



Faculty Athletics Representative Report to University Senate

Tim Gleason
Professor of Journalism
Faculty Athletics Representative
May 22, 2017

This report briefly outlines the Faculty Athletics Representative's (FAR) portfolio, provides data related to the academic performance of student-athletes, and discusses current NCAA and PAC-12 policy issues related to the academic life of student-athletes.

In my 2016 report to the Senate I highlighted three key messages:

- The academic performance of UO student-athletes is comparable to the performance of the overall student body, the PAC-12 Conference and Division I student-athletes.
- The Athletic Department and Services for Student-Athletes (Jaqua) are committed to providing student-athletes with a high quality experience on and off the field.
- The intercollegiate athletics landscape is changing. We face significant challenges in maintaining and enhancing the student experience for UO student-athletes and the excellence of UO Athletics.

The student-athlete academic metrics reported here are similar to the 2016 metrics. Athletics and the Jaqua staff continue to do excellent work and the PAC-12 and the NCAA continue to initiate policy changes intended to enhance the student-athlete experience.

The Role of the FAR

The FAR is appointed by and reports to the University President. The portfolio includes the following:

- Certifying the eligibility of student-athletes each term
- Reviewing compliance with NCAA / PAC-12 rules and regulations
- Supporting student-athlete academic performance and well being
- Representing the University at the NCAA and PAC-12 Conference
- Serving as a liaison between UO Athletics and the Faculty

The FAR works closely with the Athletic department, Services for Student-Athletes, the Registrar's office, the Athletics Compliance Advisory Group, the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee and the President's Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee.

Student-athlete Academic Performance

The NCAA provides two national measures of student-athlete performance: The Academic Progress Report (APR) and the Graduation Success Rate (GSR). Along with the GSR, the NCAA provides Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) data. Detailed reports on both measures are available on the NCAA website:

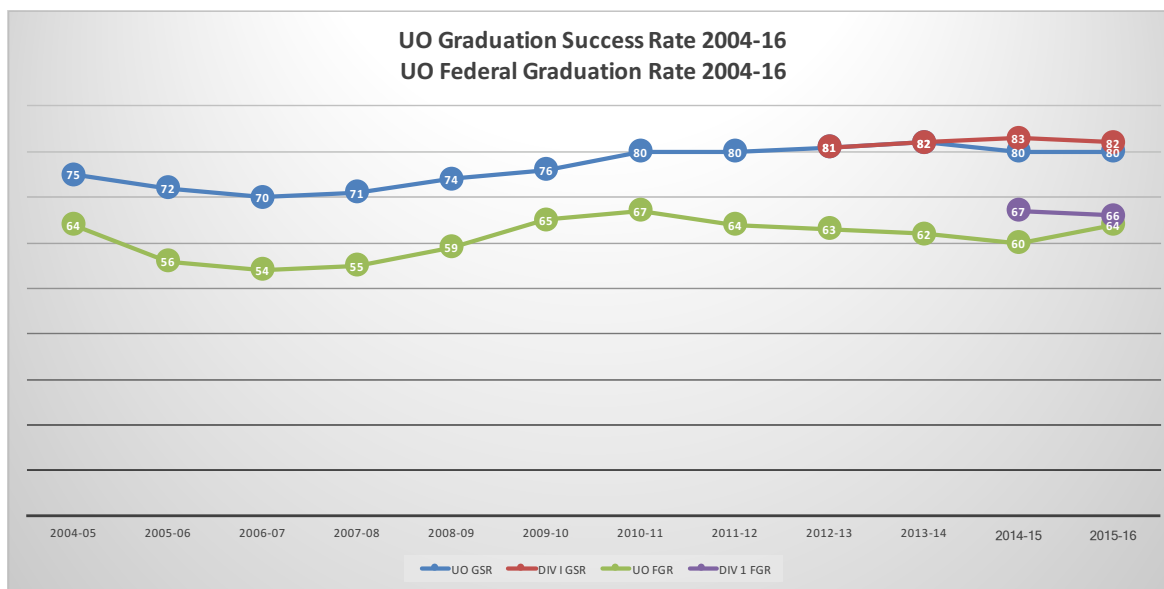
<http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/research/graduation-success-rate>

<http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/research/division-i-academic-progress-rate-apr>

Graduation Success Rate (GSR)

The NCAA developed the GSR to include the performance of transfer students in this metric. The FGR measures the performance of students from the first to the sixth year, without accounting for transfer students. The GSR includes transfer students and thereby provides a more complete picture of the student-athlete experience.

