



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

REPORT: UNC SYSTEM INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS & FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT 2022-23

May 23, 2024

University of North Carolina System

Introduction

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has delegated the responsibility for intercollegiate athletics to the chancellors, which includes the required reporting of academic characteristics and performance of the University of North Carolina System's student-athletes. This report follows all reporting standards required by the Board and incorporates the following required elements:

- Academic profiles of freshmen student-athletes;
- Majors of student-athletes;
- NCAA academic success indicators;
- Comparisons of student-athlete and non-student-athlete GPAs;
- Athletics department financial information as reported to the NCAA; and
- Athletics fundraising and private foundation activities that support student-athletes and athletic departments.

Section 1100.1 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Intercollegiate Athletics*, requires the chancellors to submit the information contained in this report to their Boards of Trustees and the president of the University of North Carolina System, who subsequently provides a consolidated report to the UNC Board of Governors.

Academic Profile of Recruited Freshmen Student-Athletes

Exceptions to UNC System Minimum Course Requirements and Minimum Eligibility Requirements

All admissions to the University, whether for student-athletes or non-student-athletes, are subject to Section 700.1.1 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Policy on Minimum Eligibility Requirements for Undergraduate Admission for the University of North Carolina System*, and Section 700.1.1.1[R] of the UNC Policy Manual, *Regulation on Minimum Eligibility Requirements for Undergraduate Admission for the University of North Carolina System*. Policies on minimum course requirements (MCRs) and minimum eligibility requirements (MERs) set standards for completed high school courses, as well as minimum GPA and standardized scores for admissions consideration at a UNC System institution. If students do not meet these minimum requirements, they may be admitted only by receiving a chancellor's exception.

In 2022-23, a total of 1,292 recruited freshmen student-athletes enrolled at UNC System institutions and of those students:

- 26 (2.0 percent) received an MCR exception; and
- 12 (0.9 percent) received an MER exception.

The total number of exceptions dropped slightly from the previous reporting period (41). The number of MCR exceptions increased, from 17 to 26, but the number of MER exceptions decreased, from 24 to 12. Table 1 provides the number of exceptions to the MCRs and MERs for all recruited freshmen student-athletes in 2022-23 by institution, with some information redacted to maintain student-athlete privacy.¹

¹ The UNC System Office follows the NCAA standard for FERPA data protections: when institutional data include four or fewer student-athletes and/or when the data combined with publicly available information could result in the information being identifiable because of a small sample size (four or fewer), this information is not disclosed.

Table 1: Exceptions to UNC System Minimum Course Requirements and Minimum Eligibility Requirements, 2022-23

NCAA Division	Recruited Freshmen Student-Athletes:					
	Total	MCR		MER		
		n	%	n	%	
ASU I	85	-	-	-	-	
ECU I	116	-	-	***	***	
ECSU II	45	-	-	-	-	
FSU II	57	-	-	-	-	
N.C. A&T I	56	***	***	***	***	
NCCU I	48	-	-	***	***	
NCSU I	154	9	5.8	-	-	
UNCA I	61	-	-	-	-	
UNC-CH I	197	***	***	***	***	
UNCC I	74	9	12.2	***	***	
UNCG I	62	-	-	***	***	
UNCP II	96	***	***	***	***	
UNCW I	117	-	-	-	-	
WCU I	72	***	***	-	-	
WSSU II	52	-	-	-	-	
UNC System Totals	1292	26	2.0	12	0.9	

“-” indicates zero student-athletes or scores were reported in this category

“***” indicates that the data is not disclosed due to a small sample size

High School NCAA Core Course GPA and SAT/ACT of Recruited Freshmen Student-Athletes

A student-athlete who enrolls as a first-time freshman without any previous full-time college attendance must meet the NCAA’s academic requirements (as certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center and approved by the NCAA Executive Committee), in addition to applicable institutional and conference regulations. The NCAA requirements include high school core course grade-point average as one measure, which is based upon 16 specified core course subjects/areas.² In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCAA temporarily changed initial eligibility requirements by removing standardized testing, and the removal of standardized testing requirements became permanent in January 2023.

