

# Athletics Program



## Greetings from West Chester University's Athletics Program and Athletics Advisory Board

This fact sheet will provide you with some basic information about WCU athletics as well as the policies and people that you should be aware of.

The WCU Athletics Advisory Board (AAB) is made up of the Faculty Athletics Representative, plus 4 administrators, 3 students (2 are student-athletes from SAAC), and 6 faculty (one from each college plus non-teaching faculty). It serves as a review and advisory body to the President of West Chester University. In addition, the Board works closely with the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Director of Athletics assisting with the development and monitoring of the University's Athletics Program. For more information about the Athletics Advisory Board, please visit our webpage at <http://www.wcupa.edu/athleticsadvisory/>

The West Chester University Athletics Program has a rich and successful history in athletics. We are members of the NCAA, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) and the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC). Presently, there are 24 Intercollegiate Athletic Programs at WCU. We have one of the largest D-II programs in the country. Men's sports include baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, indoor track, soccer, swimming & diving, tennis and outdoor track & field (n = 10). Women's sports include basketball, cross country, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, indoor track, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, outdoor track & field, and volleyball (n = 14). There is also a cheerleading squad. In the 2016-2017 academic year there were **592 student-athletes** (~ 1 in 25 undergraduates) participating in these programs.

### 2016-2017 Athletic highlights include

- 28 student-athletes were named NCAA All-Americans
- 10 programs qualified for a NCAA championship: M & W cross country, M & W soccer, W rugby, W gymnastics, baseball, M golf, W tennis and softball.
- 1 national team champion: Baseball (second time in 6 years)
- 2 national individual champions: Majesta Valentine in the all-around at USA Gymnastics Women's Collegiate Championships and Georgia Wright in the 1000 yd and 1650 yd freestyle at the NCAA Division II championships.
- 2 National Athlete of the year: Rachal Toppi - Field Hockey and Majesta Valentine - Gymnastics
- 2 National Coaches of the year: Barbara Cordova - Gymnastics and Jad Prachniak - Baseball
- 3 PSAC Champions: M & W Swimming, Softball
- 4 PSAC freshman/rookie of the year: Diane Dunn – W cross country, Dylan North – M swimming, Georgia Wright – W swimming, and Bri Garber – softball.
- 6 PSAC Athlete of the year: Rachal Toppi – Field Hockey, Scarlett Walsh – W soccer, Tess Hayward – W swimming, Victor Polyakov – M swimming, Josh McClain – baseball, Maddy Shaak – W tennis.
- 5 PSAC Coaches of the Year: Betty Ann Kempf – W soccer, Barbara Cordova – gymnastics, Jamie Rudisill – W swimming, Tina Tharp – W tennis, Jad Prachniak – baseball
- 22 of 24 programs qualified for post-season play while 21 out of 22 programs qualified for a PSAC tournament: M & W cross country, field hockey, M & W golf, W rugby, W soccer, W volleyball, M & W swimming, M & W basketball, M & W indoor track, baseball, W lacrosse, softball, M & W outdoor track. (W rugby and W gymnastics are non-PSAC sports).
- WCU place third in the Dixon Trophy competition. (trophy for end of the year competitive standings among the 18 PSAC members)
- 29<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Learfield NACDA Cup National Division II standing, ranking for all Division II programs (n = 303) in the country

## 2016-2017 Academic highlights include

- 400 WCU Athletic Director Academic Honor Roll recipients (min. of 3.0 GPA; 344 in 2015-16)
- 265 PSAC Academic Honor Roll recipients – WCU record, 1<sup>st</sup> in PaSSHE, 2<sup>nd</sup> in PSAC (min GPA of 3.20; 246 in 2015-16)
- 106 D-II Association of Athletic Directors Academic Honor Roll recipients (min of 3.5 GPA; 97 in 2015-16)

The **ASR** for all WCU student-athletes was **83%** (84% in 2015-16). **Graduation rates** (based on 5 years) for the 2009-2010 cohort of student-athletes was **82%** (74% in 2015-16) versus the student body's rate of **71%** (67%). The four year rate was **75%** (up from 73%) **versus 69%** (68%) respectively. Historically, when comparing student-athletes to the WCU students at large the spring term and cumulative **GPA** of the student-athletes is almost always higher than the student body. There is an occasional exception. A table of the GPAs for the last two years is provided on the next page.

