

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

**Public Use Dataset Codebook**

*Division I National Aggregation Student-Athletes*



## **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.**

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

**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.**

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

**Data File No. 2: Division I National Aggregation Student-Athletes.**

**General Note.**

This file should be used for analyses of student-athlete data by gender, race/ethnicity and sport for the Division I population. This file contains national aggregated numerators and denominators for Federal Graduation Rate and GSR at the level of race/ethnicity within sport (gender-specific). The sample included in this file covers Division I student-athletes from the 1995 through 2011 cohorts. Because the sample included in this file is limited to **active** Division

I member schools, the numbers in this data file may differ slightly from the national aggregated numbers in the graduation rate reports published on ncaa.org.

**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.

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

This file contains national aggregated numbers for the Federal Graduation Rate and GSR for each cohort from 1995 through 2011. The rates for a given cohort are reported in the spring immediately after the cohort's six-year graduation window has expired. Schools may also correct these rates during the following three reporting periods; after that, the Federal Graduation Rate/GSR numbers become final. These final numbers are reported in this data file. Because publicly reported rates are not revised after the first year, the rates in this data file may differ slightly from the single-year rates reported in the searchable database on ncaa.org.

<b>Cohort</b>	<b>First FED/GSR report</b>	<b>Last year for FED/GSR correction</b>
1995	Spring 2002	Spring 2005
1996	Spring 2003	Spring 2006
1997	Spring 2004	Spring 2007
1998	Spring 2005	Spring 2008
1999	Spring 2006	Spring 2009
2000	Spring 2007	Spring 2010
2001	Spring 2008	Spring 2011
2002	Spring 2009	Spring 2012
2003	Spring 2010	Spring 2013
2004	Spring 2011	Spring 2014
2005	Spring 2012	Spring 2015
2006	Spring 2013	Spring 2016
2007	Spring 2014	Spring 2017
2008	Spring 2015	Spring 2018
2009	Spring 2016	Spring 2019
2010	Spring 2017	Spring 2020
2011	Spring 2018	Spring 2021

**Variable Description**

Variable	Variable Description and Coding ( <i>notes in italics</i> )
SPORT_CODE_SA	Team's sport (Gender-specific sport code) 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 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

GENDER_SA	Student-athlete gender Coding: M = Male F = Female
ETHNICITY_SA	Student-athlete race/ethnicity Coding: <b>aa</b> = African-American <b>wh</b> = White <b>hsp</b> = Hispanic <b>other</b> = All other race/ethnicity groupings, including American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Non-Resident Alien, Two or More Races, Unknown.  <i>It is important to note that the "other" category might not contain students from all the above race/ethnicity groupings. For example, "other" could contain only Asian and Non-Resident Alien student-athletes for some sports.</i>
DATATAB_FED_NUMERATOR	<i>Note: Federal numerator = students who graduated and were part of the final federal cohort for that year</i>
FED_NUM_2011_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2011
FED_NUM_2010_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2010
FED_NUM_2009_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2009
FED_NUM_2008_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2008
FED_NUM_2007_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2007
FED_NUM_2006_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2006
FED_NUM_2005_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2005
FED_NUM_2004_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2004
FED_NUM_2003_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2003
FED_NUM_2002_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2002
FED_NUM_2001_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2001
FED_NUM_2000_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2000
FED_NUM_1999_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 1999
FED_NUM_1998_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 1998
FED_NUM_1997_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 1997
FED_NUM_1996_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 1996
FED_NUM_1995_SA	Federal numerator, student-athlete single cohort 1995

DATATAB_FED_DENOMINATOR	<i>Note: Federal denominator = enrolled students minus exclusions Exclusions: Death or permanent disability; church mission; military service; public service mission (e.g., Peace Corps)</i>
FED_DEN_2011_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2011
FED_DEN_2010_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2010
FED_DEN_2009_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2009
FED_DEN_2008_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2008
FED_DEN_2007_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2007
FED_DEN_2006_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2006
FED_DEN_2005_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2005
FED_DEN_2004_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2004
FED_DEN_2003_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2003
FED_DEN_2002_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2002
FED_DEN_2001_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2001
FED_DEN_2000_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2000
FED_DEN_1999_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 1999
FED_DEN_1998_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 1998
FED_DEN_1997_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 1997
FED_DEN_1996_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 1996
FED_DEN_1995_SA	Federal denominator, student-athlete single cohort 1995
DATATAB_GSR_NUMERATOR	<i>Note: GSR numerator = sum of all graduating students who were in the GSR cohort for that year including those in the federal cohort, transfers from two/four year institutions, January enrollees, and non-scholarship students (where applicable).</i>
GSR_NUM_2011_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2011
GSR_NUM_2010_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2010
GSR_NUM_2009_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2009
GSR_NUM_2008_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2008
GSR_NUM_2007_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2007
GSR_NUM_2006_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2006
GSR_NUM_2005_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2005
GSR_NUM_2004_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2004
GSR_NUM_2003_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2003
GSR_NUM_2002_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2002



GSR_NUM_2001_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2001
GSR_NUM_2000_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 2000
GSR_NUM_1999_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 1999
GSR_NUM_1998_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 1998
GSR_NUM_1997_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 1997
GSR_NUM_1996_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 1996
GSR_NUM_1995_SA	GSR numerator, student-athlete single cohort 1995
DATATAB_GSR_DENOMINATOR	<i>Note: GSR denominator = total of enrolled students in cohort, minus exclusions, minus students who left the institution but did so while still eligible to compete.</i>
GSR_DEN_2011_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2011
GSR_DEN_2010_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2010
GSR_DEN_2009_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2009
GSR_DEN_2008_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2008
GSR_DEN_2007_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2007
GSR_DEN_2006_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2006
GSR_DEN_2005_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2005
GSR_DEN_2004_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2004
GSR_DEN_2003_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2003
GSR_DEN_2002_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2002
GSR_DEN_2001_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2001
GSR_DEN_2000_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 2000
GSR_DEN_1999_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 1999
GSR_DEN_1998_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 1998
GSR_DEN_1997_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 1997
GSR_DEN_1996_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 1996
GSR_DEN_1995_SA	GSR denominator, student-athlete single cohort 1995

**Federal Graduation Rate and GSR (Division I) Calculation.**

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

To calculate a Federal Graduation Rate or GSR using this dataset:

1. Choose the appropriate aggregation (e.g., gender, sport, race/ethnicity, or some combination) and sum the numerators and denominators for that aggregate group.
2. Divide the summed numerator by the summed denominator and multiply by 100.

For example, to calculate the 2002 Federal Graduation Rate for all male student-athletes:

1. Aggregate on GENDER\_SA.
2. Divide the aggregated sum of FED\_NUM\_2002\_SA by the aggregated sum of FED\_DEN\_2002\_SA, and multiply by 100.

***Note: In an effort to ensure confidentiality, this file was carefully examined for low cell sizes. A numerator or denominator value of three or fewer was deleted and is treated as missing in this data set. If a numerator was deleted, so too was the corresponding denominator. Consequently, using this data file, it may not be possible to calculate Federal Graduation Rate or GSR for every gender, sport or ethnicity combination.***