



Estimated Probability of Competing in College Athletics

	High School Participants	NCAA Participants	Overall % HS to NCAA	% HS to NCAA Division I	% HS to NCAA Division II	% HS to NCAA Division III
Men						
Baseball	482,629	33,431	6.9%	2.1%	2.1%	2.7%
Basketball	541,054	18,320	3.4%	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%
Cross Country	252,547	14,218	5.6%	1.9%	1.4%	2.4%
Football	1,093,234	71,291	6.5%	2.5%	1.7%	2.3%
Golf	152,647	8,654	5.7%	1.9%	1.6%	2.1%
Ice Hockey	35,393	3,976	11.2%	4.6%	0.5%	6.1%
Lacrosse	106,720	12,682	11.9%	2.9%	2.1%	6.9%
Soccer	417,419	23,602	5.7%	1.4%	1.4%	2.8%
Swimming	138,373	9,630	7.0%	2.8%	1.0%	3.2%
Tennis	160,545	8,081	5.0%	1.7%	1.1%	2.3%
Track	580,321	27,514	4.7%	1.9%	1.1%	1.7%
Volleyball	52,149	1,720	3.3%	0.9%	0.7%	1.7%
Water Polo	21,451	1,051	4.9%	2.7%	0.7%	1.5%
Wrestling	269,514	6,982	2.6%	0.9%	0.7%	1.0%
Women						
Basketball	433,344	16,319	3.8%	1.1%	1.1%	1.5%
Cross Country	218,121	15,922	7.3%	2.8%	1.7%	2.8%
Field Hockey	61,471	5,902	9.6%	2.9%	1.1%	5.6%
Golf	72,172	5,076	7.0%	3.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Ice Hockey	9,150	2,140	23.4%	8.7%	1.2%	13.5%
Lacrosse	81,969	10,330	12.6%	3.7%	2.4%	6.5%
Soccer	374,564	26,358	7.0%	2.4%	1.8%	2.8%
Softball	371,891	19,047	5.1%	1.6%	1.5%	2.0%
Swimming	165,779	12,333	7.4%	3.3%	1.1%	3.1%
Tennis	184,080	9,028	4.9%	1.6%	1.1%	2.2%
Track	478,885	27,752	5.8%	2.7%	1.3%	1.8%
Volleyball	429,634	16,647	3.9%	1.2%	1.1%	1.6%
Water Polo	18,899	1,201	6.4%	3.8%	1.1%	1.5%

Sources: High school figures from the [2013-14 High School Athletics Participation Survey](#) conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations. College numbers from the NCAA [2013-14 Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report](#).

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Methodology and Notes

High school to NCAA

- High school figures come from the [2013-14 High School Athletics Participation Survey](#) conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations. College numbers are from the NCAA's [2013-14 Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report](#). These college numbers account for participation in college athletics at NCAA-member schools only.
- High school-to-NCAA percentages were calculated by dividing the number of NCAA participants in 2013-14 by the number of HS participants in that same year. This assumes that high school and college rosters are turning over at roughly the same rate (e.g., both HS and college participation numbers include four classes of students and both sets of teams turn over roughly one-quarter of their rosters each year). In prior versions of this table, more complex calculations were used to estimate the number of HS departures and open college roster slots each year; however, these more involved calculations did not lead to substantially different percentages than the simple calculation used currently. Given several potential confounds (e.g., multi-sport participation in high school, frequency of redshirt in NCAA Division I football that would lead to a 5-year rather than 4-year college track), these calculations should be considered approximations and not exact accounting.
- The high school-to-NCAA divisional percentages were calculated by dividing the number of 2013-14 participants within each NCAA division by the total number of HS participants. For example, we estimate that approximately 3.4% of HS boys basketball participants go on to play at an NCAA school (Divisions I, II or III), but only 1.0% of HS participants do so at the Division I level.
- As the high school figures account only for participants on high school teams and not those competing exclusively on club teams or similar, the true pre-college to NCAA percentages could be lower in some sports.



