

**NCAA Division I Graduation Success Rate  
and  
NCAA Division II Academic Success Rate**

**Public Use Dataset Codebook**

*Division I Squad Level*



## **Study Overview**

### **Introduction.**

The Federal Graduation Rate, Graduation Success Rate (GSR) and Academic Success Rate (ASR) all measure the graduation success of students at NCAA member institutions in a relatively similar fashion. At their core, all are based on a comparison of the number of students who entered a college or university in a given year and the number of those who graduated within six years of their initial enrollment. For example, if 100 students entered and 60 graduated within six years, the rate is 60 percent.

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Cohort Members Graduating within 6 Years}}{\text{All Cohort Members}} * 100$$

Where these rates differ is in how each defines the relevant cohort of students.

### **Definitions.**

#### ***Federal Graduation Rate.***

An institution's Federal Graduation Rate cohort for a given academic year includes undergraduate students who enrolled in the fall of that academic year as first-time, full-time, baccalaureate-degree-seeking freshmen. The Federal Graduation Rate cohort for the entire student-body includes all students who meet that definition; the federal cohort for student-athletes includes those who meet that definition and receive athletics aid from the college or university for any period during their freshman year. [Note: Athletics aid is a grant, scholarship, tuition waiver or other assistance that is awarded on the basis of athletics ability.]

The federal student-body and student-athlete cohorts are not mutually exclusive; student-athletes are included in both (i.e., the student-athlete cohort is a subset of the student-body cohort). Students and student-athletes who become permanently disabled, leave school to join the armed forces or foreign services, leave to attend a church mission, or die during the six-year collection window are considered "allowable exclusions" and are removed from the cohort.

#### ***Graduation Success Rate (GSR).***

The GSR is calculated only for student-athletes who are on a team that plays at the NCAA Division I level. An institution's GSR cohort for a given year includes the student-athletes in the federal cohort for that year as defined above (minus exclusions), as well as student-athletes who entered midyear and those who transferred into the institution from either two-year or four-year colleges (see below for more details on transfers). In the GSR, student-athletes who leave the institution but would have been academically eligible to compete in athletics if they had returned, are removed from the cohort thus reducing the denominator of the rate.

For teams that offer athletically related financial aid, midyear enrollees and transfers must receive athletics aid in their first term at the institution to be included in the GSR cohort.

Transfers are placed in the cohort corresponding to their first year of full-time enrollment in any postsecondary institution. For example, a student-athlete who first enrolls full time in Institution A in 2002-03, then transfers to Institution B in 2004-05, would be part of Institution B's 2002-03 GSR cohort. If Institution A is an NCAA member and the student-athlete left in good academic standing, he or she is essentially removed from Institution A's 2002-03 GSR cohort and added to Institution B's 2002-03 cohort.

Some Division I institutions do not offer athletically related financial aid (Ivy League, military academies) or do not grant athletically related financial aid in all of their sponsored sports. The GSR cohort for these institutions or squads will consist of freshmen who are on the roster as of the team's first date of competition.

**GSR Calculation Formula.**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Graduates:} \\
 & \quad [First-Time, Full-Time Fall Freshmen on Athletics Aid] \\
 & \quad + \\
 & \quad [2- and 4-Year Transfers on Athletics Aid] \\
 & \quad + \\
 & \quad [January Enrollees on Athletics Aid] \\
 & \quad + \\
 GSR = & \frac{[Non-Scholarship Student-Athletes if Institution/Team Does not offer Athletics Aid]}{
 \begin{pmatrix}
 \text{Enrolled:} \\
 [First-Time, Full-Time Fall Freshmen on Athletics Aid] \\
 + \\
 [2- and 4-Year Transfers on Athletics Aid] \\
 + \\
 [January Enrollees on Athletics Aid] \\
 + \\
 [Non-Scholarship Student-Athletes if Institution/Team Does not Offer Athletics Aid]
 \end{pmatrix}
 -
 \begin{pmatrix}
 \text{Excluded:} \\
 [First-Time, Full-Time Fall Freshmen on Athletics Aid] \\
 + \\
 [2- and 4-Year Transfers on Athletics Aid] \\
 + \\
 [January Enrollees on Athletics Aid] \\
 + \\
 [Non-Scholarship Student-Athletes if Institution/Team Does not Offer Athletics Aid]
 \end{pmatrix}
 -
 \begin{pmatrix}
 \text{Left Eligible:} \\
 [First-Time, Full-Time Fall Freshmen on Athletics Aid] \\
 + \\
 [2- and 4-Year Transfers on Athletics Aid] \\
 + \\
 [January Enrollees on Athletics Aid] \\
 + \\
 [Non-Scholarship Student-Athletes if Institution/Team Does not Offer Athletics Aid]
 \end{pmatrix}
 }
 \end{aligned}$$

