

How are NCAA Graduation Rates Calculated?

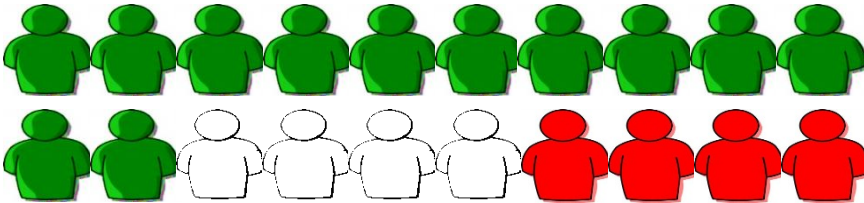

November 2015



NCAA Graduation Rates

- Federal Graduation Rate: Federally mandated calculation for all schools that offer athletic scholarships. Counts all transfers as academic failures, so essentially measures the percentage of students who complete a BA/BS from their initial school within six years.
- Graduation Success Rate (GSR): Division I rate that accounts for transfers in/out. Also tracks graduation over six years.
- Academic Success Rate (ASR): Division II, III variations of the GSR. More inclusive cohort definition reflecting that many Division II and all Division III student-athletes do not receive athletic scholarships.

Example 1: GSR Calculation for Team (Single Cohort)


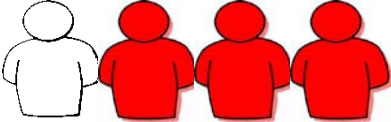
	Federal Rate	GSR
First-Year Participants 	$\frac{12}{20}$	$\frac{12}{16}$
Transfers In+ (Only used in GSR calculation) 		$\frac{4}{6}$
Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Rate = (Green) / (Green + White + Red) GSR = (Green) / (Green + Red) 	$\frac{12}{20}$ (60%)	$\frac{16}{22}$ (73%)

 = Graduates

 = Likely transfers (Departed in good academic standing)

 = Likely non-graduates (Departed in poor academic standing)

Example 2: GSR Calculation for Team (Single Cohort)

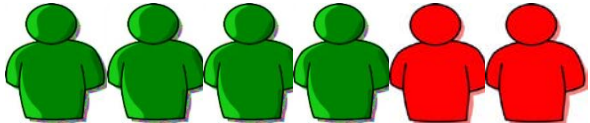

	Federal Rate	GSR
First-Year Participants 	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{1}$
Transfers In+ (Only used in GSR calculation) 		$\frac{0}{3}$
Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Rate = (Green) / (Green + White + Red) GSR = (Green) / (Green + Red) 	$\frac{1}{1}$ (100%)	$\frac{1}{4}$ (25%)

 = Graduates

 = Likely transfers (Departed in good academic standing)

 = Likely non-graduates (Departed in poor academic standing)

Example 3: GSR Calculation for Team (Single Cohort)

	Federal Rate	GSR
First-Year Participants 	$\frac{4}{6}$	$\frac{4}{6}$
Transfers In+ (Only used in GSR calculation) 		$\frac{2}{3}$
Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Rate = (Green) / (Green + White + Red) GSR = (Green) / (Green + Red) 	$\frac{4}{6}$ (67%)	$\frac{6}{9}$ (67%)

 = Graduates

 = Likely transfers (Departed in good academic standing)

 = Likely non-graduates (Departed in poor academic standing)

Division I Graduation Success Rate (GSR)

- In the GSR calculation, student-athletes who depart a school while in good academic standing (would have met NCAA's and school's progress-toward-degree standards) are essentially passed from that school's cohort to another school's cohort. In the Federal rate, they are all considered non-graduates.
- Student-athletes who depart in poor academic standing (e.g., SA's GPA or credit accumulation does not have them on-track to graduate in 5 years or less) are deemed non-graduates by both the Federal rate and the GSR.
- Research shows that these are good assumptions, but not perfect when compared to a student-centered graduation statistic (that is, follow the student longitudinally from school to school until graduating or stopping out). Possible some mistakes made in both directions. NCAA research has shown that the GSR is much closer to a true student-centered graduation rate relative to the Federal calculation.

Division I Graduation Success Rate (GSR)

- In addition to accounting for likely transfers in/out, the GSR also includes mid-year enrollees (not included in the Federal calculation) and non-scholarship athletes at Division I schools that do not offer athletics scholarships.

Comparison of Graduation Success Rates and Federal Graduation Rate Cohorts

(2005-2008 Entering Classes)

	Federal Rate	GSR
Enrolled (Under Federal Definition)	85,708	85,708
Enrolled as Frosh in January	0	2,836
Two-Year College Transfers	0	9,508
Four-Year College Transfers	0	7,905
Non-Scholarship Athletes (Only at Schools Not Offering Aid)	0	11,822
Total Enrolled	85,708	117,779 (+37.4%)
Allowable Exclusions (Death, Military, Church Mission, etc.)	332	417
Left Eligible	0	21,851
Participants on Teams No Longer Sponsored by Institution	0	1,284
Total Denominator	84,053	94,227 (+12.1%)

Division II Academic Success Rate (ASR)

- The Division II Academic Success Rate (ASR) is calculated in much the same way as the Division I GSR. The primary difference is:
 - The ASR includes all non-scholarship freshmen (“walk-ons”)
 - Whether or not the school or squad offers aid does not matter
 - As a result, the ASR counts about 50% more student-athletes than the federal graduation rate

Comparison of ASR and Federal Grad Rate Cohorts

(2005-2008 Entering Classes)

	Federal Rate	ASR
Enrolled (Under Federal Definition)	60,431	60,431
Enrolled as Frosh in January	0	995
Two-Year College Transfers	0	14,866
Four-Year College Transfers	0	11,149
Non-Scholarship Athletes	0	35,440
Total Enrolled	60,431	122,881 (+103%)
Allowable Exclusions (Death, Military, Church Mission, etc.)	218	406
Left Eligible	0	29,983
Participants on Teams No Longer Sponsored by Institution	0	1,397
Total Denominator	60,213	91,095 (+51%)

Division III Academic Success Rate (ASR)

- The Division III Academic Success Rate (ASR) is calculated in much the same way as the Division I GSR and the Division II ASR. Primary differences include:
 - The reporting of Division III graduation rates for student-athletes is voluntary. In the latest reporting cycle, 140 schools participated.
 - The student-athlete cohort is different. Since Division III prohibits athletics scholarships, a student-athlete must be listed on an official roster on or after the first date of competition during the championship season to be included in the cohort.



NCAA Research