Estimated Probability of Competing in Professional Athletics

	NCAA Participants	Approximate # Draft Eligible	# Draft Slots	# NCAA Drafted	% NCAA to Major Pro*	% NCAA to Total Pro^
Football	71,291	15,842	256	255	1.6%	3.7%
M Basketball	18,320	4,071	60	47	1.2%	11.6%
W Basketball	16,319	3,626	36	32	0.9%	4.7%
Baseball	33,431	7,429	1,216	638	8.6%	--
M Ice Hockey	3,976	884	211	60	6.8%	--
M Soccer	23,602	5,245	76	72	1.4%	--

* **Percent NCAA to Major Pro** figures are based on the number of available draft slots in the NFL, NBA, WNBA, MLB, NHL and MLS drafts only. See methods notes for important details on the definition of NHL draftee in men's ice hockey. Column percentages were calculated as (#NCAA Drafted) / (Approximate # Draft Eligible).

^ **Percent NCAA to Total Pro** takes the number of pro opportunities from the "% NCAA to Major Pro" calculation and adds in some additional professional opportunities that we were able to quantify. So, for football, this calculation includes NFL, Canadian Football League and Arena League slots available to first-year professionals. For men's basketball we accounted for NBA, NBA D-League and international opportunities. For women's basketball, we assessed WNBA and international roster slots. See methods notes for details on these calculations. Data on full-time international professional opportunities available in baseball, men's ice hockey and men's soccer were not analyzed here.



Estimated Probability of Competing in Professional Athletics

Methodology and Notes

General

- College participation numbers are from the NCAA's [2013-14 Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report](#). These college numbers account for participation in college athletics at NCAA-member schools only.
- To estimate the number of NCAA student-athletes in a sport eligible for a particular year's professional draft, the total number of NCAA student-athlete participants in the sport was divided by 4.5. This figure was used to provide a general estimate of the number of student-athletes in a draft cohort (single draft class) in a given year, accounting for redshirting, degree completion delays due to transfer, etc. that extend the average time to graduation to just beyond four year in all sports. In other words, we observe a year-to-year departure rate (whether due to graduation, dropout or departure for a professional sports opportunity) of just below one-quarter of the total number of student-athletes in each sport. Because the sports examined (M/W basketball, football, baseball, men's ice hockey and men's soccer) have dramatically different rules for draft eligibility, these calculations should be treated as estimates only.
- Data on available professional opportunities are described below for each sport.

Baseball

- MLB draft data from 2013. There were 1,216 draft picks in that year; 638 of those picked were from NCAA schools (source: [NCSA Athletic Recruiting website](#)). Of the 638, Division I student-athletes comprised 552 of those chosen, Division II provided 72 and Division III had 14. 382 high school athletes were chosen in 2013 (some of whom went on to play in college instead of turning pro) along with 154 from junior colleges, 38 from NAIA schools and 4 from other sources.
- Percent NCAA to Pro calculated as number of NCAA student-athletes taken in the draft (n=638) divided by approximate number draft eligible. Not all of the student-athletes drafted go on to play professional baseball and many draftees fail to reach the Major League.

Men's ice hockey

- NHL draft data from 2013. There were 211 draft picks in that year. Only 4 players from NCAA rosters were selected in that draft. However, this is not indicative of the likelihood of going from a college team to a professional team due to the nature of the NHL draft, where players are typically selected prior to turning college-aged.
- In examining the subsequent hockey pathways of 2013 draftees, we determined that 60 of the 211 (source: [hockeydb.com](#)) had attended an NCAA college for any period of time through February 2015 (or in two cases had committed to a college for 2015-16). These numbers, although not fully

comparable to those used in the other sports examined, were used to calculate an approximate NCAA to Major Pro percentage. Note that only a small subset of the players drafted ever play in an NHL game. Undrafted college players may go on to sign contracts with NHL teams after completing college (those numbers are not part of the current NCAA to Major Pro calculation).

- Currently, 31% of players on active NHL rosters played college hockey, up from about 20% in the year 2000 (source: collegehockeyinc.com). Of the 1,437 hockey players under contract with any NHL team in 2014, 27% were former NCAA student-athletes (all but one from Division I ice hockey programs). Thanks to Nate Ewell at College Hockey, Inc. for providing these data.

Men's soccer

- MLS SuperDraft data from 2014. There were 77 draft slots in that year, but only 76 picks made. Of the 76 picks, 72 were NCAA student-athletes (68 from Division I programs, 3 from Division II and 1 from Division III). Percentage NCAA to Major Pro calculated using the 72 NCAA selections. (Source: mlssoccer.com).
- These calculations do not account for other domestic or international professional soccer opportunities.

