

# 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.

During the AY 2022-2023 the WCU Athletics Advisory Board (AAB) underwent an evaluation of its structure and mission. The resulting assessment has led to some changes which are in the process of being initiated. The Board will continue to be made up of faculty members, administrators and student-athletes serving as an advisory and review board but will expand in scope and participants. Further information about the changes to the Athletics Advisory Board as they are introduced, 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 Gymnastics East Conference (GEC) 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 and field, soccer, swimming & diving, tennis and outdoor track & field (n = 10). Women's sports include: basketball, cross country, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, indoor track and field, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, outdoor track & field, and volleyball (n = 14). There is also a cheerleading squad. In the 2023-2024 academic year there were **532 student-athletes** (~ 1 in 27 undergraduates) participating in these programs.

### 2023-2024 Athletic highlights include

- 26 student-athletes were named NCAA All-Americans by their respective coach's associations
- 11 programs qualified for their respective NCAA Championships: M & W Cross Country, Field Hockey, M & W Soccer, M & W Swimming, Women's Basketball, Baseball, Women's Lacrosse, Softball
- 1 individual National Champion – Jordan Coleman (USAG) Uneven Bars
- 1 Regional Player of the Year – Anthony Boccio (Baseball)
- 2 PSAC Coach of the Year: Steve Mazurek (Women's Swimming), Ginny Martino (Women's Lacrosse)
- 6 PSAC Champions: Women's Soccer, M & W Swimming, Baseball, Softball, Women's Lacrosse
- 1 PSAC Freshman/Rookie of the Year: Daniel Dunigan (M Swimming)
- 7 PSAC Athlete of the Year: Faith Matter (Women's Soccer), Jordan Kellier (Men's Basketball), Leah Johnson (Women's Basketball), McKenzie Hemingway (Women's Swimming), Paul Demesy (Men's Swimming), Jess Gorr (Women's Soccer), Anthony Boccio (Baseball).
- 4th place in the Dixon Trophy the award for the end of the year competitive standings among the 18 PSAC members. WCU has won the Dixon Trophy five times in the last 10 years (not including 2 COVID years).

### 2023-2024 Academic highlights include

- 480 WCU Athletic Director Academic Honor Roll recipients (min. of 3.0 GPA; 447 in 2022-23) – school record
- 266 PSAC Academic Honor Roll recipients, (min GPA of 3.25; 260 in 2022-23)
- 176 D-II Assoc. of Athletic Directors Academic Honor Roll recipients (min of 3.5 GPA; 173 in 2022-23).
- 2 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans: Hannah Stanislawczyk (Women's Lacrosse), Jordan Coleman (Women's Gymnastics).

The **Academic Success Rate (ASR)** for all WCU student-athletes was **87%** (89% in 2021-2022). **Graduation rates** (based on 5 years) for the 2016-2017 cohort of student-athletes was **77%** (76% in 2021-2022) versus the student body's rate of **72%** (73%). The four-year rate was **77% versus 74%** 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. Note that due to the NCAA extending eligibility due to the pandemic some student-athletes have taken advantage of the extra year to remain in school. A table of the GPAs for the last two years is provided next.

	S-A men	all men	S-A women	all women	S-A	all undergrad
	22-23/23-24	22-23/23-24	22-23/23-24	22-23/23-24	22-23/23-24	22-23/23-24
Spring Term GPA	<b>3.046/3.072</b>	2.919/2.929	<b>3.412/3.425</b>	3.230/ 3.219	<b>3.229/3.249</b>	3.103/3.100
Cumulative GPA	<b>3.123/3.100</b>	3.034/3.024	<b>3.481/3.451</b>	3.296/3.274	<b>3.296/3.276</b>	3.189/3.171

**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. Data from the NCAA in 2017 indicates that Division II student athletes dedicate 35.9 hours per week to academics and 33.5 hours per week to athletics.

**Scholarships: Scholarships:** Many student-athletes are not on scholarship. An average scholarship at West Chester University is between \$2,000 and \$5,000 per year. A total of \$1,519,880 of scholarship monies were awarded in 2023-2024 to 362 student-athletes, which computes to \$4,199 per student-athlete. In the AY 2021-2022, West Chester was ranked **10<sup>th</sup> out of 18** PSAC schools and **7<sup>th</sup> out of 13** PaSSHE schools in scholarship equivalencies 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.

**Student-athlete Success program.** Student Athlete Success (SAS) **engages, prepares and inspires** student-athletes to become leaders through opportunities for personal and professional growth. SAS emphasizes different areas of focus for student-athletes in an effort to expose and educate them in ways that differ from what is learned on the field and in the classroom. Partnerships with professionals in areas outside of athletics allow us to offer programming that may not otherwise be accessible to student-athletes, and it is presented in a way that meshes their being an athlete with becoming an engaged and capable member of society. The areas of focus are academics, career development, civic and community engagement, diversity and inclusion, leadership and wellness.

