



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

REPORT: UNC SYSTEM INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS & FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT 2024-25

May 21, 2026

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 Board 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 2024-25, a total of 1,440 recruited freshmen student-athletes enrolled at UNC System institutions and of those students:

- 22 (1.5 percent) received an MCR exception; and
- 13 (0.9 percent) received an MER exception.

The total number of exceptions dropped slightly from the previous reporting period (26). The number of MCR exceptions decreased from 26 to 22 while the number of MER exceptions increased, from 12 to 13. Table 1 provides the number of exceptions to the MCRs and MERs for all recruited freshmen student-athletes in 2024-25 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, 2024-2025

	NCAA Division	Recruited Freshmen Student-Athletes: 2024-2025			
		Total	MCR Exceptions		MER Exceptions
			n	%	n
ASU	I	104	-	-	-
ECU	I	155	4	-	***
ECSU	II	77	-	-	-
FSU	II	54	-	-	-
N.C. A&T	I	87	***	***	***
NCCU	I	24	-	-	-
NCSU	I	131	5	4	***
UNCA	I	86	***	-	-
UNC-CH	I	203	***	***	***
UNCC	I	90	***	***	***
UNCG	I	54	-	-	***
UNCP	II	126	5	4	***
UNCW	I	97	-	-	-
WCU	I	105	***	***	-
WSSU	II	47	-	-	-
UNC System Total		1440	22	2.0	13

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) and any applicable institutional and conference regulations. Among

these academic measures are SAT and ACT scores and the high school grade point average in NCAA-defined high school core courses.²

Due to changes by the NCAA and the UNC Board of Governors revisions to minimum eligibility requirements, standardized test scores are not provided in the data below. The UNC Board of Governors revised the minimum eligibility requirements in March 2020. Applicants could achieve either a minimum 2.8-weighted high school grade point average (GPA) or a minimum SAT of 1010 or ACT of 19. 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 nor comparable.

Table 2: Average High School NCAA Core Course GPA of Recruited Freshmen Student-Athletes, 2024-25

	NCAA Division	# of RFSA	Core Course GPA
ASU	I	104	3.83
ECU	I	155	3.50
ECSU	II	77	3.09
FSU	II	54	3.07
N.C. A&T	I	87	3.4
NCCU	I	24	3.23
NCSU	I	131	3.71
UNCA	I	86	3.72
UNC-CH	I	203	3.89
UNCC	I	90	3.57
UNCG	I	54	3.65
UNCP	II	126	3.48
UNCW	I	97	3.96
WCU	I	105	3.66
WSSU	II	47	3.15

Student-Athlete Declared Majors

As in past years, the top majors for UNC System student-athletes remained consistent, with business, management, marketing, and related support services (698); and health professions (307). The next most popular majors were parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies (306); and communications, journalism, and related programs (268). 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

² Average high school NCAA core course GPA is based on 16 core courses for Division I schools and 14 core courses Division II schools. For additional information, see: <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/core-courses>.

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

All Division I UNC System institutions had team multi-year APRs above the 930 threshold; scores for Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, UNC Pembroke, and Winston-Salem State APRs were not available.

Non-Academic 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.”⁴ 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 2045-25, no UNC System institutions incurred Level I or II violations.***

Academic Integrity at UNC System Institutions

Academic Integrity Regulations

As part of the UNC System’s ongoing efforts to monitor and protect the integrity of its curriculum and academic records, the Board of Governors required that each institution develop practices and procedures to implement the academic integrity regulations adopted in April 2013. Many institutions were proactive in their monitoring of academics, developing policies well in advance of the adoption of Section 700.6.1[R] of the UNC Policy Manual, *Academic Integrity Regulations*. The regulation follows the recommendations from multiple task forces, studies, and extensive discussions with various stakeholders.

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 did consist of 25 percent or more student-athletes, 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, any

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 for are posted and one can tailor a search for institutions (and conferences) at: <https://web3.ncaa.org/aprsearch/aprsearch>.