**Academic Success Rate (ASR).**

The ASR is calculated only for student-athletes who are on a team that plays at the NCAA Division II level. The cohort definition is identical to Division I's GSR, except that it includes **all** non-aided freshmen student-athletes who are on a roster during their first year at the institution, rather than just those on athletics aid.

**ASR Calculation Formula.**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Graduates:} \\
 & \quad [First-Time, Full-Time Fall Freshmen on Athletics Aid] \\
 & \quad \quad + \\
 & \quad \quad [2- and 4-Year Transfers on Athletics Aid] \\
 & \quad \quad + \\
 & \quad \quad [January Enrollees on Athletics Aid] \\
 & \quad \quad + \\
 & \quad \quad [Non-Scholarship Student-Athletes] \\
 ASR = & \frac{\quad}{\quad} \\
 & \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Enrolled:} \\ [First-Time, Full-Time} \\ \text{Fall Freshmen} \\ \text{on Athletics Aid} \\ + \\ [2- and 4-Year} \\ \text{Transfers on} \\ \text{Athletics Aid} \\ + \\ [January} \\ \text{Enrollees on} \\ \text{Athletics Aid} \\ + \\ [Non-Scholarship} \\ \text{Student-Athletes} \end{array} \right) - \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Excluded:} \\ [First-Time, Full-Time} \\ \text{Fall Freshmen} \\ \text{on Athletics Aid} \\ + \\ [2- and 4-Year} \\ \text{Transfers on} \\ \text{Athletics Aid} \\ + \\ [January} \\ \text{Enrollees on} \\ \text{Athletics Aid} \\ + \\ [Non-Scholarship} \\ \text{Student-Athletes} \end{array} \right) - \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Left Eligible:} \\ [First-Time, Full-Time} \\ \text{Fall Freshmen} \\ \text{on Athletics Aid} \\ + \\ [2- and 4-Year} \\ \text{Transfers on} \\ \text{Athletics Aid} \\ + \\ [January} \\ \text{Enrollees on} \\ \text{Athletics Aid} \\ + \\ [Non-Scholarship} \\ \text{Student-Athletes} \end{array} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

**Data File No. 5: Division I Squad Level Student-Athletes.**

**General Note.**

This file should be used for analyses of student-athlete data by sport for each institution in Division I. The file is aggregated at the level of sport (squad) for each institution. The graduation rates included in this file represent a four-year rolling average for student-athletes in cohorts 2007 through 2010. The sample included in this data file is limited to championship sport teams in **active** Division I schools.

**Key Terms.*****Cohort.***

A cohort is a group of students who began their full-time postsecondary education in the same academic year. In this study, cohort is named as the year of the fall term. For example, student-athlete cohort 1995 refers to student-athletes who first began college full time during the 1995-1996 academic year.

***Four-Year (or Four-Cohort) Aggregation.***

This file contains the latest four-cohort Federal Graduation Rate and GSR aggregated at team level. A team's four-year Federal Graduation Rate or GSR is calculated by adding all numerators during the four-year period, and then dividing that total by the sum of all denominators during the same period. The four-year rates included in this file are based on the cohorts 2007 through 2010. The rates for a given cohort are reported in the spring immediately after the cohort's six-year graduation window has expired. Therefore, the four-cohort rates included in this file are based on data collected in the spring of 2017.

