



Big Life. Big Stage. Big Ten.

Since its inception in 1896, the pursuit and attainment of academic excellence has been a priority for every Big Ten member institution. But maintaining the conference's standard of competing at the highest level in athletics also endures as an important component of the Big Ten experience. Striking that balance between academics and athletics is integral to the Big Ten's identity. Recognized as one of intercollegiate sports' most successful undertakings, the Big Ten strives for success from its students not only on the field and in the classroom, but around the world as well.

PREMIER ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

The Big Ten Academic Alliance is an academic consortium of all 14 Big Ten universities, which is widely considered to be the model for effective and voluntary collaboration among top research universities.

Every Big Ten Academic Alliance institution ranks among the top 78 universities in the nation according to the 2014 Academic Ranking of World Universities, including six in the top 25.

The Big Ten leads all conferences with more than 1,600 Academic All-Americans, including 48 honorees during the 2015-16 academic year.

Big Ten Academic Alliance schools annually conduct \$10 billion in funded research, \$5 billion more than any other conference.

A HISTORY OF ATHLETIC SUCCESS

Big Ten schools have won at least seven national championships in seven of the last eight academic years.

In the last three full academic years, current Big Ten institutions have claimed 23 team national championships in 14 different sports.

Over the last 10 full academic years, current Big Ten institutions have won 77 team national titles in 23 different sports.

BROAD-BASED PROGRAMMING

The Big Ten will administer over \$200 million in direct financial support to more than 9,500 students competing in intercollegiate athletics for more than 11,000 participation opportunities on 350 teams in 42 different sports.

The Big Ten sponsors 28 official conference sports, 14 for men and 14 for women, including the addition of men's ice hockey and men's and women's lacrosse the last three years.

The Big Ten leads the nation in total students competing in intercollegiate athletics and participation opportunities, and sponsors more official sports than all conferences except the Ivy League.

Almost 1,400 Big Ten competitors have participated in the Olympics, winning more than 600 medals, including nearly 300 gold. Heading into the 2016 Olympic Games, more than 100 current or former students at current Big Ten institutions were named to Olympic teams.

PASSIONATE FOLLOWING

The Big Ten leads all conferences with 5.7 million alumni and nearly 580,000 students.

Each year more than 11 million patrons attend Big Ten home contests, as the conference leads the nation in attendance for men's basketball, hockey, volleyball and wrestling.

LEADERS IN INNOVATION

Took part in the nation's first bowl game, winning the 1902 Rose Bowl Game, and signed an exclusive contract with the Tournament of Roses in 1946, making it the first bowl with permanent conference affiliations.

Awarded the first Big Ten Medal of Honor in 1915, honoring outstanding seniors who demonstrated excellence in academics and athletics.

Formed the Big Ten Advisory Commission in 1972, enlisting former students that competed in conference athletics to serve as liaisons to the NCAA's Diversity and Inclusion Department, the Big Ten Student-Athlete Advisory Commission and other organizations.

Became the first conference to voluntarily adopt male and female participation goals after launching its Gender Equity Action Plan in 1992.

Implemented the first collegiate football system of instant replay in 2004, which the NCAA approved for use among all conferences in 2006.

Launched the Big Ten Network (BTN) in 2007, the first national conference-owned television network.

Began partnering with the Ivy League to study the effects of head injuries in sports in 2012.

Accepted Johns Hopkins University as the conference's first sport affiliate members in men's and women's lacrosse in 2013 and 2015, respectively.

EXTENSIVE TELEVISION EXPOSURE

Through the Big Ten's current media agreements with BTN, ABC/ESPN, CBS and FOX, nearly 1,400 Big Ten events are produced and distributed nationally and globally on an annual basis.

BTN is in more than 60 million homes across the United States and Canada. BTN2Go is BTN's digital extension, delivering live and on-demand programming to computers, smartphones and tablets. BTN Plus within BTN2Go streams hundreds of additional events each season.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

For more than 25 years, through the Big Ten's SCORE (Success Comes Out of Reading Everyday) program, the conference has partnered with Chicago elementary schools to improve reading performance.

Surrounding the Big Ten Football Championship Game and Basketball Tournaments, the conference has held numerous community initiatives, such as the Big Ten Career Expo, SaturDAY of Service and Youth Football Clinics. In addition, the Big Ten has hosted a downtown 5K, collaborated with a local breast cancer awareness group and provided unique event experiences for military veterans.