

Behind the numbers

Significant academic progress rate gains undergirded by multiple student successes

June 20, 2012 — While NCAA 2010-11 APR (academic progress rate) scores at CSU have improved at an impressive rate, this metric is just one measure that illustrates the academic success among student-athletes at Chicago State University.

The story behind the APR scores of each of CSU's 14 sports paints a vivid picture of how students balance the demands of the field with those of the classroom: The student-athletes' commitment to their academic success is evident through the numbers of graduates this year and results in the classroom:

- Eighteen student-athletes graduated in 2011-12, with four more slated to earn their degrees in summer 2012.
- Nine student-athletes earned a spring term GPA of 4.0; three student-athletes have a perfect cumulative GPA of 4.0.
- 23.5 percent of student-athletes earned a spring term GPA of 3.5 or greater
- 19.8 percent have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- 54.7 percent of student-athletes earned a spring term GPA of 3.0 or greater
- 51.8 percent have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

"Although the NCAA will not publish its final GSR (graduation success rate) report until the fall, based on our preliminary evaluation we are expecting a significant improvement in this measure of student-athlete academic achievement also," says Wayne D. Watson, Ph.D., president of CSU.

The NCAA releases Academic Progress Rate (APR) reports for all Division I institutions on June 20. The APR is a term-by-term measure of eligibility and retention for Division I student-athletes developed as an early indicator of eventual graduation rates.

"The entire Intercollegiate Athletics staff, with many campus partners, has worked tirelessly to ensure that best practices and sustainable policies create an environment that fosters the positive student-athlete academic outcomes," says Sonja Clayton-Pedersen, who instituted measures during her 14-month term as interim athletics director until Dan Schumacher took over June 11.

"As a result," Clayton-Pedersen says, "the institution's new APR scores demonstrate this cultural shift and a steadfast commitment to academic excellence."

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