Due to the NCAA changes and revisions to minimum eligibility requirements by the UNC Board of Governors, standardized test scores are not provided in the data below. The UNC Board of Governors revised the minimum eligibility requirements in March 2020, and later included a standardized test waiver policy through the fall of 2024. Under the revised policy, applicants could achieve either a minimum 2.5-weighted high school grade-point average (GPA) or a minimum SAT of 1010 or ACT of 19 to be considered

² For additional information, see <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/core-courses> and the separate links for requirements by division. The NCAA minimum core-courses GPAs are 2.3 for Division I eligibility and 2.2 for Division II.

for admission. Based on the change, and with not all recruited freshmen student-athletes (RFSA) having standardized test scores, reporting on the data would not be consistent or comparable.

Table 2: Average High School NCAA Core Course GPA of Recruited Freshmen Student-Athletes, 2022-23

	NCAA Division	# of RFSA	Core Course GPA
ASU	I	85	3.56
ECU	I	116	3.58
ECSU	II	45	3.05
FSU	II	57	2.98
N.C. A&T	I	56	3.51
NCCU	I	48	3.38
NCSU	I	154	3.81
UNCA	I	61	3.74
UNC-CH	I	197	3.89
UNCC	I	74	3.63
UNCG	I	62	3.58
UNCP	II	96	3.26
UNCW	I	117	3.66
WCU	I	72	3.27
WSSU	II	52	3.34

Student-Athlete Declared Majors

As in past years, business, management, marketing, and related support services (682) and parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies (327) remain the top two majors for UNC System student-athletes. The next two most popular majors flipped from last year, with health professions and related programs (276) slightly outpacing communications, journalism, and related programs (267). Appendix A displays a full accounting of the different majors for student-athletes from the 15 institutions.

Student-Athlete Academic Success Indicators

NCAA Academic Progress Rates for Student-Athletes

The NCAA developed the Academic Progress Rate (APR) to track Division I academic achievement and progress by athletic teams. The metric measures eligibility and retention of scholarship student-athletes for each academic term; the NCAA recognizes superior academic performances and has graduated levels of penalties — including being ineligible for championships — for teams that fall below a four-year average APR score of 930 (out of 1,000).³

³ According to the NCAA, an APR of 930 is equivalent to a 50% graduation rate for the cohort. For additional information and details on the APR, see: <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2015/5/19/academic-progress-rate-explained.aspx?id=3191>. NCAA APR reports are posted and one can tailor a search for institutions (and conferences) at: <https://web3.ncaa.org/aprsearch/aprsearch>.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCAA suspended penalizing teams who fall below the four-year 930 average, with the pause in penalties extended through the spring of 2023. The NCAA's Committee on Academics voted at the February 2023 meeting to return to normal operations, which would include penalizing teams beginning with the public release of APR data in the spring of 2024, with any penalties applied for the 2024-25 postseasons.

All Division I UNC System institutions had team multiyear APRs above the 930 threshold, except North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.⁴ N.C. A&T's men's basketball team posted a multiyear APR of 925, which should not result in NCAA penalties due to the score timeframe occurring during the penalty suspension period.

Of the UNC System Division I institutions, the following had the number of teams shown with perfect APR scores of 1,000:

Appalachian State University – 3
East Carolina University - 2
North Carolina A&T State University – 3
North Carolina Central University – 4
NC State University - 10
University of North Carolina Asheville – 6
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – 7
University of North Carolina at Charlotte – 2
University of North Carolina at Greensboro – 2
University of North Carolina Wilmington – 5
Western Carolina University – 4

Nonacademic NCAA Violations

In addition to monitoring the academic work of student-athletes via the APR, the NCAA strictly monitors breaches of conduct that impact “the integrity of the NCAA Collegiate Model.”⁵ The four levels of violations range from severe (Level I, e.g., substantial impermissible benefits) to incidental (Level IV, e.g., inadvertent, isolated infractions). Incidents of Levels I and II violations are shared with the public by the NCAA, while Level III violations are heavily redacted and only shared upon request.

