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## 2015 Adjusted Graduation Gap Report: NCAA Women’s and Men’s Basketball

***DOUBLE-DIGIT D-I BASKETBALL GRADUATION GAPS PERSIST –***

***And Show No Sign of Improvement***

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**Columbia, SC – JUNE 30, 2015...** The College Sport Research Institute (CSRI), at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, released its fifth-annual NCAA Division-I Women’s and Men’s Basketball Adjusted Graduation Gap (AGG) report today. This report provides an overview of the AGGs of Division-I women’s and men’s basketball players as well as a five-year longitudinal view of “All AGGs” for Division-I conferences sub-divided into “Major” and “Mid-Major” categories.

## CSRI Research – Team Statement

The College Sport Research Institute's Adjusted Graduation Gap (AGG) analysis of NCAA Division I basketball players' graduation rates reveals that overwhelmingly these athletes do not graduate at rates comparable to other full-time students at their universities.

### Study Highlights

#### Overall Results (See tables in Appendix)

- ❖ Across all D-I men's basketball, the overall Black+White AGG is large (-23.1).
- ❖ Women's overall Black+White AGG is better than the men's at (-10.1), but still negative.
- ❖ Men's Major Black+White AGG (-33.8) is much worse than for Mid-Majors (-18.0).
- ❖ Women's Major-Mid-Major Black+White AGG difference is about half of men's (-15.8 vs -7.8).
- ❖ Men's Major Black AGG (-38.7) is much worse than the men's Major White AGG (-24.3)
- ❖ Women's Major Black AGG and White AGG are the same (-15.3).
- ❖ There is no evidence of improved Black+White AGGs for both men and women for either Major or Mid-Major.
- ❖ Ongoing trends show that AGGs may be getting worse for both Major and Mid-Major conferences.

#### Conference Results (See tables in Appendix)

- ❖ For men's Black+White Major AGGs, the smallest AGGs were the Atlantic 10 (-25.3), Conference-USA (-27.9), and Big East (-29.5).
- ❖ The Southeastern (-4.5), Big East (-5.8), and Atlantic 10 (-6.7) conferences had the lowest women's Black+White Major AGGs.
- ❖ The lowest men's Mid-Major Black+White AGGs were in the SWAC (-2.1), Big South (-2.5), and Northeast (-2.5) conferences.

- ❖ The Metro Atlantic (8.8), SWAC (5.3), and Mid-Eastern (3.0) had the lowest women's Black+White Mid-Major AGGs, with these AGGs indicating higher graduation rates for women's basketball players than the general female student body..
- ❖ The largest men's Black+White AGGs were in the American (-45.9), Mountain West (-35.5), and PAC-12 (-35.3) conferences.
- ❖ The American (-25.5), Mountain West (-23.2), and PAC-12 (-18.5) also had the largest women's Black+White Major AGGs.
- ❖ The largest men's Black+White Mid-Major AGGs were the Big West (-34.2), Big Sky (-31.1), and West Coast (-27.6).
- ❖ The greatest women's Black+White Mid-Major AGGs were the Ohio Valley (-17.6), Atlantic Sun (-17.5), and Big West (-16.9).

## **CSRI Position on Graduation Rates**

In 1990, Congress mandated full disclosure of graduation rates at schools that award athletically related aid and receive federal financial aid. The Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) reflects the percentage of students (athletes and non-athletes) who graduate within six years from the school where they initially enrolled as a full-time student. The FGR measures the extent to which colleges and universities retain and graduate recruited athletes, thus providing one measure of whether they are fulfilling the NCAA's mission of maintaining athletes as an integral part of their student body. The strength of the FGR is its focus on student retention.

Another useful graduation rate measure, created by the NCAA to track athletes, is called the Graduation Success Rate (GSR). The GSR excludes from its calculation athletes—including transfers—who leave a particular school prior to graduating (i.e. early), but in good academic standing. The NCAA methodology also includes athletes who transfer into an institution in a program's GSR. The GSR recognizes college athletes may take a different path to graduation than other full-time students. However, a limitation of the GSR is that currently no comparable "graduation" rate exists for the general student body. In other words, the GSR and FGR measures are not comparable.

The AGG was developed to partly address FGR and GSR limitations. The AGG compares an adjusted FGR for full-time students and the reported FGR for college athletes from the following NCAA Division-I sports: FBS football, D-I men's and women's basketball, and D-I softball and baseball. Reports regarding each sport are released at various times during the year.

The College Sport Research Institute believes in the full disclosure of all measures pertaining to college athlete graduation, including the FGR, GSR, and AGG since one measure is not "better" or somehow "fairer" than the others as each measures different things. The FGR focuses on an institution's ability to retain students it admits, while the GSR attempts to account for athletes who leave a school that initially admitted them.

