

## Characteristics of NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant Proposals (2006-2016)

In November 2016, the NCAA Research Committee [announced](#) the recipients of financial awards as part of the 2016 NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant Program. Currently in its 11th year, the goals of this grant program are (1) to stimulate research on college athletics; (2) to foster contributions to the empirical research on college athletics; (3) to provide financial support to graduate students interested in engaging in high-quality research related to college athletics; and (4) to assist NCAA institutions and the general public in gaining access to new, outstanding research in this field.

Study abstracts of previously funded projects can be found on the NCAA Research [website](#). As part of a review of submission and funding trends, every proposal from the past 11 years was coded by demographics of the student researchers and study participants, NCAA division of study site, study topic and research methodology. Grant proposals submitted to the NCAA Sport Science Institute are not included in these analyses.

### Graduate Researcher Demographics

The gender of each graduate student submitting a proposal was coded based on the gendered pronouns used to discuss the work of each applicant in the proposals' accompanying letters of support. The NCAA division of the school at which each graduate student was enrolled also was coded. Women were in the majority of those submitting proposals and had a slightly higher funding rate than male applicants.

Gender of Student Researcher	Submitted	Funded (percent submitted that were funded)
Female	179	30 (17%)
Male	122	11 (9%)
<b>Graduate Institution of Student Researcher*</b>		
Division I	275	38 (14%)
Division II	11	1 (9%)
Division III	10	1 (10%)
Non-NCAA	5	1 (20%)*

\*Note: Attending an NCAA-member graduate institution is now a criterion for receiving an award.

NCAA Division for Data Collection	Submitted	Funded (percent submitted that were funded)
Division I	199	21 (14%)
Division II	11	1 (9%)
Division III	15	1 (7%)
Multi-divisional	71	12 (17%)
Non-NCAA	3	0 (0%)
Not specified	2	0 (0%)

### Research Sites

The Research Committee has demonstrated a commitment to expand athletics research on topics outside of Division I. While almost all proposals have come from those enrolled at Division I graduate institutions, nearly one in four applicants proposed to analyze data from more than one NCAA division.

### Areas of Research

The Graduate Student Research Grant Program invites proposals on a wide range of topics in intercollegiate athletics including student-athlete well-being, athletics policy, the role of athletics administrators, coach-athlete interactions, economics and the history of sport. While proposals for all of these topics have been submitted, the area of greatest interest among graduate scholars has been research on the general student-athlete population - be it academic experiences, career planning, identity development or the retrospective experiences

NCAA Graduate Research Grant Submissions by Topic		
Broad Topic	Submitted	Funded (percent submitted that were funded)
Student-Athlete (SA) Experience	170	17 (10%)
African American SA Experience	19	5 (26%)
Experience of Under-represented SA Populations, non-African American	24	4 (17%)
Athletic Administration Role (ADs, SWA, Compliance, etc.)	20	5 (25%)
Coach Role and Influence	18	3 (17%)
Faculty Role in Intercollegiate Athletics	1	1 (100%)
Intercollegiate Athletics Policy	21	2 (10%)
Economics/Finance of College Sports	14	2 (14%)
Other (Media, Marketing, History)	14	2 (14%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>N=301</b>	<b>41 (14%)</b>

of former student-athletes. Of the 301 proposals submitted since 2006, more than half have proposed to examine the general student-athlete experience.

### Research Participants

Of those proposals intending to use human subjects for their research, we examined how many included samples that were majority female or participants of color. These studies were funded at a higher rate than for the grant program as a whole (14%).

Participant Demographics	Submitted	Funded (percent submitted that were funded)
≥50% Female	34	7 (21%)
≥50% People of Color	28	7 (25%)

### Methodologies Used in Proposed Research

The Research Committee has reviewed proposals employing a range of methodologies. While close to half of proposals proposed quantitative methods, over a quarter have been qualitative in design. Additionally, qualitative proposals have been the more successfully funded (19%) than quantitative (12%).

