

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 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 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 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 2012-2013 academic year there were **597 student-athletes** (~ 1 in 20 undergraduates) participating in these programs.

2012-2013 Athletic highlights include

- 15 student-athletes were NCAA All-Americans
- 8 programs qualified for a NCAA tournament: M & W cross country, field hockey, W soccer, M & W swimming, softball, M golf.
- 1 NCAA Championship: Field Hockey (back-to-back national champions)
- 1 individual appearance in NCAA national finals: Kacie McNichol – women's swimming, 2nd in 1650 freestyle event for the second year in a row.
- 22 out 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).
- 1st Place in the Dixon Trophy standings (trophy for end of the year competitive standings among the 16 PSAC members)
- 4 PSAC Champions: Field Hockey, M & W Swimming, W Lacrosse
- 34th place finish in the Learfield NACDA Cup National Division II standing – ranking for all Division II programs

2012-2013 Academic highlights include

- 371 WCU Athletic Director Academic Honor Roll recipients (minimum of 3.0 GPA).
- 210 PSAC Academic Honor Roll recipients – WCU record, 1st in PaSSHE, 2nd in PSAC (min GPA of 3.20)
- 88 D-II Association of Athletic Directors Academic Honor Roll recipients (minimum of 3.5 GPA)
- 2 CoSIDA Academic All-America: Nancy Stehman and Michele Schrift (field hockey).
- 1 PSAC Champion Scholar: Brett Snyder (M Soccer).
- 1 NCAA Elite 89 Award winner (for highest GPA among athletes competing at the national level semifinals in their respective sport): Nancy Stehman (field hockey – repeat winner from 2011).

Using the latest cohort of student-athletes (2002-2005) the **academic success rate** (ASR) for WCU was higher than the federal rate. WCU men were at **66** and WCU women at **87** while the federal rate was **53** and **73** respectively. The ASR for all WCU student-athletes was **72%**. **Graduation rates** (based on 5 years) for the 2005-2006 cohort of student-athletes was **55%** versus the student body's rate of **48%**. The four year rate was **54% versus 48%** 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 below.

	S-A men	all men	S-A women	all women	S-A	all undergrad
	11-12/12-13	11-12/12-13	11-12/12-13	11-12/12-13	11-12/12-13	11-12/12-13
Spring Term GPA	2.965/2.972	2.896/2.933	3.243/3.239	3.229/3.257	3.104/3.129	3.092/3.127
Cumulative GPA	2.921/2.972	2.917/2.960	3.240/3.221	3.209/3.244	3.081/3.119	3.089/3.130

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), or injury treatment time. Therefore the “total time” invested by a student-athlete can exceed 30 hours per week especially with travel to far away competitions.

Scholarships: No WCU student-athlete is on a “full ride”. 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 \$856,848 of scholarship monies were awarded in 2011-2012 which computes to \$1,433 per capita.

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 Information:

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.

3. **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.

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. The role of the FAR is to ensure that the academic institutions establishes and maintains the appropriate balance between academics and intercollegiate athletics. 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.