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Athletes' Academic Performance Examined

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The latest report on athlete academic performance at the six public universities showed athletes continue to do as well academically as non-athletes.

The Athlete Academic Report, first generated in 2002, takes a close look at academic performance of athletes at the public universities through seven academic performance indicators. These indicators include: admission by exception rate, ACT performance, South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship participation rate, term grade-point average, Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) performance, term credit hours, and graduation/retention rate.

“Not much has changed,” said Daniel Palmer, the South Dakota Board of Regents’ director of institutional research. “The report continues to show academic performance is still comparable between athletes and non-athletes. Some of the indicators show areas in which athletes perform slightly better while other indicators show non-athletes as having a bit higher score, but overall the differences are not significant.”

Comparing ACT subtest scores for athletes and non-athletes, athletes scored lower on English, but higher in math; however, for overall grade point average (GPA), athletes had the higher average with a 2.73. The average GPA for non-athletes was 2.47.

An area where non-athletes out-performed athletes was the state’s proficiency exam. In three of the four subtests of the CAAP exam, non-athletes scored slightly higher than athletes.

The report also shows an increase in the percentage of athletes who are recipients of the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship and that athletes continue to take more credit hours and have higher graduation and retention rates than non-athletes.

	Athletes	Non-Athletes
GPA	2.73	2.47
CAAP Pass Rates		
Reading	87.1%	94.7%
Writing	82.9%	88.9%
Mathematics	98.6%	96.3%
Science Reasoning	95.7%	98.0%
Graduation Rate	80.8%	74.9%
ACT Scores		
English	21.3	21.6
Math	22.8	22.1
SD Opportunity Scholarship	11.5%	12.8%
Term Credit Hours	13.2	11.7
Graduation/Retention Rate	80.8%	74.9%

On the Net:

http://www.sdbor.edu/services/academics/ReportsAccountability/documents/2012_Athletic_Academic_Report.pdf

