating to the employment of student-athletes, please contact the Athletic Compliance Office.

This past fall, two football student-athletes from the University of Oklahoma were dismissed from the football team due to violations of NCAA employment legislation. Specifically, the student-athletes were employed by a car dealership and were paid thousands of dollars for work they did not perform. The NCAA ruled the two student-athletes ineligible. As a condition of their reinstatement, both student-athletes were required to sit out the 2006-07 football season while losing a season of eligibility and were required to pay \$7,406.88 and \$8,137.17 to a charity of their choice. In response to the violation, Oklahoma has banned athletes from working at the car dealership until at least the 2008-09 academic year and has moved to prevent the athletes' supervisor at the dealership from being involved with the university's athletics program.

May/June/July Recruiting Calendar

Baseball

- May 1 – July 31: Contact/Evaluation Period

Men's Basketball

- May 1 – July 5: Quiet Period, except for NBA predraft camp (May 29-June 4), Evaluation Period
- July 6 – July 15: Evaluation Period
- July 16 – July 21: Dead Period
- July 22 – July 31: Evaluation Period

Women's Basketball

- May 1 – July 5: Quiet Period
- July 6 – July 15: Evaluation Period
- July 16 – July 21: Dead Period
- July 22 – July 31: Evaluation Period

Men's Lacrosse

- May 1 – May 24: Contact/Evaluation Period
- May 25 – May 29 (noon): Dead Period
- May 29 (12:01pm) – July 31: Contact/Evaluation Period

Women's Lacrosse

- May 1 – May 24: Contact/Evaluation Period
- May 25 – May 27: Dead Period
- May 28 – July 31: Contact/Evaluation Period

Football

- May 1 – 31: Evaluation Period
- June 1 – July 31: Quiet Period

Softball

- May 1 – May 28: Contact/Evaluation Period
- May 29 – June 7 (noon): Dead period
- June 7 (12:01pm) – July 31: Contact/Evaluation Period

Volleyball

- May 1 – May 25: Quiet Period
- May 26 – July 31: Contact/Evaluation Period

New Legislation Update...

Effective August 1, 2007, coaches may no longer send text messages to prospective student-athletes.

Electronically transmitted correspondence that may be sent to a prospective student-athlete is limited to electronic mail and facsimiles. All other forms of electronically transmitted correspondence are prohibited (i.e., Instant Messenger, pages).

NCAA Drug Testing

The NCAA conducts year-round drug testing for all sports. Every Division I institution will be drug tested at least once each academic year. In addition, every Division I sport the institution sponsors is subject to drug testing. Student-athletes are subject to year-round testing before, during or after their competition season, including during the summer. In addition, all student-athletes are subject to testing at NCAA institutional and team championship events and postseason bowl events.

The NCAA bans the following drug classes: stimulants, anabolic agents, diuretics, street drugs (e.g., heroine, marijuana), peptide hormones and analogues. A student-athlete who tests positive will be charged with the loss of a minimum of one season of competition in all sports and will be ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition for 365 days. The student-athlete remains ineligible until he/she tests negative and his/her eligibility is restored. If a student-athlete at the University of Notre Dame tests positive twice, he/she will become permanently barred from participating in athletics at the University.