During the academic year 2022-23, no UNC System institutions incurred Level I or II violations.

⁴ Due to reporting and NCAA calculations, APR data lags one year. Academic year 2021-22 is the most recent APR data available from the NCAA.

⁵ Level I violation is one that “...seriously undermine or threatens the integrity...” while a Level II violation is described as conduct that “...may compromise the integrity of the NCAA Collegiate Model.” For complete NCAA explanations of the violation levels, see <https://web3.ncaa.org/lstdbi/search/bylawView?id=31596>.

Academic Integrity at UNC System Institutions

Student-Athletes, Academics, and Institutional Procedures

Section 700.6.1.1[G] of the UNC Policy Manual, *Guideline on Academic Integrity and Required Course-Clustering Analysis of Student-Athletes*, requires that institutions conduct course clustering and transcript review analyses to identify any anomalies that may be present among student-athletes. Specifically, institutions reviewed all courses and flagged any course where student-athletes make up 25 percent or more of course section enrollment — identified as “course clustering” of student-athletes. If course enrollment analysis found student-athletes comprising 25 percent or more of a section, then the course institution flagged the course for additional review, including examining the grade distribution of student-athletes and non-student-athletes in the course section for significant differences between these two groups. Additionally, institutions reviewed the transcripts of any student-athletes found to be enrolled in three or more flagged courses, to ensure that no academic irregularities occurred.

UNC System institutions reviewed enrollment data and transcripts of student-athletes to examine them for possible course clustering and/or significant differences in grade distributions between student-athletes and non-athletes. **No UNC System institution identified significant issues, after this multilayered procedure, and all report being fully compliant with this policy.**

Additionally, each institution is required to compare the overall student-athlete GPA with the overall non-student-athlete GPA (undergraduates only) during the spring semester each year. Those comparisons are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Student-Athlete GPA and Non-Student-Athlete GPA, Spring 2023

	NCAA Division	Spring 2023	
		Student-Athlete GPA	Non-Student-Athlete GPA
ASU	I	3.22	3.17
ECU	I	3.25	3.09
ECSU	II	2.63	2.77
FSU	II	3.13	3.04
N.C. A&T	I	3.03	2.92
NCCU	I	2.98	2.80
NCSU	I	3.15	3.32
UNCA	I	3.25	3.26
UNC-CH	I	3.22	3.45
UNCC	I	3.29	3.21
UNCG	I	3.34	3.08
UNCP	II	2.85	2.86
UNCW	I	3.41	3.31
WCU	I	3.29	3.33
WSSU	II	3.14	2.94

Athletics Financial Transparency Regulations

Section 1100.1.1[R] of the UNC Policy Manual, *Financial and Other Reporting for Intercollegiate Athletics*, requires specific financial reporting to monitor athletics budgets and institutional expenditures and ensures that all UNC System chancellors, boards of trustees, the president, and the Board of Governors will receive the necessary data when considering the balance between athletics and academics at each constituent university. The regulation identifies key data elements that are found on NCAA Institutional Performance Program dashboards. These data are presented in Appendix B.

Athletics Fundraising and Private Foundations

Most UNC System institutions have established private foundations (“booster clubs”) for the purpose of providing resources to enrich various programs of the constituent institutions. These private organizations are subject to Section 600.2.5[R] of the UNC Policy Manual, *Regulation on Required Elements of University-Associated Entity Relationship*, which requires the institutions to conduct an annual independent audit and report the findings to the institution’s board of trustees and that a copy be provided to the president to be reviewed by UNC System leadership. In addition to Section 600.2.5[R] of the UNC Policy Manual, booster club organizations have increased reporting requirements under Section 1100.1.1[R] of the UNC Policy Manual, including providing copies of their most recent financial information and external audit (as submitted to their boards of trustees). Additionally, institutions provide their booster clubs’ official operating procedures to the UNC System Office as part of their reporting requirements.

All UNC System institutions with booster clubs are in full compliance with UNC System policies.

