



News Release

Contacts: Robert T. Tad Perry, Executive Director
tadp@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Information & Institutional Research
janellet@sdbor.edu

T: 605.773.3455

F: 605.773.5320

www.sdbor.edu

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Student Athletes Do Well Academically

MADISON, S.D. – A new report prepared for the South Dakota Board of Regents shows that student athletes at the six public universities stack up well academically when compared to the general student body.

At each of the six campuses, the grade point average of all student athletes outpaced the GPA of the general student population.

“This report provides us important data by which to judge the academic profile of our student athletes,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett. “These figures appear to dispel some of the myths associated with student athletes, and tend to reinforce the view that South Dakota’s public higher education system does attract quality students.”

While a system-wide GPA could not be computed from the data for all students and all athletes, the institutional GPAs for student athletes ranged from a high of 2.89 at South Dakota State University to a low of 2.6 at Black Hills State University. In comparison, the GPA for all students by institution ranged between 2.7 at Dakota State University and 2.37 at BHSU.

Additionally, student athletes’ scores on the math sub-test of the ACT college admissions exam averaged higher than the math sub-test scores for all students in the regents’ system. Student athletes did perform slightly below system averages on the ACT English sub-test.

The report examined data for students enrolled in the spring and fall 2003 terms.

Only 20 of the system’s 793 student athletes—or 2.2 percent—were admitted in 2003 as exceptions to the regents’ admissions policy for all universities. About half of those 20 were receiving scholarship support. Across the system, there were 298 students overall admitted under exceptions that year.