In the most recent GSR report the UO maintained a GSR of 80% which places us in the middle of the PAC-12 and at or around the average for both NCAA Division I and Football Bowl Series (FBS) schools.



Academic Progress Rate (APR)

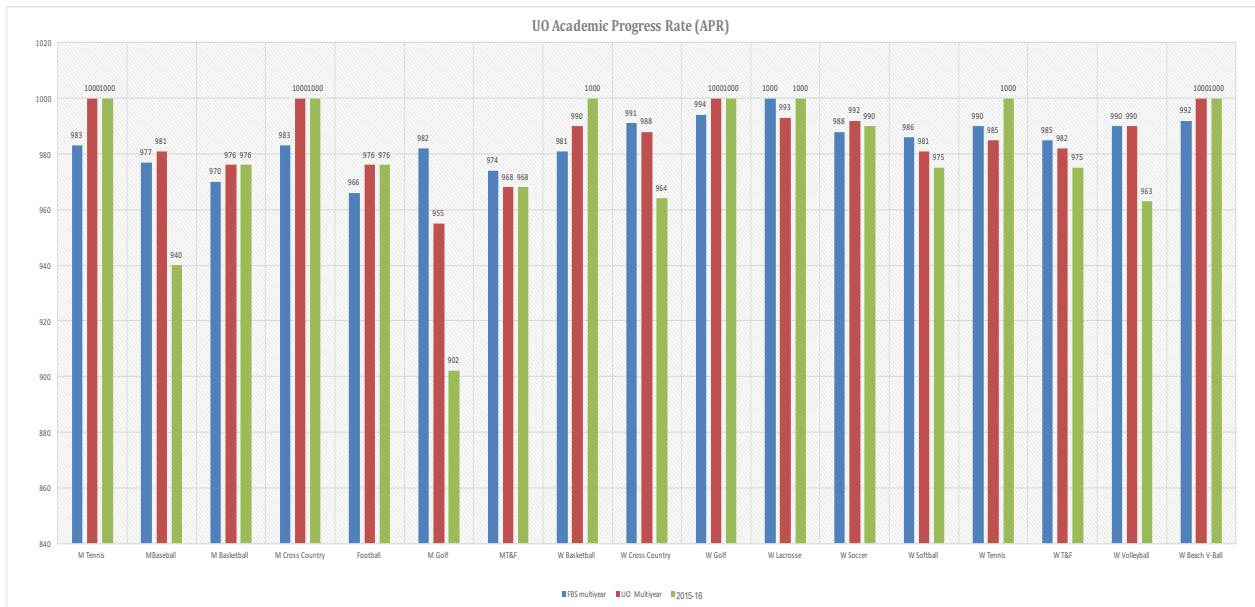
APR measures success in maintaining student-athletes' athletic and academic eligibility. It is calculated as follows:

- Each student-athlete receiving athletically related financial aid earns one point for staying in school and one point for being academically eligible.
- A team's total points are divided by points possible and then multiplied by 1,000 to equal the team's Academic Progress Rate.

- In addition to a team's current-year APR, its rolling four-year APR is also used to determine accountability.

Teams must a four-year APR of 930 to compete in championships.