Men's basketball

- NBA draft data from 2013. There were 60 draft slots in that year, but only 47 went to NCAA players (others chosen were international players not attending U.S. colleges). Percentage NCAA to Major Pro calculated using the 47 NCAA selections. Since 2006, 12 international players have been drafted on average each year.
- On 2014-15 opening day NBA rosters, former NCAA players filled 81% of roster spots (all but one player from Division I schools). (Source: [Jim Sukup, College Basketball News](#)).
- Data on other professional opportunities in men's basketball were collected by NCAA staff with the assistance of Marek Wojtera from eurobasket.com. It was determined that an additional 424 former NCAA student-athletes from the 2013 draft cohort played internationally or in the NBA D-League in 2014 (307 from Division I, 90 from Division II and 27 from Division III). These numbers were combined with the NBA draftees to calculate an NCAA to Total Professional opportunities proportion (calculated as $[47 + 424] / 4,071$).
- We estimate that 3.9% of draft-eligible Division I players were chosen in the 2013 NBA draft ($47 / 1,210$). However, in total, 29% of draft-eligible Division I players competed professionally (NBA, D-League, or internationally) in their first year after leaving college (calculated as $[47 + 307] / 1,210$). Approximately 15% of draft-eligible players from the five Division I conferences with autonomous governance (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC) were drafted by the NBA in 2013 ($33 / 222$), while 52% played professionally somewhere in their first year post-college (calculated as $[33 + 82] / 222$).

Women's basketball

- WNBA draft data from 2013. There were 36 draft slots in that year's draft, 32 of which went to NCAA players (other 4 chosen were international players not attending U.S. colleges). All 32 NCAA selections came from Division I colleges. Percentage NCAA to Major Pro calculated using the 32 NCAA selections.

- Data on international professional opportunities in women's basketball were collected by NCAA staff with the assistance of Marek Wojtera from eurobasket.com. It was determined that an additional 139 former NCAA student-athletes from the 2013 draft cohort played internationally in 2014 (129 from Division I, 8 from Division II and 2 from Division III). These numbers were combined with the WNBA draftees to calculate an NCAA to Total Professional opportunities proportion (calculated as $[32 + 139] / 3,626$).
- We estimate that 2.9% of draft-eligible Division I players were chosen in the 2013 WNBA draft (32 / 1,089). However, in total, 15% of draft-eligible Division I players competed professionally (WNBA or internationally) in their first year after leaving college (calculated as $[32 + 129] / 1,089$). Approximately 12% of draft-eligible players from the five Division I conferences with autonomous governance (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC) were drafted by the WNBA in 2013 (26 / 222), while 31% played professionally somewhere in their first year post-college (calculated as $[26 + 43] / 222$).

Football

- NFL draft data from 2014. There were 256 draft slots in that year's draft, 255 of which went to former NCAA players (1 player drafted from a Canadian university). NCAA to Major Pro figure calculated using these data.
- NCAA divisional breakdown of the 255 NCAA players selected in the 2014 NFL draft: Division I FBS (230), Division I FCS (19), Division II (6), Division III (0). The top 5 conferences accounted for 172 of the 255 draft picks (SEC=49, ACC=42, Pac-12=34, Big Ten=30, Big 12=17).
- Data on Arena League and Canadian Football League opportunities were collected by NCAA staff via rosters on each organization's website (sources: cfl.ca and arenafootball.com) in February 2015. It was determined that an additional 327 former NCAA student-athletes from the 2014 draft cohort were listed on a roster (190 in the CFL, 137 in the Arena League). Across these two leagues, there were 203 former Division I FBS players, 74 from Division I FCS, 44 from Division II and 6 from Division III. These numbers were combined with the NFL draftees to calculate an NCAA to Total Professional opportunities proportion (calculated as $[255 + 327] / 15,842$).
- We estimate that 4.0% of draft-eligible Division I players were chosen in the 2014 NFL draft (249 / 6,153). Limiting this calculation to FBS players, 7.0% were estimated to be drafted (230 / 3,275). Narrowing further to the five Division I conferences with autonomous governance (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC), we estimate that 10.1% were drafted (172 / 1,709). Accounting for Arena League and CFL opportunities, the NCAA to Total Professional figures are estimated as 8.5% for Division I ($[249 + 277] / 6,153$), 13.2% for FBS ($[230 + 203] / 3,275$) and 16.4% for the five autonomous conferences ($[172 + 108] / 1,709$).