⁴ Level I violation is one that “...seriously undermine or threaten the integrity...” while a Level II violation is described as “...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>.

student-athletes who were found to be in three or more flagged courses had their transcripts reviewed 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 multi-layered 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 2025

Institution	NCAA Division	SA Spring 2025	Non-SA Spring 2025
		GPA	GPA
Appalachian State University	I	3.27	3.20
East Carolina University	I	3.33	3.12
Elizabeth City State University	II	3.121	3.03
Fayetteville State University	II	3.34	3.12
North Carolina A&T State University	I	3.074	3.081
North Carolina Central University	I	3.29	3.00
North Carolina State University	I	3.203	3.313
UNC Asheville	II	3.37	3.20
UNC Charlotte	I	3.263	3.201
UNC-Chapel Hill	I	3.287	3.468
UNC Greensboro	I	3.45	3.17
UNC Pembroke	II	2.88	2.92
UNC Wilmington	I	3.442	3.181
Western Carolina University	I	3.234	3.35
Winston-Salem State University	II	3.11	3.06

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 institutions to conduct an annual independent audit, 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

	ASU	ECU	ECSU	FSU	N.C. A&T	NCCU	NCSU	UNCA	UNC-CH	UNCC	UNC G	UNCP	UNCW	WCU	WSSU
01 - agriculture, agriculture operation Office on the web Frame	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03 - natural resources and conservation	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	6	3	0	0	7	0	2	0
04 - architecture and related services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
05 - area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	1	0
09 - communication, journalism and related programs	15	47	0	18	7	10	34	3	42	31	3	13	16	11	18
11 - computer and information sciences and support services	1	1	5	8	5	7	3	0	4	9	2	5	5	4	4
13 - education	12	3	4	17	0	3	13	2	2	4	2	5	0	7	3
14 - engineering	0	8	0	0	8	0	19	0	3	16	0	0	0	7	0
15 - engineering technologies and engineering-related fields	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
16 - foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
19 - family and consumer sciences / human sciences	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
23 - English language and literature / letters	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	1
24 - liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	33	0	0	0	42	15	4	12	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
26 - biological and biomedical sciences	37	9	7	8	4	11	22	8	15	21	6	12	9	7	12
27 - mathematics and statistics	1	1	0	4	0	0	2	1	8	0	1	0	1	3	0
30 - multi/interdisciplinary studies	1	2	8	7	0	0	8	0	26	6	3	10	0	0	6
31 - parks, recreation, and leisure and fitness studies	1	17	19	15	19	11	65	0	73	31	30	0	24	1	0
38 - philosophy and religious studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
40 - physical sciences	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	6	6	0	0	13	2	0
42 - psychology	2	6	7	12	11	3	12	15	0	15	5	16	10	10	9
43 - homeland security, law enforcement, firefighting, and related protective services	6	6	2	14	8	7	0	0	0	11	0	9	4	16	0
44 - public administration and social service professions	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	3	0
45 - social sciences	0	5	9	8	5	19	9	16	43	19	26	2	11	3	9
49 - transportation and materials moving	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50 - visual and performing arts	1	1	10	8	1	1	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	6	4
51 - health professions and related programs	8	35	2	12	1	0	0	25	1	70	6	57	11	25	54
52 - business, management, marketing, and related support services	47	46	48	28	14	18	56	39	50	81	21	37	57	87	69
54 - history	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0
XX - undecided	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	13	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix B: Intercollegiate Athletics 2024-2025 Financial Data per Section 1100.1.1[R]⁵