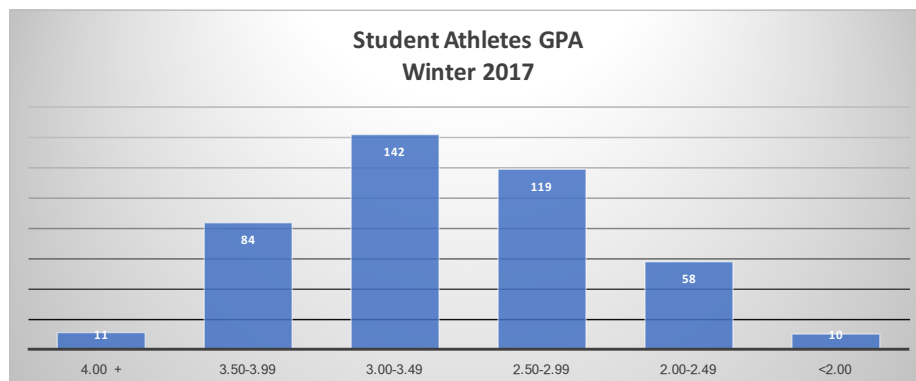
In the most recent NCAA report (May 2016) all UO teams are well above the required 930 four-year APR, with a range among teams of 955 to 1000. The one-year APR range was 905 (one team) to 1000 (7 teams), with an overall one-year APR in 2015-16 of 978 for all sports. There is a significant volatility in the one-year rate, especially on teams with small rosters.



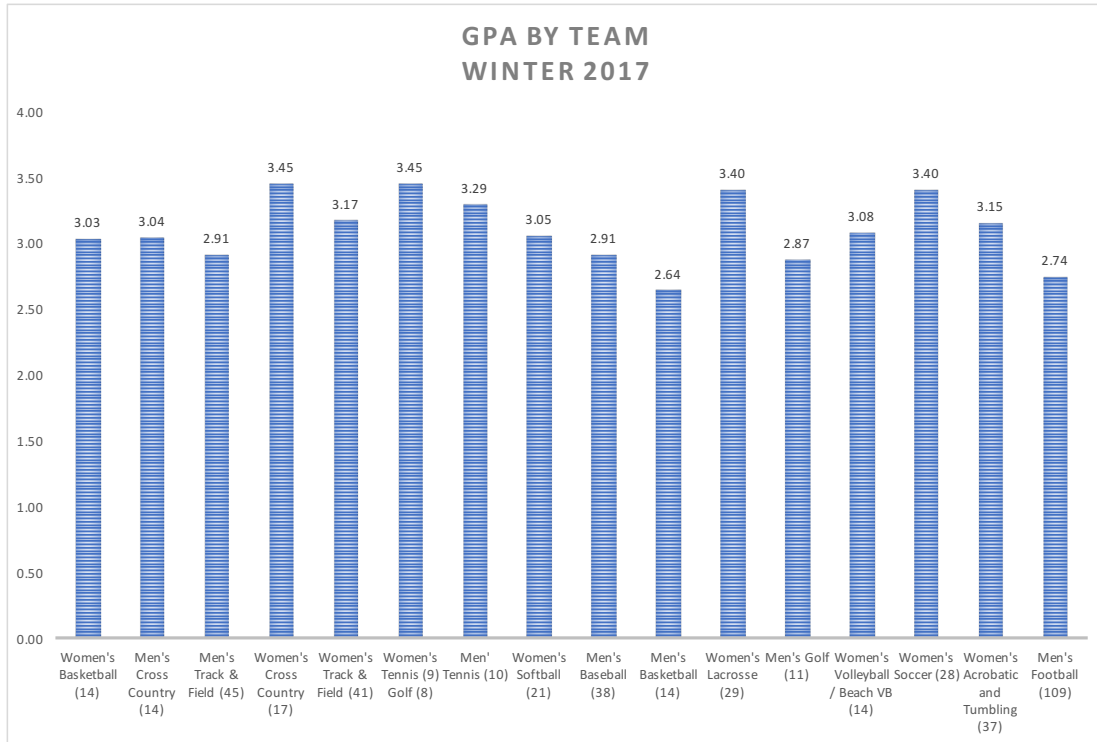
UO Student-Athlete GPA

The UO has 101 Academic All-Americans, with more than 30 added in the last four years. We are now ranked in the top 40 of all universities with Academic All-Americans.

Taking a broader look at student-athlete performance, in the winter 2017 term UO student-athletes earned an average 3.0 GPA. Eighty-four percent of UO student-athletes earned a 2.50 or better GPA for the term.



