

**Graduation Rates, NCAA Division I Graduation Success Rate,  
NCAA Division II Academic Success Rate and Division III Academic Success Rate**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**(Updated: March 2017)**

The following information contains frequently asked questions and answers to assist the membership with the collection of graduation rates data.

**Institutional Reporting Requirements.**

**Question No. 1:** What do I need to submit?

**Answer:** All NCAA member institutions **MUST** complete the student-body graduation rates and the student-body enrollment (first column on that page). Institutions that offer athletics aid must also complete the student-athlete enrollment.

Division I members must also provide the Graduation Success Rate (GSR) for student-athletes; Division II members must also provide the Academic Success Rate (ASR) for student-athletes. If you are a Division III member providing **voluntary** data, you will also be providing ASR data for your student-athletes.

**Question No. 2:** Our institution recently dropped a sport/reclassified from Division I to Division III and is no longer awarding athletics aid in that particular sport or throughout the athletics program for all sports. What data do we need to submit?

**Answer:** Your institution is required to complete the federal [Postsecondary-Education Data Systems (IPEDS)] section for student-athletes up to and including the last freshman cohort for whom your institution awarded athletics aid. For example, if the last freshman class that was awarded athletics aid was the class entering fall 2010; then, the 2010 fall cohort would be the last cohort for which your institution would be required to submit federal/IPEDS data.

**Question No. 3:** Our institution began to report NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) data for the 2011-12 cohort. Since our institution does not have a 2010-11 APR cohort, which is being reported this year, what data reporting requirements do we need to meet?

**Answer:** Your institution would be required to report the following data for the 2010-11 cohort:

- a. Student-body graduation rate data.
- b. Student-athlete graduation rate data.
- c. Student-athlete enrollment data.
- d. Student-body enrollment data.
- e. Student-athlete GSR data.

**Question No. 4:** Is our institution required to submit data for sports that are not being used to meet sports-sponsorship requirements?

**Answer:** Yes, institutions must report data for ALL sports even if the sport is not being used to meet NCAA sports-sponsorship requirements.

**Question No. 5:** Our institution awards athletics aid in a non-NCAA sponsored sport. How does our institution report graduation rates, GSR and ASR data for that sport?

**Answer:** If your institution awards athletics aid in a non-NCAA sponsored sport, your institution is required to report their graduation rates in order to comply with federal reporting requirements. Your institution will need to enter their data, either manually or by importing a text file. Instructions for creating the file may be found under the "Graduation Rates" tab.

### **Student Reporting.**

**Question No. 1:** Our institution's census (enrollment) date is after the fifth week of classes. Should a student-athlete who was included in the APR/ATS data be included in the GSR/ASR data if he or she withdrew after the fifth week of classes but before the census (enrollment) date?

**Answer:** No, the APR/ATS definition for inclusion in the cohort is different than the federal or GSR/ASR definition. Only student-athletes who were enrolled as of the institution's census (enrollment) date should be included in the graduation (federal and GSR/ASR) cohorts.

**Question No. 2:** Our institution does not offer athletics aid in a sport and has a nonscholarship freshman who was on a team's roster for only the freshman year – he or she either left or was removed from the team. Does our

institution still need to include this student-athlete when reporting GSR/ASR data?

**Answer:** Yes, such a student-athlete remains in the cohort, regardless of the number of years he or she participated in a sport.

**Question No. 3:** How are multisport student-athletes reported?

**Answer:** Multisport student-athletes should be reported only ONCE and should be placed in the sport for which they received athletics aid as freshmen. If a student-athlete received athletics aid in more than one sport during the freshman year, the federal hierarchy should be followed (i.e., football, basketball, baseball, cross-country/track, all other sports) and the student-athlete should be reported accordingly.

A student-athlete who did not receive athletics aid as a freshman but was recruited or on a roster as of the first date of competition, should be reported in that sport. Institutions should use the federal hierarchy for a freshman student-athlete who participated in more than one sport without receiving athletics aid. If the freshman student-athlete did not receive athletics aid, but participated in more than one of the "other" sports, the institution should select a sport to place the student-athlete.

**Question No. 4:** A student-athlete graduated from another four-year institution and then transferred to our institution seeking a second baccalaureate or graduate degree. Should this student-athlete be included in our institution's reporting of graduation rates data?

**Answer:** No, the student-athlete has already graduated from another institution and should be excluded from your institution's reporting. Graduation rates, GSR and ASR reporting are for undergraduate students and student-athletes only.

**Question No. 5:** How are the sports of cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field reported for the GSR/ASR? In the past, these three sports have been combined when reporting the IPEDS-Graduation Rate Survey/federal graduation data. Will the GSR/ASR also combine these three sports when reporting data?

**Answer:** Yes, these three sports will continue to be combined. However, if cross country, indoor or outdoor track and field teams fall into the APP-penalty structure and the GSR is needed for one of these three sports, that institution may be required to provide the data necessary to separate the graduation rate by sport.

**Question No. 6:** Our institution has a student-athlete who received athletics aid for indoor and outdoor track, but left the team before the first date of competition and remained enrolled at the institution. Therefore, the student-athlete was not included in the APR cohort; however, does our institution need to report the graduation information for this student-athlete?

**Answer:** Yes, since the student-athlete received athletics aid, your institution is required to report graduation rates data for the individual and will need to add the student-athlete to the specific sport within the graduation rates data collection system.

**Question No. 7:** How should we report student-athletes who were awarded athletics aid after their freshman year?

**Answer:** Student-athletes who did not receive athletics aid their first year at your institution should not be included in this reporting. For ASR reporting of nonscholarship student-athletes, the student-athlete must have been on the roster during his or her freshman year.