	S-A men	all men	S-A women	all women	S-A	all undergrad
	15-16/ 16-17	15-16/16-17	15-16/16-17	15-16/16-17	15-16/16-17	15-16/16-17
Spring Term GPA	3.008/ <b>3.058</b>	<b>3.015</b> /3.022	<b>3.390/3.398</b>	3.299/3.301	<b>3.234/3.259</b>	3.186/3.190
Cumulative GPA	3.003/3.012	<b>3.024/3.035</b>	<b>3.342/3.379</b>	3.272/3.279	<b>3.203/3.229</b>	3.173/3.181

**Bold numbers** represent the higher GPA per category. S-A refers to student-athlete.

**Time investment:** The NCAA mandates that athletes practice and compete for no more than 20 hours per week. This does not include travel time to away contests, a contest which takes longer than 3 hours (allotted time for contest), injury treatment time or their individual preparation. Therefore the “total time” invested by a student-athlete can exceed 30 hours per week especially with travel to far away competitions.

**Scholarships:** Many student-athletes are **not** on scholarship. An average scholarship at West Chester University is between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per year. A total of \$1,149,551 of scholarship monies were awarded in 2015-2016 which computes to \$1,985.41 per each student-athlete. With regards to scholarship equivalencies, West Chester is ranked 10 out of 18 PSAC schools despite fielding the most teams in the conference. (An equivalency enables comparisons between private and public school tuition.)

**No special favors:** Athletes should not ask for, nor are they expected to receive, special favors or dispensation such as a change of grade to be eligible to participate in WCU athletics.

**Mentoring program:** The athletic department supports a mentoring/tutoring program for student-athletes who are in academic danger or need assistance. This is a one-on-one interaction between a student-athlete and their mentor.

## **Important Information:**

### **1. The Excused Absence Policy for University Sanctioned Events**

In part this policy states “Students participating in University-sanctioned events such as ..... NCAA athletic events, will be granted an excused absence(s) by the respective faculty members for class periods missed. Students will be granted the privilege of taking, at an alternative time to be determined by the professor, scheduled examinations or quizzes that will be missed.”.. “Professors can provide a fair alternative to taking the examination or quiz that will be missed.” Use this link for the full policy: [http://www.wcupa.edu/viceProvost/capc/documents/ExcusedAbsencesPolicy-finalv3\\_approved.docx](http://www.wcupa.edu/viceProvost/capc/documents/ExcusedAbsencesPolicy-finalv3_approved.docx)

### **2. Priority Registration Policy**

- Better called “**conflict avoidance scheduling**”
- Enables student-athletes and other students with scheduling needs to register prior to the general student population thereby avoiding conflicts between classes and athletic activities.

3. Concern with **single sections of required classes** scheduled during the designated practice time (3:30 –6:00 pm) which causes disruption of practice as student-athletes cannot choose a section to avoid the conflict.

4. **Mentors for Student-athletes.** For student-athletes who have academic difficulties there are mentors sponsored by the Athletics department that aid the student-athlete with academic issues but they do not provide advisement. The student-athletes sign off on the Buckley amendment so it is appropriate to discuss student's grades with these mentors. Please see the athletic department website for further information.

5. **Advising.** On the advising webpage ( [http://www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/advising/facultyAdvisors.aspx](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/advising/facultyAdvisors.aspx) ) there is information for advisors on NCAA guidelines.

**Who to contact if you have questions or issues with student-athletes or the athletic program.**

**Dr. W. Craig Stevens** is a professor of Kinesiology and the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) for WCU. The FAR is a NCAA requirement for all participating universities. The role of the FAR is to ensure that the academic institutions establishes and maintains the appropriate balance between academics and intercollegiate athletics as well as safeguard student-athlete well-being. His email is [cstevens@wcupa.edu](mailto:cstevens@wcupa.edu) . His phone is 610-436-2386.

**Mr. Terry Beattie** is the Interim Athletic Director. He oversees the department of intercollegiate athletics and has ultimate responsibility over all athletic programs. His email is [tbeattie@wcupa.edu](mailto:tbeattie@wcupa.edu). His phone is 610-436-3555.

**Ms. Kellianne Milliner** is the associate Athletic Director and senior woman administrator. She is the compliance officer. Her email is [kmilliner@wcupa.edu](mailto:kmilliner@wcupa.edu) . Her phone is 610-436-3573.