Historically, standard evaluations of NCAA athlete graduation rates have involved comparisons with general student body rates presumed to pertain to full-time students. However, many schools' general student body rates include a significant number of part-time students. This is problematic because all NCAA athletes must be "full-time" and should therefore be compared with other full-time students. The downward "part-timer bias" in the student-body FGR distorts this comparison. Because part-time students take longer to graduate, this significantly reduces the measured general student-body FGR, making the relative rate of college athletes at many schools and conferences appear more favorable. CSRI's Adjusted Graduation Gap methodology addresses this "part-timer bias" using regression-based adjustments for the percentage of part-time enrolled at an institution. The adjustments also account for the aggregate influence of school-specific factors such as location and student demographics. These estimates then become the basis for the AGG comparison.<sup>1</sup>

## **CSRI**

The College Sport Research Institute (CSRI) is housed within the Sport and Entertainment Management Department at the University of South Carolina – Columbia. CSRI is dedicated

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<sup>1</sup> Technical details can be found in E. Woodrow Eckard, "NCAA Athlete Graduation Rates: Less than Meets the Eye," *Journal of Sport Management*, January 2010, pp. 45-58.

to conducting and supporting independent data collection and analysis related to college-sport issues.

Along with conducting and disseminating in-house research, CSRI hosts an annual Conference on College Sport in Columbia, SC. This conference provides college-sport scholars and intercollegiate athletics practitioners a forum to present research related to current college-sport issues and discuss possible solutions to these challenges. CSRI also publishes a peer-reviewed scholarly journal entitled: *Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics (JIIA)*, as an outlet for research related to college-sport issues.

This is the fifth annual installment of the CSRI's Adjusted Graduation Gap (AGG) Report of women's and men's D-I basketball. We hope these reports encourage continuing research and discussion regarding college athlete graduation rates, as well as a focus on the quality and type of educational opportunities offered to college athletes.

## **CSRI Research Team & Co-Authors**

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## Appendix

### 2014-15 NCAA Division-I Adjusted Graduation Gap Tables

**Table 1**

MEN'S BASKETBALL: 2014-2015			
NCAA D-I "MAJOR" CONFERENCES			
	B+W	Black	White
"Power Five"	AGG	AGG	AGG
Big 12	-34.2	-40.9	-11.5
Atlantic Coast	-34.2	-37.0	-23.8
Southeastern	-34.9	-38.6	-14.6
Big Ten	-34.9	-41.4	-21.8
PAC-12	-35.3	-42.1	-31.3
Average	-34.7	-40.0	-20.6
"Other"			
Atlantic 10	-25.3	-34.2	-12.7
Conference-USA	-27.9	-27.7	-30.4
Big East	-29.5	-34.8	-25.9
Mountain West	-35.5	-42.2	-24.7
American	-45.9	-48.1	-45.9
Average	-32.8	-37.4	-27.9
Combined Average	-33.8	-38.7	-24.3

**Table 2**

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: 2014-2015			
NCAA D-I "MAJOR" CONFERENCES			
	B+W	Black	White
"Power Five"	AGG	AGG	AGG
Southeastern	-4.5	-4.8	4.0
Big Ten	-17.4	-22.9	-9.3
Atlantic Coast	-17.4	-14.1	-22.0
Big 12	-17.5	-16.4	-17.8
PAC-12	-18.5	-24.7	-10.2
Average	-15.1	-16.6	-11.1
"Other"			
Big East	-5.8	-6.9	-13.3
Atlantic 10	-6.7	-9.2	-9.8
Conference-USA	-17.4	-18.0	-19.3
Mountain West	-23.2	-12.5	-30.8
American	-25.5	-23.7	-24.2
Average	-15.7	-14.0	-19.5
Combined Average	-15.4	-15.3	-15.3

**Table 3**

MEN'S BASKETBALL: 2014-2015			
NCAA D-I "MID-MAJOR" CONFERENCES			
Conference	B+W AGG	Black AGG	White AGG
SWAC	-2.1	-1.6	
Big South	-2.5	-7.3	3.5
Northeast	-2.5	-3.6	-8.5
Mid-Eastern	-6.2	-7.7	
Patriot	-10.3	-6.7	-15.2
Missouri Valley	-14.3	-20.5	-3.1
Southland	-14.3	-19.1	-16.2
Colonial Athletic	-15.9	-21.2	-18.1
Summit	-16.8	-12.5	-28.0
Mid-American	-18.8	-24.9	-17.7
Horizon	-19.9	-14.9	-14.3
Southern	-20.7	-22.8	-20.6
Ohio Valley	-20.9	-21.7	-26.8
Sun Belt	-21.2	-27.4	-8.8
Metro Atlantic	-22.7	-27.5	-16.1
Atlantic Sun	-24.3	-15.0	-30.4
WAC	-24.3	-34.9	-5.0
America East	-26.6	-22.8	-24.3
West Coast	-27.6	-34.7	-28.7
Big Sky	-31.1	-50.6	-6.0
Big West	-34.2	-24.6	-54.9
Average	-18.0	-20.1	-17.9

## ❖ Notes:

Mid-major per Collegeinsider.com

No White AGGs calculated for MEAC and SWAC, too few schools reporting White FGRs

Ivy League is excluded because of unreported BB graduation rates for both men and women.

