



News Release

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Student Athletes Excel at Public Universities

ABERDEEN, S.D. – According to a report presented to the Board of Regents, student athletes are doing as well or better than non-athletes on campus.

The latest athletic academic report showed that on average athletes had a significantly higher GPA of 2.72, compared to a 2.49 GPA for non-athletes. And on average athletes took a higher number of term credit hours (13.6) than non-athletes (12.4).

Athletes at the public universities are also more likely to graduate. Eighty-four percent of student athletes graduated or were retained in 2005-06, compared to a 75 percent graduation/retention rate for non-athletes.

“Our student athletes come prepared, having learned in high school what they need to do in order to balance their academic and athletic careers. Student athletes possess organizational and time management skills that other students haven’t had to learn yet,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett.

Preparing for college was important to athletes. The report showed a greater percentage of athletes were South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship (SDOS) recipients than non-athletes. For the past three years, 7 percent of athletes were SDOS recipients while 6 percent of non-athletes were recipients.

The athletic academic report is presented to the Board of Regents annually. Four cohort groups were represented in this report. The most recent cohort (for the 2006-07 academic year) consists of 645 (9 percent) athletes and 6,503 (91 percent) non-athletes.