

48,000 left out of free college education by NCAA D-I athletics decisions

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Abstract

Data self-reported by public NCAA Division I institutions was used to determine how much each institution used indirect institutional support, direct institutional support, and student fees to fund intercollegiate athletics, and how many non-athlete students could instead have their education funded by the same subsidies. The study found \$3.2 billion in subsidies funded Division I public institutions in 2020, which could have instead been used to fully support 48,000 non-athletic students' cost-of-attendance. Institutional leaders should consider the importance of making decisions to spend money on athletics for prestige within the context of spending money on the direct educational pursuits of non-athletes.