**Question No. 8:** Our institution has a student-athlete who enrolled part time at our institution for an entire academic year following high school graduation and then subsequently enrolled full time at our institution. Should we include them in the reporting year's cohort?

**Answer:** No, the student-athlete should not be included within the reporting year's cohort.

**Question No. 9:** Our institution has a student-athlete who enrolled part time at another institution for an entire academic year following high school graduation and then subsequently enrolled full time at our institution. Should we include the student-athlete in the reporting year's cohort?

**Answer:** Yes, the student-athlete should be included in the reporting year's cohort and should be considered a transfer (i.e., four year, two year for GSR and ASR reporting).

**Question No. 10:** Our institution has a student-athlete who enrolled in the fall term, but did not receive athletics aid until the spring term. Should we include the student-athlete in the reporting year's cohort?

**Answer:** Yes, freshmen who enter an institution in the fall can receive athletics aid at any time during their freshman year to be included in the reporting. However, midyear freshmen and transfers **MUST** receive athletics aid their first time at your institution to be included in the GSR and ASR.

**Question No. 11:** What is the ID number?

**Answer:** This is a unique identification number that your institution needs to create and enter for student-athletes who are not in a reporting year's APR/Academic Tracking System cohort, but should be included in the reporting year's GSR/ASR cohort. This should be a unique number and we recommend that you use your institutional or school identification number for that student-athlete in order to avoid duplicate numbers.

**Question No. 12:** Our institution offers a PharmD program where the student graduates at the end of seven years with a PharmD degree, but does not receive a baccalaureate degree. How do we record a final outcome for this student?

**Answer:** The student can be removed from the reporting cohort.

**Question No. 13:** A student begins initial full-time enrollment at another institution in the spring semester and, subsequently, transfers to our institution and receives athletics aid. Is the student included in our GSR or ASR?

**Answer:** No, while a student can transfer to your institution at any time in an academic year, the student has to have his/her initial enrollment in the fall term of the academic year to be included in the GSR/ASR as a transfer student.

### **Allowable Exclusions/Left Eligible Reporting.**

**Question No. 1:** If a student-athlete leaves our institution to serve in the armed forces for another country, can he or she be reported as an allowable exclusion?

**Answer:** Yes, a student-athlete who leaves your institution to serve in any country's armed forces may be reported as an allowable exclusion.

**Question No. 2:** Our institution has a female student-athlete who became pregnant and was indicated as an allowable exclusion in APR. Is pregnancy also an allowable exclusion for graduation rates, GSR and ASR?

**Answer:** No, allowable exclusions for graduation rates, GSR and ASR are limited to military service, death or permanent disability, church mission and foreign aid service. Pregnancy is NOT considered an allowable exclusion for this data report and cannot be reported as such.

**Question No. 3:** If a student-athlete was diagnosed with cancer, would this be considered an allowable exclusion?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 4:** Our institution has a student-athlete who initially enrolled full time at another four-year institution the fall term and received athletics aid. The student-athlete left that institution following the spring term for active military duty and was reported by that institution as an allowable exclusion for this reporting. The student-athlete subsequently transferred to our institution and received athletics aid. However, the student-athlete did not graduate by the end of the sixth year since initial full-time enrollment. Can our institution report this student-athlete as an allowable exclusion even though the student-athlete did not report for active military duty while enrolled at our institution?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 5:** Our institution had several student-athletes who were medical noncounters who continued to receive athletics aid after their freshman year. Are these student-athletes considered allowable exclusions for GSR/ASR reporting?

**Answer:** No, these student-athletes would not be considered allowable exclusions for the GSR/ASR since they are not permanently disabled and were able to return to your institution.

**Question No. 6:** Our institution has a student-athlete who received a medical-absence waiver for an entire academic year. In prior APR data collections, these student-athletes were not included within the APR cohort. Is this the same for GSR reporting?

**Answer:** No, student-athletes who receive a medical-absence waiver should be included within the GSR cohort if they meet the definition to be included within the GSR cohort.

**Question No. 7:** Our institution has a student-athlete who left the institution academically ineligible because of incomplete grades on his transcript. He returned to our institution to make up the coursework and received passing grades. Can our institution report the student-athlete as "Left Eligible?"

**Answer:** No, both GSR and ASR data submissions require institutions to report on those student-athletes with athletics eligibility remaining who left their institutions prior to receiving their baccalaureate degree and who would have been academically eligible to compete in the next regular academic term had they returned to their institutions. Since these student-athletes would have been academically ineligible to compete had they returned to

their institutions, they would be noted as academically ineligible for GSR or ASR reporting and cannot be reported as "Left Eligible."

**Question No. 8:** A student-athlete left the institution academically ineligible; however, the student-athlete received an APR adjustment for the lost eligibility point. Can that student-athlete be reported as "Left Eligible?"

**Answer:** No, adjustments in the APR do not apply to the GSR. Since this student-athlete left the institution academically ineligible to compete had he or she returned to the institution, he or she would be noted as academically ineligible for GSR reporting and cannot be reported as "Left Eligible."

**Question No. 9:** A student-athlete left our institution academically eligible with athletics eligibility remaining after the third year of enrollment; however, the student-athlete returned to the institution prior to the end of the sixth year since initial full-time enrollment and has not yet graduated. Can this student-athlete be reported as "Left Eligible?"

**Answer:** No, the student-athlete's status must be determined based upon his or her last status at your institution as of the end of the sixth year since initial full-time enrollment (August 31, 2016 for the 2010 freshman cohort).