		Athletics-Generated Revenues		Student Fees		Institutional & Govt. Support		Total Revenues	Less Expenses	Net Revenue
Division	Institution	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	\$	\$
Division I FBS	NCSU	\$124,485,989	88%	\$7,591,574	5%	\$9,471,881	7%	\$141,549,444	(\$134,541,641)	\$7,007,803
	UNC-CH	\$162,527,419	94%	\$8,504,951	5%	\$1,918,664	1%	\$172,951,034	(\$187,967,260)	(\$15,016,226)
	ASU	\$28,145,258	49%	\$16,069,873	28%	\$13,044,230	23%	\$57,259,361	(\$57,271,283)	(\$11,922)
	ECU	\$39,391,951	56%	\$15,138,813	21%	\$16,228,726	23%	\$70,759,490	(\$67,802,688)	\$2,956,802
	UNCC	\$22,666,472	36%	\$27,605,864	44%	\$12,437,478	20%	\$62,709,814	(\$58,583,488)	\$4,126,326
Division I Non-FBS	NCA&T	\$4,866,099	22%	\$10,742,682	48%	\$6,858,180	31%	\$22,466,961	(\$22,353,688)	\$113,273
	NCCU	\$3,530,933	20%	\$5,452,022	30%	\$8,917,562	50%	\$17,900,517	(\$17,900,517)	\$0
	UNCA	\$5,356,271	42%	\$2,467,439	19%	\$4,936,862	39%	\$12,760,572	(\$11,446,082)	\$1,314,490
	UNCG	\$4,541,906	22%	\$10,155,361	50%	\$5,546,376	27%	\$20,243,643	(\$19,824,377)	\$419,266
	UNCW	\$6,910,798	30%	\$13,690,279	59%	\$2,560,133	11%	\$23,161,210	(\$21,522,080)	\$1,639,130
	WCU	\$5,782,291	28%	\$7,290,514	36%	\$7,359,920	36%	\$20,432,725	(\$18,944,143)	\$1,488,582
Division II	ECSU	\$342,901	8%	\$1,491,898	37%	\$2,241,464	55%	\$4,076,263	(\$4,076,263)	\$0
	FSU	\$588,190	9%	\$3,802,720	61%	\$1,853,724	30%	\$6,244,634	(\$5,312,150)	\$932,484
	UNCP	\$1,710,207	20%	\$3,313,871	38%	\$3,655,509	42%	\$8,679,587	(\$6,451,187)	\$2,228,400
	WSSU	\$1,511,165	22%	\$3,097,054	45%	\$2,249,916	33%	\$6,858,135	(\$6,083,882)	\$774,253
Grand Total		\$412,357,850	64%	\$136,414,915	21%	\$99,280,625	15%	\$648,053,390	(\$640,080,729)	\$7,972,661

⁵ Each institution reports the financial data to the NCAA, which includes the data on its “Institutional Performance Program” (IPP) dashboard, and that data usually lags one year. Normally, the institutions rely on the IPP website to provide the NCAA-posted data for this section.

APPENDIX B: FY25 Intercollegiate Athletics Expenses

		Athletic Student Aid & Other Athlete Support		Athletic Salaries & Benefits		Game Expenses/ Team Travel		Other Expenses		Total Expenses
Division	Institution	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	%
Division I FBS	NCSU	\$15,824,593	12%	\$64,629,944	48%	\$16,181,861	12%	\$37,905,243	28%	\$134,541,641
	UNC-CH	\$25,302,633	13%	\$75,403,209	40%	\$23,948,598	13%	\$63,312,820	34%	\$187,967,260
	ASU	\$9,454,726	17%	\$19,049,193	33%	\$6,161,475	11%	\$22,605,889	39%	\$57,271,283
	ECU	\$13,370,343	20%	\$25,979,573	38%	\$10,058,278	15%	\$18,394,494	27%	\$67,802,688
	UNCC	\$10,349,303	18%	\$20,775,959	35%	\$6,839,120	12%	\$20,619,106	35%	\$58,583,488
Division I Non-FBS	NCA&T	\$3,022,046	14%	\$9,406,921	42%	\$3,981,360	18%	\$5,943,361	27%	\$22,353,688
	NCCU	\$5,339,637	30%	\$5,743,435	32%	\$2,033,348	11%	\$4,784,097	27%	\$17,900,517
	UNCA	\$2,479,483	22%	\$3,539,567	31%	\$1,598,268	14%	\$3,828,764	33%	\$11,446,082
	UNCG	\$3,267,331	16%	\$7,327,022	37%	\$2,121,134	11%	\$7,108,890	36%	\$19,824,377
	UNCW	\$3,757,648	17%	\$10,402,428	48%	\$2,731,908	13%	\$4,630,096	22%	\$21,522,080
	WCU	\$3,540,343	19%	\$7,642,650	40%	\$1,773,218	9%	\$5,987,932	32%	\$18,944,143
Division II	ECSU	\$780,463	19%	\$1,455,389	36%	\$1,144,729	28%	\$695,682	17%	\$4,076,263
	FSU	\$1,312,500	25%	\$974,934	18%	\$1,128,250	21%	\$1,896,466	36%	\$5,312,150
	UNCP	\$1,925,036	30%	\$2,297,081	36%	\$825,881	13%	\$1,403,189	22%	\$6,451,187
	WSSU	\$1,605,028	26%	\$2,395,249	39%	\$778,365	13%	\$1,305,240	21%	\$6,083,882
Grand Total		\$101,331,113	16%	\$257,022,554	40%	\$81,305,793	13%	\$200,421,269	31%	\$640,080,729