### 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 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 on the Academic Mentoring Program.
5. **Advising.** On the advising webpage ( <http://www.wcupa.edu/academics/advising/facultyAdvisors.aspx>) there is information for advisors on NCAA guidelines.
6. **Survey results.**
  - The 2019 GOALS study reported that over 90% of student-athletes said college sports helped them grow in personal responsibility, work ethic, teamwork and goal-setting.
  - A 2020 Gallup study revealed that former NCAA student-athletes are more likely than other college graduates to be “thriving” in areas of four well-being outcomes: community, social, physical and purpose.

## West Chester University is a member of Division II of the NCAA.

The division, whose motto is “life in the balance”, feels that a balanced approach is the best for the student-athlete experience. Identifying the six key attributes of learning, service, passion, sportsmanship, resourcefulness and balance, Division II student-athletes combine comprehensive learning and academic development with high-level competition along with community engagement. Want to learn more about NCAA Division II, please use this link <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/d2> and read the Distinguishing Dozen below.

### The Distinguishing Dozen 12 Characteristics That Set Division II Apart

**1. Graduation rates.** The Division II student-athlete graduation rate is consistently higher than that of the total student body. Division II also features a high number of first-generation college students, thus increasing the access to education.

**2. Academic emphasis.** Division II’s regionalization philosophy in scheduling results in limited missed class time for student-athletes.

**3. Athletics scholarships.** The partial athletics scholarship model rewards athletics ability while allowing student-athletes to earn other sources of financial aid. A recent study on the financial impact of the partial-scholarship model found that in general, scholarship student-athletes benefit institutions’ overall academic profile, and the partial-aid model generates revenue for the school.

**4. Balanced bottom line.** The median expense for Division II athletics departments with football is roughly \$6 million, while that figure is about \$15 million for Division I Football Championship Subdivision programs and about \$64 million for programs in the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision.

**5. Favorable admission rates.** Division II membership is split almost evenly between public and private institutions. On average, Division II schools have the highest admission rate (70%, versus 62-63% in the other two divisions).

**6. Community engagement.** Through student-athlete leadership, Division II has enjoyed long-term and successful partnerships with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Team IMPACT and military groups. In addition, Division II conducts community engagement activities at all championships final sites.

**7. Positive game environment.** Division II members pledge to conduct athletics contests in a family-friendly environment that is civil and entertaining.

**8. Unique geographical footprint.** Division II is the only NCAA division with schools in Alaska (Anchorage and Fairbanks), Puerto Rico (Bayamon, Mayaguez and Rio Piedras) and Canada (Simon Fraser).

**9. National championship opportunities.** Division II features unparalleled opportunity for student athletes to advance to national championship competition as a result of the division’s generous championship access ratios (the highest among the three NCAA divisions).

**10. National Championships Festivals.** Division II is the only NCAA division that conducts “National Championships Festivals,” Olympic-style events in which several national championships are held at a single site over a period of several days.

**11. Make It Yours.** This student-athlete-driven brand enhancement strengthens awareness among external audiences by clearly communicating the experience Division II schools create for student-athletes.

**12. Diversity and inclusion.** Matching grants encourage access, recruitment, selection, and the long-term success of ethnic minorities and women in administration and coaching.

## 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 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. Andy Lehman** is the Vice President of University Affairs and Chief of Staff. He has oversight responsibilities with the Department of Athletics. His email address is [alehman@wcupa.edu](mailto:alehman@wcupa.edu) . His phone is 610-436-3111
- **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](mailto:tbeattie@wcupa.edu) His phone is 610-436-3555.
- **Ms. Kellianne Milliner** is the Associate Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator. Her email is [kmilliner@wcupa.edu](mailto:kmilliner@wcupa.edu) . Her phone is 610-436-3573.
- **Ms. Deirdre Bertotti** is the Assistant Athletics Director and Compliance Coordinator. Her email address is [dbertotti@wcupa.edu](mailto:dbertotti@wcupa.edu) Her phone number is 610-436-2405.
- **Dr. Sami Abdel-Salam** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and the Director of the Academic Mentoring Program. His email address is [sabdel-salam@wcupa.edu](mailto:sabdel-salam@wcupa.edu) His phone is 610-436-2617.
- **Dr. Christopher J. Przemieniecki** is an associate professor and athletic liaison for the College of Business & Public Management. He email is [cprzemieniecki@wcupa.edu](mailto:cprzemieniecki@wcupa.edu) His phone is 610-436-2875.