When GPA distribution is measured on a team basis, the average GPA for UO teams in Winter 2017 was 3.10, with a range of 2.64 to 3.45.



Distribution of Majors

In Winter 2017 student-athletes enrolled in 44 different majors, with the 10 or more students in 12 majors. The major distribution among student athletes mirrors overall University enrollment patterns. In Fall 2015, student-athletes enrolled in 50 different majors with a similar list of majors with more than 10 students enrolled.

Majors: 10 or more student-athletes enrolled		
Undeclared	80	19%
Gen. Social Sci.	75	18%
Pre-Business	51	12%
Human Phys	36	8%
Sociology	22	5%
Journalism	19	4%
Psychology	18	4%
Business	14	3%
Pre-Journalism	14	3%
Biology	12	3%
General Science	10	2%
Economics	10	2%

9 or fewer student-athletes enrolled:

Art,FHS,ACTG,CRES,PS,CDS,GB,PAD,PED,MACS,EDF,P3PM,PFHS,ENG,PHIL,BIC,HUM,
MUS,C&T,ARDG,ANTH,MPA,HIST,CIS,CINE,PPPM,PDS,MATH,FR,UNCL,PEN,NPM,ENV

“Special Admission”

A small number of student-athletes are admitted through the University’s special admission process.

The Vice President for Enrollment Management oversees the review of all student files where the student does not meet one of more of the standard admission criteria. In the case of student-athletes an advisory group that includes a faculty member reviews the files and makes a recommendation.

In the 2016 class 12 student-athlete special admits were 6% of the 192 special admits to the University, 10.5% of the 114 student-athletes in the class, and .003% of the total number of students admitted to the UO. Over the last 5 years, the percentage of student-athletes admitted through this program is 10.5% of all admitted student-athletes.

NCAA Secondary violations

The Compliance office has an aggressive and effective education program in place to make sure that everyone involved in UO Athletics has knowledge of the complex sets of regulations governing intercollegiate sports and of all relevant University policies and practices. Even so, given the complexity of the regulatory environment it is highly unlikely that any athletic department can completely avoid minor NCAA rule violations. It is the University’s obligation to self-report violations as they are discovered.

Athletics has reported three level III violations thus far in 2016-17.

- A student-athlete was eligible and permitted to complete and it was later determined that a grade change from the previous quarter had been awarded in error which rendered the student-athlete retroactively ineligible.
- Recruit information was displayed on a reader board during the recruits’ visit to the institution.
- A coach released impermissible subtweets from which recruits could be identified.

The compliance office has other violation reports in the investigative and drafting stages.

NCAA – PAC-12 legislation related to well-being / student experience

Time Demands

Countable and Required Athletically Related Activity (CARA) / (RARA)

Time demands (i.e. the amount of time student-athletes are required to devote to activity directly related to their sport) have been the subject of significant discussion and NCAA legislation in recent years.

The NCAA regulates the amount of time that student-athletes may spend in practice and competition and requires each institution to closely monitor compliance with these regulations. As of this year, two kinds of activity are controlled: Countable Athletically Related Activity (CARA) and, effective August 1, 2017, Required Athletically Related Activities (RARA). The addition of RARA places greater restrictions on a coach's ability to require student-athlete participation in activities.

CARA: "Countable athletically related activities include any required activity with an athletics purpose involving student-athletes and at the direction of, or supervised by, one or more of an institution's coaching staff (including strength and conditioning coaches) and must be counted within the weekly and daily limitations. Administrative activities (e.g., academic meetings, compliance meetings) shall not be considered as countable athletically related activities."

RARA: "Required athletically related activities include any activities, including those that are countable in the weekly and daily limitations, that are required of a student-athlete. Such activities include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) Compliance meetings; (b) Organized team promotional activities; (c) Recruiting activities, including student-host duties; (d) Media activities; (e) Fundraising events; (f) Community service events; (g) Team-building activities; and (h) Travel to and from away-from-home competition."

The general rule is that a student-athlete may not be required to spend more than 20 hours a week in-season and 8 hours a week out-of-season engaged in CARA.

