

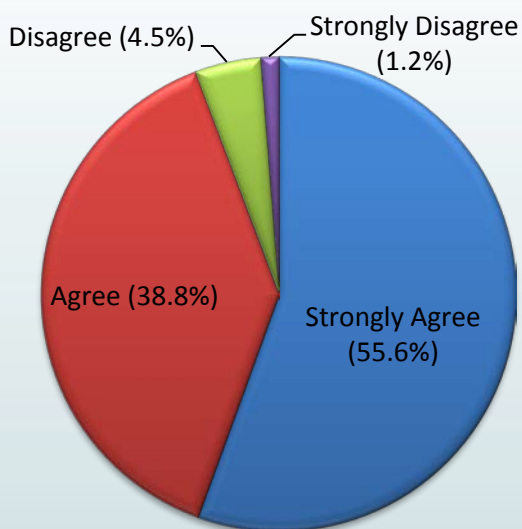
Does Athletics Enhance the Division III College Experience?

Nearly one-quarter of students who attend Division III colleges participate in NCAA athletics. An important part of the mission of the division is to ensure that these student-athletes have a comprehensive college experience, engage fully in college life and develop a strong connection and sense of belonging to the overall campus community.

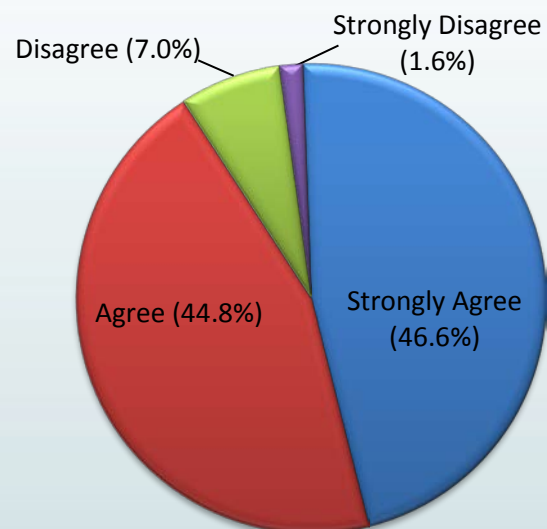
In the NCAA's GOALS study, Division III student-athletes overwhelmingly reported that they see themselves as part of the campus community (91%) and that athletics participation has helped to provide them with a sense of connection to the campus (94%). Division III student-athletes also report a stronger connection to the campus community than their non-athlete peers.

Beyond fulfilling the mission of Division III athletics, why is ensuring student-athletes feel a sense of connection to the campus important? It tends to relate to other aspects of a student-athlete's time on campus, including academic, athletic and social experiences. Those student-athletes who report a greater sense of connection to the campus also are more likely to report:

- Higher levels of academic motivation;
- Greater satisfaction with the overall academic experience;
- Feelings that the team environment is inclusive and accepting of different cultures and backgrounds;
- Seeing their coaches as ethical leaders.



Athletics Provides me a Sense of Connection to Campus



I See Myself as Part of the Campus Community

Source: NCAA GOALS Study