**Variable Description**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Description and Coding (<i>notes in italics</i>)</b>
SCL_UNITID	UNITID for institution  <i>Unique identification number assigned to postsecondary institutions surveyed through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. Labeled IPEDS ID in the following search tool: <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/">http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/</a></i>
SCL_NAME	Official name of institution
SCL_DIVISION	Institution's division of NCAA membership, 2016-17  Coding: 1 = Division I; 2 = Division II <i>An institution's division of membership corresponds generally to its enrollment, athletics budget and institutional philosophy on athletics. The average enrollment and athletics budgets are highest in Division I and lowest in Division III. Divisions I and II institutions can offer financial aid based on athletics ability.</i>

<p>SCL_SUBDIVISION</p>	<p>Institution's subdivision of NCAA membership among Division I schools, 2016-17                      Coding: 1 = Football Bowl Series (FBS, formerly I-A); 2 = Football Championship Series (FCS, formerly I-AA); 3 = Division I (without football)  <i>Applies to Division I institutions only; this variable is missing for institutions in Division II. FBS institutions (coding=1) have the largest athletics programs and their football teams are eligible for postseason bowl games. FCS teams (coding=2) compete for the FCS championship in a year-end tournament. Schools coded as '3' are Division I institutions that do not sponsor football teams.</i></p>
<p>SCL_CONFERENCE</p>	<p>Name of institution's primary conference, 2016-17</p>
<p>DIV1_FB_CONFERENCE</p>	<p>Name of institution's football conference, 2016-17. <i>Applies to Division I institutions only.</i></p>
<p>SCL_HBCU</p>	<p>Historically Black College or University                      Coding:                      1= HBCU; 2 = Non-HBCU</p>
<p>SCL_PRIVATE</p>	<p>Private school                      Coding:                      0 = Public; 1 = Private</p>
<p>SPORT</p>	<p>Team's sport                      Coding:                      MBA = baseball                      MBB = men's basketball                      MFB = football                      MFE = men's fencing                      MGO = men's golf                      MGY = men's gymnastics                      MIH = men's ice hockey                      MLA = men's lacrosse                      MRI = men's rifle                      MSK = men's skiing                      MSO = men's soccer                      MSW = men's swimming                      MTE = men's tennis                      MTR = men's track/cross country                      MVB = men's volleyball                      MWP = men's water polo                      MWR = men's wrestling                      XRI = mixed rifle                      WBB = women's basketball                      WBW = women's bowling                      WCC = women's cross country                      WCR = women's rowing                      WFE = women's fencing                      WFH = women's field hockey                      WGO = women's golf                      WGY = women's gymnastics                      WIH = women's ice hockey                      WLA = women's lacrosse                      WRI = women's rifle                      WSB = women's softball                      WSK = women's skiing                      WSO = women's soccer                      WSW = women's swimming                      WTE = women's tennis                      WTR = women's track/cross country                      WVB = women's volleyball                      WWP = women's water polo</p>

<p>FED_RATE</p>	<p>Federal graduation rate, 2007-2010 cohorts combined</p> <p><i>Calculated as the percentage of students in the federal cohort(s) who graduate from their initial institution within six years. Those who leave the institution for any reason (other than a handful of 'allowable exclusions') are counted as non-graduates. The federal cohort is full-time, degree-seeking freshmen who enroll in college for the first time in the fall.</i></p>
<p>GSR</p>	<p>Graduation Success Rate, 2007-2010 cohorts combined</p> <p><i>Proportion of students who graduate within six years out of the initial GSR cohorts for the years in question. These rates account for incoming transfer students and mid-year enrollees. Institutions are not penalized for outgoing transfer students who leave in good academic standing. These outgoing transfers are removed from the initial school's calculation, though they may be included in the rate for the school to which they transfer.</i></p>

\*Note: The prefix "scl" before the variable indicates the unit of analysis is at the school level. No prefix indicates unit of analysis is at the squad level.

Please see the Study Overview section of this document for information on cohort definition and rate calculation.