

Altering NCAA Revenue Distribution To Correct Racial Inequity

Knight Commission Public Session
Mayflower Hotel – Washington, DC
May 16, 2022

Purpose statement:

*“The purpose of the **Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics** is to develop, promote, and lead transformational change that prioritizes the education, health, safety and success of college athletes.”*

from Pledges to Policy



Achieving Racial Equity IN COLLEGE SPORTS

*A New Report by the Knight Commission
on Intercollegiate Athletics*



- 1. Closing educational opportunity gaps** to create an equitable pathway for Black athletes' success during and after college.
- 2. Holding institutions accountable in recruitment and hiring** to achieve diversity and equity in athletics leadership.
- 3. Investing in programs that support and enhance Black athletes' college experience** and promote inclusion and belonging.
- 4. Creating more equitable opportunities for Black athletes to assume leadership roles**, especially in advocacy and governance.

Racial Equity Recommendations – Actions Taken To Date

NCAA should implement a holistic evaluation process, based on learning sciences research and best admission practices, that places emphasis on an athlete's high school academic record, including high school grade point average and satisfactory completion of high school core courses.

1. The NCAA should eliminate the standardized test to determine first-year athletics eligibility.



2. To determine first-year athletics eligibility, the

Status: In April 2022, the NCAA DI Council introduced legislation into the 2022-23 legislative cycle, recommended by the Committees on Academics, **to remove the standardized test score requirement from initial-eligibility requirements**. This legislation will be voted on at the Council's January 2023 meeting.

Actions Taken To Date

Racial Equity Recommendations –

3. The NCAA should require institutions to

designate the equivalent of the “senior woman administrator” position to represent the interests of athletes of color.



Status: NCAA Council with support from NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interest Committee and Men’s and Women’s Basketball Oversight Committees advanced a proposal in NCAA Legislative Cycle that **requires conferences and institutions to designate a senior minority athletics administrator.**

4. The Knight Commission will fund independent research to examine if institutions with large racial graduation gaps in GSR scores in one or more sports are qualifying for financial awards through the NCAA’s new academic incentive program, and if so, whether the NCAA should institute an additional standard or filter for institutions to receive funding for meeting academic benchmarks.

Status: May 16 presentation of research.



Overview of Financial Incentives tied to Academic Success



Between 2019 and 2032, more than **\$1.1 billion** will be rewarded to institutions for the academic and graduation success of their teams.

Between **2021 and 2032**, more than **\$1.1 billion** is dedicated to reward institutions for the academic and graduation success of their teams.

Key Points: **NCAA Academic Performance Fund**

- Knight Commission first recommended academic incentives in **2001** with ongoing

advocacy until adoption in **2016**

- **\$1.1B** is a significant allocation for academic success



NCAA Academic Performance Fund Criteria (2016)

Academic Unit is achieved by meeting the benchmark in any ONE of THREE standards

OR OR

- Benchmark based on top quartile of schools in 2015

- Utilizes single-year data (not multi-year) and all sports are aggregated with equal weighting for each sport •
- Thresholds originally selected so that approximately 2/3 of membership achieve an Academic Unit

Institutional Academic Performance has Improved Evaluating by the 75th Percentile

**75th
Percentile
2015**

**75th
Percentile
2019**

90% 95%

985 989

13% 12%



Institutional Academic Performance has Improved Number and Percentage of Division I Institutions Qualifying for Each of the Three Standards

2015 2019 # of institutions % of institutions # of institutions % of institutions

147 42% 188 54%

128 37% 189 54%

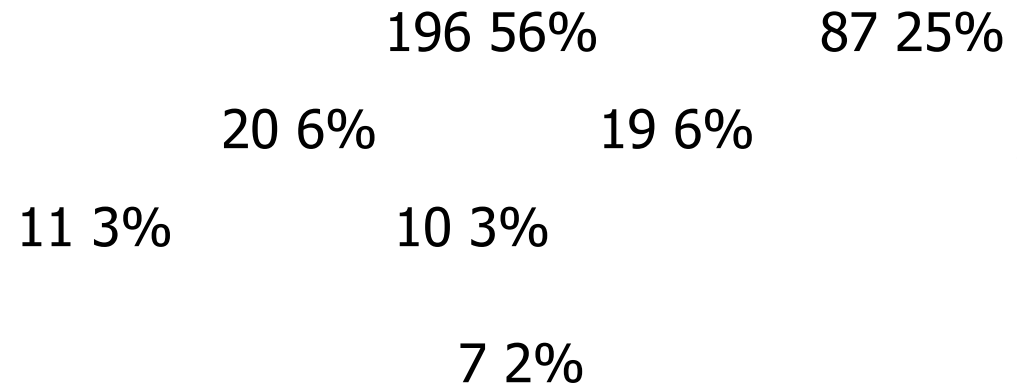
90 26% 81 23%

243 69% 278 79%

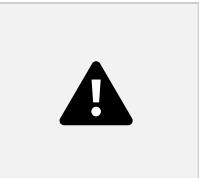


Gap Between Division I Black and White GSR All 350 DI Institutions (all sports)

2019



Example:
In 2019, 56% of all Division I institutions had less than a 10% gap between Black and White GSR.



What would be the result of a **new Racial Equity Standard** as a filter to achieve academic units?

Racial Equity Standard =

A designated maximum percentage gap between Black

and White college athlete Graduation Success Rates (GSR) among qualifying institutions

Impact of a Racial Equity Standard:

A maximum percentage gap between Black and White college athlete Graduation Success Rates (GSR)

261 75%

2019

278 79%

211 60%

231 66%

250 71%

- If the 25% maximum gap between Black and White college athlete GSR's had been applied in 2019, **231** institutions would qualify for the academic unit.
- Data should be evaluated on a regular basis (or at least every four years)
- Goal is to move toward decreasing the percentage gap allowed.



(based 2019 data)

Estimated Impact of a Racial Equity Standard by DI Subdivision

**Estimated Academic Unit
Academic Unit Qualifiers
Qualifiers using new Standard (25% gap)**

	278 79%	231 66%	100 77%	82 63%	54 83%	49 75%	46 71%	33
51%	95 77%	81 66%	83 86%	68 70%	11 48%	11 48%		



Example:

In 2019, **100** FBS institutions qualified for the Academic Unit. If the Racial Equity Standard had been applied, **82** FBS institutions would have qualified for the Academic Unit.



A NEW Knight Commission Recommendation To Improve NCAA Revenue Distribution to Address Racial Equity

Racial Equity Standard:

RESULT

First Standard (new)

+ Existing Standards

OR OR