Military academies are excluded. Universities with unreported FGRs are excluded.



**Table 4**

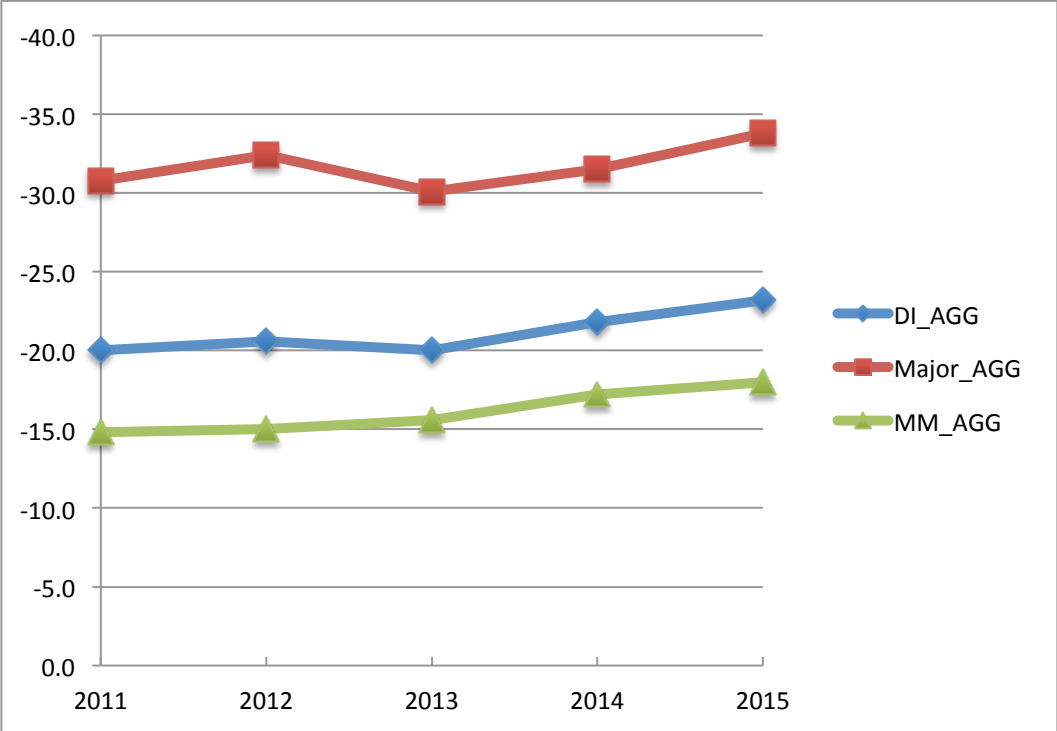
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: 2014-2015			
NCAA D-I "MID-MAJOR" CONFERENCES			
Conference	B+W AGG	Black AGG	White AGG
Metro Atlantic	8.8	4.8	9.9
SWAC	5.3	6.7	
Mid-Eastern	3.0	3.2	
Southern	1.0	-0.2	3.7
Horizon	-0.3	-3.6	1.6
Patriot	-2.4	2.7	-1.9
WAC	-2.9	-5.2	-21.7
Missouri Valley	-3.5	-12.2	-3.3
Big South	-7.9	-8.3	-8.6
Mid-American	-8.9	-22.5	-1.7
West Coast	-9.1	-25.9	0.0
Colonial Athletic	-11.1	-5.5	-16.3
America East	-11.8	-28.9	-6.7
Northeast	-12.2	-14.3	-12.3
Summit	-12.6	-24.2	-11.8
Southland	-12.8	-14.8	-10.8
Big Sky	-14.9	-12.0	-8.7
Sun Belt	-15.2	-15.5	-5.7
Big West	-16.9	-33.1	-3.6
Atlantic Sun	-17.5	-14.0	-23.5
Ohio Valley	-17.6	-25.4	-21.0
Average	-7.6	-11.8	-7.5

## ❖ Notes:

Mid-major per Collegeinsider.com

No White AGGs calculated for MEAC and SWAC, too few schools reporting White FGRs

**Chart 1- Five-Year Trend-lines: Men's D-I, "Major" and "Mid-Major" AGGs**



**Chart 2- Five-Year Trend-lines: Women’s D-I, “Major” and “Mid-Major” AGGs**

