

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 2017-2018 academic year there were **578 student-athletes** (~ 1 in 25 undergraduates) participating in these programs.

2017-2018 Athletic highlights include

- 26 student-athletes were named NCAA All-Americans
- 12 programs qualified for a NCAA championship: M & W cross country, M & W soccer, M & W basketball, baseball, football, M golf, lacrosse, softball, volleyball
- 2 national individual championships: Georgia Wright in the 1000-yd and 1650-yd freestyle at the NCAA Division II Championships.
- 1 national scholar-athlete of the year – Sarah Gebre (W Lacrosse)
- 1 regional scholar-athlete of the year – Jared Melone (baseball)
- 1 conference scholar-athlete of the year – Meghan Chan (W Gymnastics)
- 4 PSAC Champions: M & W swimming, field hockey, lacrosse
- 5 PSAC freshman/rookie of the year: Chris Warner – M golf, Jared Anderson – M swimming, Julia McCarthy – W swimming, Shannon Nixon – W tennis, Jessica Meakim – W gymnastics.
- 9 PSAC Athlete of the year: Jared Melone – baseball, Frank Rokins – M basketball, Jarel Elder – football, Tyler Morrissey – football, Julia Kirkpatrick – W soccer, Bri Garber – softball, Amanda Houck – softball, Georgia Wright – W swimming, Rylee Power – W tennis.
- 6 PSAC Coaches of the Year: Michael Benn – M soccer, Steve Mazurek – M & W swimming, Kiera Wooden – W basketball, Ginny Martino – W lacrosse, Diane Lokey – softball
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- WCU won the Dixon Trophy for the fourth time in six years. (trophy for end of the year competitive standings among the 18 PSAC members)
- 14th place finish in the Learfield NACDA Cup National Division II standing, ranking for all Division II programs (n = 303) in the country

2017-2018 Academic highlights include

- 390 WCU Athletic Director Academic Honor Roll recipients (min. of 3.0 GPA; 400 in 2016-17)
- 268 PSAC Academic Honor Roll recipients – WCU record, 1st in PaSSHE, 2nd in PSAC (min GPA of 3.20; 266 in 2016-17)
- 128 D-II Association of Athletic Directors Academic Honor Roll recipients (min of 3.5 GPA; 106 in 2016-17)

The **ASR** for all WCU student-athletes was **87%** (83% in 2016-17). **Graduation rates** (based on 5 years) for the 2011-2012 cohort of student-athletes was **80%** (82%% in 2016-17) versus the student body's rate of **73%** (71%). The four year rate was **78%** (up from 75%) **versus 70%** (69%) 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 below.

	S-A men	all men	S-A women	all women	S-A	all undergrad
	17-18/ 16-17	17-18/16-17	17-18/16-17	17-18/16-17	17-18/16-17	17-18/16-17
Spring Term GPA	3.046/3.058	2.982 /3.022	3.452/3.398	3.321/3.301	3.286/3.259	3.184/3.190
Cumulative GPA	3.045/3.012	3.018/ 3.035	3.404/3.379	3.292/3.279	3.257/3.229	3.181/3.181

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

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) 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 and chair 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 . His phone is 610-436-2386.

Mr. Terence Beattie is the Director of Athletics. He oversees the department of intercollegiate athletics and has ultimate responsibility over all athletic programs. His email is tbeattie@wcupa.edu. His phone is 610-436-3555.

Ms. Kellianne Milliner is the Associate Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator. She is also the compliance officer. Her email is kmilliner@wcupa.edu . Her phone is 610-436-3573.

Dr. Zebulun R. Davenport is Vice President of Student Affairs and have oversight responsibilities with the Department of Athletics. His email address is zdavenport@wcupa.edu . His phone is 610-436-3302