Undergraduate Experiences and Post-College Outcomes for Division I Student-Athletes
Findings from the NCAA | Gallup Study, 2020
Methods

- Web-based surveys of a random sample of 73,901 respondents, age 18 and older, who have a bachelor’s degree and live in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

- This study included responses from five iterations of the Gallup Alumni Survey compiled in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019.

- Participants were college graduates from 1975 to 2019. The sample included 4,889 former NCAA student-athletes and 69,012 nonathletes.

### Participants by Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Division I</th>
<th>Division II</th>
<th>Division III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonathletes</td>
<td>39,331</td>
<td>8,564</td>
<td>10,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former NCAA athletes</td>
<td>2,064</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>1,637</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Divisional status based on 2018-19 membership. The number of respondents within division is smaller than the overall sample because some alma maters are no longer NCAA member schools, while other institution data was incomplete or indiscernible.
NCAA Division I
Student-Athlete Outcomes
What Does a “Great Life” Look Like?

**Purpose**
How you occupy your time; liking what you do each day

**Social**
Relationships and love in your life

**Financial**
Managing your economic life to reduce stress and increase security

**Community**
Engagement and involvement in the area where you live

**Physical**
Good health and enough energy to get things done daily
Former Division I athletes thrive at greater rates in 4 of 5 areas of well-being.

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
Post-college education and career engagement
Division I student-athletes earned postgraduate degrees at higher rates than their nonathlete peers.

- Division I:
  - Former Athletes*: 41%
  - Nonathletes: 33%

- Division II:
  - Former Athletes*: 37%
  - Nonathletes: 30%

- Division III:
  - Former Athletes*: 41%
  - Nonathletes: 37%

- Overall:
  - Former Athletes*: 39%
  - Nonathletes: 32%

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
Time to First Job After College
Division I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6 months or less</th>
<th>7 months – 1 year</th>
<th>More than a year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Former Athletes*</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonathletes</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
Ninety-one percent of former athletes who graduated in 1991 or later are employed either full time or at their desired level of employment. This is also true for former nonathletes.

This rate is also about the same for both male (92%) and female (90%) former NCAA student-athletes.

Former NCAA student-athletes are more likely (16%*) to hold a managerial position than former nonathletes (13%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Holding a Managerial Position by Division</th>
<th>Division I</th>
<th>Division II</th>
<th>Division III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Former NCAA athletes</td>
<td>18%*</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonathletes</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
Managerial Positions by Gender
Division I

**MALES**
- Former Athletes: 20%
- Nonathletes: 16%

**FEMALES**
- Former Athletes: 15%
- Nonathletes: 11%

Managerial Positions by Generation
Division I

**FULL SAMPLE**
- Former Athletes*: 18%
- Nonathletes: 13%

**1990-2019 ALUMNI**
- Former Athletes: 17%
- Nonathletes: 12%

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
I gained important job-related skills while completing my undergraduate degree.

I am deeply interested in the work that I do.

I have the ideal job for me.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Former Athletes*</th>
<th>Nonathletes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I gained</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am deeply</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
I am deeply interested in the work that I do.
Division I, by race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Nonathletes</th>
<th>Former Athletes*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLACK</strong></td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHITE</strong></td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have the ideal job for me.
Division I, by race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Nonathletes</th>
<th>Former Athletes*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLACK</strong></td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHITE</strong></td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Questions not included in all five iterations of survey; only Black and white racial categories had enough respondents in the sample to be shared. Insufficient response numbers to report findings regarding “gaining job-related skills” by race.

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
Since 1990, Division I student-athletes are more likely to graduate with $0 in college loan debt as compared with their nonathlete peers.

1975-1989 Graduates: Percentage with $0 in loans at graduation
- Former Athletes: 63%
- Nonathletes: 62%

1990-2019 Graduates: Percentage with $0 in loans at graduation
- Former Athletes: 53%
- Nonathletes: 44%

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
College experiences and engagement
86%* of former Division I student-athletes agreed or strongly agreed they were challenged academically in college, compared with 81% of nonathletes who felt that way.

55% of former Division I student-athletes worked on a project that took a semester or more to complete, similar to the percentage of nonathletes with such projects (54%).

50%* of former Division I student-athletes held a leadership position in a club or organization, compared with 32% of nonathletes.

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
Campus Faculty Engagement
Division I, Percentage Who Agreed or Strongly Agreed

I had at least one professor who made me excited about learning.

- Former Athletes: 87%
- Nonathletes: 87%

My professors cared about me as a person.

- Former Athletes*: 58%
- Nonathletes: 54%

I had a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams.

- Former Athletes*: 45%
- Nonathletes: 40%

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
Campus Faculty Engagement
Division I, Percentage Who Agreed or Strongly Agreed by Race

I had at least one professor who made me excited about learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nonathletes</th>
<th>Former Athletes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLACK</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My professors cared about me as a person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nonathletes</th>
<th>Former Athletes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLACK</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I had a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nonathletes</th>
<th>Former Athletes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLACK</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Only Black and white student-athlete racial categories had enough respondents in the sample to be shared. *Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
Time To Complete Undergraduate Degree
Division I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4 years or less</th>
<th>5 years</th>
<th>More than 5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Former Athletes*</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonathletes</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
### Time to Complete Undergraduate Degree by Race

**Division I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Former Athletes*</th>
<th>Nonathletes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLACK</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHITE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>4 years or less</th>
<th>5 years</th>
<th>More than 5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Former Athletes*</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonathletes</td>
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<td>29%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Athletes*</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonathletes</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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Note: Only Black and white student-athlete racial categories had enough respondents in the sample to be shared.

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
Former Division I student-athletes are less likely to have transferred during college than their nonathlete peers.

**Former Athletes***
- Did not transfer: 78%
- Transferred from a 2-year college: 10%
- Transferred from a 4-year college: 12%

**Nonathletes**
- Did not transfer: 65%
- Transferred from a 2-year college: 20%
- Transferred from a 4-year college: 15%

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)
Likelihood of Recommending Their College to Friends, Family or Colleagues
Division I

69% of former Division I student-athletes are likely to recommend their college to others, the same percentage as nonathletes (69%).

Note: Top 3 points on a 10-point Likert scale (10=“extremely likely”).
Former Division I athletes are more likely than nonathletes to have made a financial donation to their college within the past 12 months.

**Division I**
- Former Athletes*: 28%
- Nonathletes: 19%

**Division II**
- Former Athletes*: 21%
- Nonathletes: 12%

**Division III**
- Former Athletes*: 33%
- Nonathletes: 21%

*Statistically significant difference (p<.05)