



West Chester University 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 Athletic Advisory Board (AAB) is made up of the Faculty Athletics Representative, plus 3 administrators, 3 students (2 are student-athletes from SAAC), and 6 faculty. It serves as a review and advisory body to the President of West Chester University. In addition, the Board will work 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.

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 the largest D-II program 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 2010-2011 academic year there were **596 student-athletes** (~ 1 in 20) participating in these programs.

2010-2011 Athletic highlights include

- 16 All-Americans
- 7 programs qualified for a NCAA tournament
- 8th Place in the Dixon Trophy standings (PSAC has 16 members)
- 3 PSAC Champions: Women's Soccer, Men's Swimming, Women's Swimming
- 1 national semifinals appearance: Women's lacrosse with 9 appearances in the semifinals in the last 11 years.

2010-2011 Academic highlights include

- 365 WCU Athletic Director Academic Honor Roll recipients (minimum of 3.0 GPA)
- 203 PSAC Academic Honor Roll recipients – most in the PSAC (minimum of 3.20 GPA)
- 69 D-II Association of Athletic Directors Academic Honor Roll recipients (minimum of 3.5 GPA)
- 2 PSAC Top 10 Award Winners
- 2 CoSIDA Academic All-America

Using the latest cohort of student-athletes (1999-2002) the **academic success rate** (ASR) for WCU was higher than the federal rate. WCU men were at 71.9 and WCU women at 94.9; the federal rate was 59.9 and 89.1 respectively. The ASR for all WCU student-athletes was 81. **Graduation rates** (based on 5 years) for the 2002-2003 cohort of student-athletes was 72% versus the student body's rate of 63%. The four year rate was 66% versus 61%. Comparing student-athletes to the WCU students at large over the past two academic years the term and cumulative **GPA** of all student-athletes was equal to or higher than the student body.

	S-A men	all men	S-A women	all women	S-A	all undergrad
	09-10 / 10-11	09-10 / 10-11	09-10 / 10-11	09-10 / 10-11	09-10 / 10-11	09-10 / 10-11
Spring Term GPA	2.845 / 2.935	2.861 / 2.877	3.213 / 3.267	3.194 / 3.236	3.063 / 3.134	3.059 / 3.091
Cumulative GPA	2.885 / 2.928	2.877 / 2.866	3.194 / 3.244	3.160 / 3.202	3.067 / 3.115	3.045 / 3.075

Time investment: These athletes practice and compete upwards of 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), or injury treatment time.

Scholarships: No WCU student-athlete is on a “full ride”. Many student-athletes are not on scholarship. An average scholarship is between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per year.

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. This is a one-on-one interaction between a student-athlete and their mentor.

Important Policies:

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

Undergraduate students participating in University-sanctioned events such as 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. Students must submit original documentation on University letterhead signed by, coach (or athletic director), detailing the specifics of the event in advance. Use this link for the full policy:

<http://www.wcupa.edu/INFORMATION/OFFICIAL.DOCUMENTS/Undergrad.Catalog/acpolpro.htm#excused>

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.

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

Dr. W. Craig Stevens is an associate professor of Kinesiology and the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) for WCU. The FAR is a NCAA requirement for all participating universities. He (or she) is one of five people at the University who can interact with the NCAA. The FAR is an advocate for the student-athlete, an advisor to the President and Senior Staff on athletic matters, and an auditor of the athletic department. His email is cstevens@wcupa.edu . His phone is 610-436-2386.

Dr. Ed Matejkovic is the Athletic Director. Dr. Matejkovic oversees the department of intercollegiate athletics and has ultimate responsibility over all athletic programs. His email is ematejkovic@wcupa.edu. His phone is 610-436-3555.

Ms. Kellianne Milliner is the assistant athletic director and senior woman administrator. She is the compliance officer. Her email is kmilliner@wcupa.edu . Her phone is 610-436-3573

AAB members include

3 students: Two student-athletes and members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and one member of the Student Government Association (SGA). **They will be appointed at the start of the academic year.**

6 Faculty members: **Sharon Bartholomew-Began** (Biology); **Tammy James** (Health); **Henry Loustau** (Art); **Bruce Norris** (Professional & Liberal Studies); **Chris Penny** (Professional & Secondary Education); **Sandi Walz** (Health)

3 Administration representatives: **Skip Hutson** (Multicultural Affairs); **Joe Santivaschi** (Registrar); **John Villella** (College of Visual and Performing Arts)

2 Ex officio members: **Matt Bricketto** (Student Affairs); **Ed Matejkovic** (Athletics)

Chair and NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative: **Craig Stevens** (Kinesiology)

For more information about the Athletics Advisory Board, please visit our webpage at <http://www.wcupa.edu/athleticsadvisory/>