Additional Non-Athletic Days: One / Seven / Fourteen

In addition, beginning in August 2017, each student-athlete must have one scheduled day off from all CARA and RARA each week, seven days off following the end of the season and at least 14 additional days off during the academic year. In most instances a travel day may not count as a day off, student-athletes may not be required to participate in required activities for an eight-hour period following the end of competition or the return from travel, and RARA is not permitted between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. Many of the restriction listed in this paragraph are the result of legislation passed in the last two years.

Required Time Management Plans

Finally, as of July 2017, coaches are required to work with the student-athletes on their teams to create Time Management Plans. These plans require coaches to have activity schedules for their teams that will be prepared and shared with the team prior to every academic quarter. Any changes in the schedule must be made with at least 24-hours notice. Each team's plan and performance will be reviewed by the President and the FAR on an annual basis. A draft of the UO's plan is now under review.

Other items

Academic Misconduct / Impermissible Academic Assistance

As of August 2016, the NCAA has changed the rules concerning academic misconduct. It is now possible in a case where the institution finds that no academic misconduct for the NCAA to find that the institution provided a student-athlete with “impermissible academic assistance,” even where there is no intent or knowledge on the part of either the student-athlete or any institutional employee to violate any rule. Grading and grade changes are the two areas where institutions are most vulnerable, given the broad faculty autonomy in grading and the lack of rigorous review of grade changes on most campuses.

The Services for Student Athletes staff closely monitor grading patterns in classes with significant student athlete enrollment and the FAR reviews all grade changes for student athletes each term, with follow up inquiries to faculty.

Graduate Transfer Rule

A third NCAA committee is examining the current graduate transfer rule that allows a student-athlete who has completed his or her degree to transfer and play immediately. On one side of the question the view is that the student-athlete has completed a degree and should be allowed to enroll and play his or her last year without restriction. On the other side the concern is that some graduate transfers move only for playing time and have no real interest in graduate education.

The graduate transfer experience on the UO campus illustrates that the effectiveness of the rule varies based on individual circumstances. Since 2010 we have enrolled 28 graduate transfers, with 61% of those student-athletes in Track & Field. Men’s Basketball, Football, Volleyball and Women’s Basketball also have enrolled graduate transfer students. Three are currently enrolled. Forty-six percent of the graduate transfer student-athletes who exhausted their athletic eligibility here completed a graduate degree or certificate program.

Graduate transfer student-athletes have enrolled in 16 different graduate degree or certificate programs: Conflict and Dispute Resolution, Counseling, Family and Human Services, General Business, Geological Sciences, Graduate School UNDL, IS: Individualized Program (5), Nonprofit Management (6), Chemistry, Computer and Information Science, Curriculum and Teaching (2), General Business, Human Physiology, International Studies, Public Administration, and Special Education.

Student-athletes transferred from the following institutions: Boston College, Columbia, Dartmouth (4), Detroit University, E. Washington University, Harvard, University of Illinois, Jacksonville State University, Jamestown College Louisiana Tech, Montana State University, University of Notre Dame, Oregon State University, Princeton (3), UC Irvine, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Villanova University, University of Virginia (3), Willamette University, Georgetown, and Akron.

Television and Travel Schedules

As a result of the current PAC-12 television contracts and the commitment of the PAC-12 Network to broadcast more than 800 events a year, the traditional conference travel patterns and game times are no longer the norm. As part of a PAC-12 strategic planning process, the PAC-12 FARs are discussing a conference-wide review of the impact of travel on student-athlete well-being.

NCAA Values-based Distribution of New Revenue

Beginning in 2019-20 academic year, the NCAA will distribute a portion of the revenue from a new multimedia rights contract with CBS/Turner to conferences based on academic performance as measured by: single-year APR of 985 or higher, GSR of 90% or higher, or a federal graduation rate that is at least 13 percentage points higher than the federal graduation rate of the student body at that school. It remains to be determined how the conferences will distribute these funds among member schools or if the funds will be designated for specific purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Gleason". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "G".

Tim Gleason
Professor of Journalism
Faculty Athletics Representative