Appendix A: Student-Athlete Declared Majors

2022-23

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Codes and academic area	ASU	ECU	ECSU	FSU	N.C. A&T	NCCU	NCSU	UNCA	UNC-CH	UNCC	UNCG	UNCP	UNCW	WCU	WSSU
01 - agriculture, agriculture operations, and related sciences	0	0	0	0	7	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03 - natural resources and conservation	3	0	1	0	0	4	4	7	5	0	1	2	0	1	0
04 - architecture and related services	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
05 - area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	0	0	1	0	0
09 - communication, journalism and related programs	10	67	0	14	5	9	34	6	51	12	8	9	29	12	1
11 - computer and information sciences and support services	1	3	0	4	3	5	1	2	9	3	6	1	3	0	14
13 - education	4	10	6	11	2	1	6	0	4	3	1	8	4	8	10
14 - engineering	0	5	0	0	18	0	14	3	2	9	0	0	0	4	0
15 - engineering technologies and engineering-related fields	0	3	8	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
16 - foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
19 - family and consumer sciences / human sciences	0	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
23 - English language and literature / letters	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0
24 - liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	0	0	0	3	53	11	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
26 - biological and biomedical sciences	7	7	5	5	3	7	26	9	19	35	4	24	19	6	16
27 - mathematics and statistics	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	9	3	2	0	1	3	1
30 - multi/interdisciplinary studies	0	6	6	4	0	0	7	0	20	2	0	0	0	0	3
31 - parks, recreation, and leisure and fitness studies	26	31	21	7	18	22	64	0	88	5	16	0	32	2	0
38 - philosophy and religious studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
40 - physical sciences	6	1	0	0	1	1	1	5	0	0	0	2	9	0	1
42 - psychology	8	10	7	8	16	3	16	12	0	39	4	16	22	13	9
43 - homeland security, law enforcement, firefighting, and related protective services	3	14	4	10	8	9	0	0	0	6	0	8	8	7	0
44 - public administration and social service professions	1	13	14	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	9	2	6
45 - social sciences	6	8	6	4	6	19	23	4	43	15	11	2	7	9	14
49 - transportation and materials moving	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50 - visual and performing arts	3	2	4	4	1	0	3	3	0	0	1	4	2	2	2
51 - health professions and related programs	8	9	4	8	0	3	0	30	0	47	4	61	2	25	75
52 - business, management, marketing, and related support services	36	64	36	24	28	18	80	44	43	49	31	35	68	57	69
54 - history	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	2	4	7	2	0	1	1	0
XX - undecided	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	0	0	8	0	12

Appendix B: Intercollegiate Athletics 2022-23 Financial Data per Section 1100.1.1[R]

