



College Athlete Academic Solutions

Submitted to NC Fair Treatment of College Athletes Commission

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Contact: Ramogi Huma, NCPA Executive Director

Ph: 951-898-0985 rhuma@ncpanow.org

Academic Challenges for North Carolina College Athletes

- NCAA's 20 hour per week in-season limit on athletics excludes travel time, game day meetings and competitions that exceed 3 hours in total, and other mandatory athletic activities.
- NCAA 2015 "GOALS" Study:
 - Over 1/3 of NCAA athletes say athletic time demands do not allow them to take desired classes.
 - Approximately 35%-41% of DI and DII athletes report lacking adequate time to keep up with classes during the season
 - 30% of DI FBS football and DI men's basketball players would have chosen a different major if they were not in college sports
 - Division I college athletes spend a median of 32hrs per week in their sport including 40 hrs per week for baseball players and 42 hrs per week for football players during the season, respectively.
 - 66% of all DI and DII athletes, including 75% or more of football, baseball, and track athletes, report spending as much time on their sport during the off-season as they do during the season.
 - Between 66%-76% of DI and DII athletes would prefer to spend more time on academics.
 - D-I baseball and men and women's basketball players miss more than 2 classes per week because of athletic time demands during the season.
 - Approximately 40-45% of DI and DII athletes report wanting to spend more time working at a job.
 - 33% of DI athletes and 22% of DII athletes want to participate in travel abroad programs but cannot because of college athletics.
- Recent NCAA rule change eliminates college athletes' mandatory 1 day off per week, allowing colleges to require players to spend 24 days in a row in their sport. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/marcedelman/2018/06/11/ncaa-harmfully-takes-away-student-athletes-guaranteed-weekly-day-off/#2dd952152c34>
- Conference realignment requires college athletes to miss more class time. <https://www.newsobserver.com/sports/college/acc/duke/article192121459.html>
- USA Today study: 83% of Division I colleges had at least one team in which at least 1/3 of the player were "clustered" into the same major. https://usatoday30.usatoday.com/sports/college/2008-11-18-majors-graphic_N.htm
- Some coaches ban players from team activities only to claim that the player voluntarily quit in order to kick the athlete off the team and reallocate his/her scholarship.

Conflicting Graduation Rate Calculation Methods

- The Adjusted Graduation Gap (AGG) is the most informative and transparent graduation rate metric. It is the calculation of any gap between graduation rates of college athletes (full-time students per NCAA rules) and full-time regular college students. It provides an "apples to apples" comparison between athletes and regular college students that can help accurately measure the degree to which institutional, athletic association, and/or public policy affects college athletes' academic performance.
- The NCAA-invented Graduation Success Rates (GSR) automatically counts a player, who is in good academic standing and transfers from a college, as a graduate regardless of whether or not the player ever complete his or her degree. Also, it does not allow for graduation rate comparisons between college athletes and regular full-time

students because GSRs do not exist for regular students. Colleges do not calculate this NCAA graduation rate method for regular students.

- The Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) measures the rate at which an institution graduates college athletes and regular students that initially enroll at the institution. However, it compares college athletes (full-time students) with a combination of both full-time and part-time regular students. This is problematic because part-time students' graduation rates are typically lower than that of full-time students and prevents an "apples to apples" comparison with college athletes. In addition, the FGR automatically counts college transfers against an institution's graduation rates regardless of whether or not a transfer graduates at another institution.

Declarations

- A college that allows an athlete to compete in intercollegiate athletics must provide a realistic opportunity for players to obtain a quality education, complete their degree in the major of their choice, and allow players to pursue non-athletic opportunities during their college career.
- Maximizing college athlete graduation rates will help ensure a more educated, qualified, and productive workforce throughout the state.

Key Solutions – NC State Legislation

- Prohibit athletic personnel interference of players' academic major selection.
- Disclose to recruits, current athletes, and the public any majors with prerequisite and/or required courses that will prevent or delay degree completion due to mandatory athletic activities.
- Disclose to recruits, current athletes, and the public the percentage of athletes enrolled in each academic major on each team.
- Prohibit college *athletic* academic advisors and assign college athletes regular academic advisors to help ensure college athletes' academic choices are not subject to undue influence from their athletic programs.
- Prohibit athletic personnel interference of players' studying, employment, extracurricular activities, volunteerism and travel abroad opportunities that do not violate athletic association rules and do not conflict w predetermined mandatory athletic activities including preseason and post-season practices and competitions.
- Require at least 20% of head coaches' salaries to be tied to his/her team's graduation rate performance.
- Prohibit academic consequences for players who miss class to attend required intercollegiate athletic activities.
- Extend the scholarship for a player that has exhausted eligibility without completing an undergraduate degree for one semester/quarter for each postseason in which the player missed 20% or more of their classes due to mandatory athletic activities.
- Allow injured players with traumatic brain injury and/or a condition that will take at least 4 weeks to recover the opportunity to take a leave of absence without jeopardizing their eligibility and retaining the duration of their scholarship.
- For colleges with at least \$10 million in total annual athletics revenue:
 - Permanently injured players receive an equivalent scholarship until the earlier of undergraduate degree completion or a total of 5 years when combined with any previous athletic scholarship.
 - Provide an equivalent scholarship for up to one year or until the college athlete completes his or her primary undergraduate degree, whichever is shorter, to a college athlete who was on an athletic

scholarship, remains in good standing, has exhausted his or her athletic eligibility, and whose team's Adjusted Graduation Gap is at least 5% lower than that of regular students at his or her institution.

- Prohibit the termination of an athlete's athletic scholarship on the grounds that the athlete quit the team or failed to attend mandatory athletic activities if the athlete was in any way prohibited from or encouraged not to participate in mandatory athletic activities by athletic personnel.
- Allow underclassmen from any sport that enter a professional sport's draft without being drafted to stay in college to complete their intercollegiate athletics career. This would extend the NCAA's new rule regarding this issue.
- Prohibit colleges from acting on a new NCAA rule that allows the termination of an athletic scholarship for athletes disclosing an interest in transferring.
- Designate institution personnel as mandated reporters of violations and grant whistleblower protections for institution personnel and athletes reporting a violation.