		Athletics-Generated Revenues		Student Fees		Institutional & Govt. Support		Total Revenues	Less Expenses	Net Revenue
Division	Institution	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	\$	\$
Division I FBS	NCSU	\$114,313,884	94%	\$7,128,221	6%	\$2,401	0%	\$121,444,506	(\$118,653,089)	\$2,791,417
	UNC-CH	\$124,537,050	89%	\$7,942,870	6%	\$6,873,171	5%	\$139,353,091	(\$139,079,504)	\$273,587
	ASU	\$27,181,195	58%	\$13,749,526	30%	\$5,534,849	12%	\$46,465,570	(\$46,379,642)	\$85,928
	ECU	\$37,375,004	59%	\$15,634,149	25%	\$10,245,102	16%	\$63,254,255	(\$63,529,648)	(\$275,393)
	UNCC	\$14,430,404	31%	\$24,991,645	54%	\$6,953,676	15%	\$46,375,725	(\$50,725,276)	(\$4,349,551)
Division I	NCA&T	\$4,062,596	25%	\$9,877,104	61%	\$2,284,949	14%	\$16,224,649	(\$15,630,667)	\$593,982
Non-FBS	NCCU	\$3,979,137	31%	\$4,770,583	37%	\$4,183,426	32%	\$12,933,146	(\$12,183,146)	\$750,000
	UNCA	\$3,386,809	34%	\$2,275,815	23%	\$4,308,304	43%	\$9,970,928	(\$9,676,343)	\$294,585
	UNCG	\$4,496,279	24%	\$10,155,361	55%	\$3,921,938	21%	\$18,573,578	(\$19,339,548)	(\$765,971)
	UNCW	\$5,796,349	32%	\$11,151,342	62%	\$1,102,114	6%	\$18,049,805	(\$17,252,853)	\$796,952
	WCU	\$6,421,929	38%	\$7,227,177	42%	\$3,448,473	20%	\$17,097,579	(\$17,256,411)	(\$158,832)
Division II	ECSU	\$341,749	11%	\$1,533,004	48%	\$1,330,733	42%	\$3,205,486	(\$3,205,486)	\$0
	FSU	\$632,817	12%	\$3,301,432	64%	\$1,250,521	24%	\$5,184,770	(\$5,184,770)	\$0
	UNCP	\$713,843	14%	\$3,243,000	64%	\$1,108,241	22%	\$5,065,084	(\$5,570,488)	(\$505,404)
	WSSU	\$942,099	21%	\$3,466,929	79%	\$0	0%	\$4,409,028	(\$5,813,755)	(\$1,404,727)
Grand Total		\$348,611,144	66%	\$126,448,158	24%	\$52,547,898	10%	\$527,607,200	(\$529,480,626)	(\$1,873,427)

Appendix B: Intercollegiate Athletics 2022-23 Financial Data per Section 1100.1.1[R], cont.

		Athletic Student Aid & Other Athlete Support		Salaries & Benefits		Game Expenses/ Team Travel		Other Expenses		Total Expenses
Division	Institution	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	%
Division I FBS	NCSU	\$14,657,345	12%	\$49,938,387	42%	\$15,844,650	13%	\$38,212,707	32%	\$118,653,089
	UNC-CH	\$21,463,937	15%	\$59,007,688	42%	\$22,093,937	16%	\$36,513,942	26%	\$139,079,504
	ASU	\$8,485,861	18%	\$15,062,450	32%	\$5,575,839	12%	\$17,255,492	37%	\$46,379,642
	ECU	\$11,274,810	18%	\$23,400,147	37%	\$9,795,404	15%	\$19,059,287	30%	\$63,529,648
	UNCC	\$7,948,191	16%	\$17,624,424	35%	\$6,588,853	13%	\$18,563,808	37%	\$50,725,276
Division I	NCA&T	\$2,888,908	18%	\$7,016,491	45%	\$3,559,932	23%	\$2,165,336	14%	\$15,630,667
Non-FBS	NCCU	\$4,145,716	34%	\$4,969,372	41%	\$1,038,548	9%	\$2,029,510	17%	\$12,183,146
	UNCA	\$2,414,543	25%	\$2,916,305	30%	\$1,133,052	12%	\$3,212,443	33%	\$9,676,343
	UNCG	\$3,077,952	16%	\$6,387,606	33%	\$2,296,495	12%	\$7,577,495	39%	\$19,339,548
	UNCW	\$3,442,846	20%	\$7,761,890	45%	\$2,680,332	16%	\$3,367,785	20%	\$17,252,853
	WCU	\$3,362,081	19%	\$7,304,405	42%	\$1,672,020	10%	\$4,917,905	28%	\$17,256,411
Division II	ECSU	\$563,048	18%	\$1,473,043	46%	\$457,637	14%	\$711,758	22%	\$3,205,486
	FSU	\$1,260,952	24%	\$1,357,305	26%	\$956,079	18%	\$1,610,434	31%	\$5,184,770
	UNCP	\$1,744,517	31%	\$2,089,588	38%	\$670,685	12%	\$1,065,698	19%	\$5,570,488
	WSSU	\$1,267,642	22%	\$1,586,109	27%	\$509,514	9%	\$2,450,490	42%	\$5,813,755
Grand Total		\$87,998,349	17%	\$207,895,210	39%	\$74,872,977	14%	\$158,714,090	30%	\$529,480,626