

Our travel policy is presently communicated to our student-athletes in two manners. It is posted on the student-athlete page of the Athletics-Compliance website and it will be reviewed with each team at the compliance orientation meeting beginning in 2007-2008. Also, beginning in 2007-2008 this policy will also be housed, in writing, in the Student-Athlete Handbook.

The overall graduation rates for Student-Athletes at Liberty University taken from the NCAA Official Division I Graduation-Rates Reports for 2004, 2003, and 2002 are:

<b>Freshman Cohort Graduation Rate</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>All Student-Athletes</b>
<b>1997-98 Graduation Rate</b>	44%	69%
<b>Four-Class Average</b>	38%	61%
<b>1996-97 Graduation Rate</b>	45%	54%
<b>Four-Class Average</b>	35%	52%
<b>19975-96 Graduation Rate</b>	33%	58%
<b>Four-Class Average</b>	31%	51%

The current graduation rates for student-athletes are significantly higher than the rates for all students. Not only do the graduation rates for student-athletes far exceed that of the general student body, but graduation rates for student-athletes have improved by over 10% during the three year period observed.

The overall graduation rates for male and female Student-Athletes by Ethnicity, and Year taken from the Official Division I Graduation-Rates Reports for 2004, 2003, and 2002 are:

<b>2004 (97-98 Freshman)</b>	<b>Male Student-Athletes</b>	<b>Total Male Students</b>	<b>Female Student-Athletes</b>	<b>Total Female Students</b>
<b>NR Alien</b>	**	36	**	55
<b>Black</b>	60	25	100	18
<b>Am Ind</b>		**		**
<b>Asian</b>	**	57	**	33
<b>Hispanic</b>	**	50	**	36
<b>White</b>	64	42	75	52
<b>Total</b>	58	39	81	48
<b>2003 (96-97 Freshman)</b>	<b>Male Student-Athletes</b>	<b>Total Male Students</b>	<b>Female Student-Athletes</b>	<b>Total Female Students</b>
<b>NR Alien</b>		28		39
<b>Black</b>	**	14	**	17
<b>Am Ind</b>	**	**	**	**
<b>Asian</b>		**		**
<b>Hispanic</b>	**	**	**	30
<b>White</b>	52	38	56	63
<b>Total</b>	52	33	56	56
<b>2002 (95-96 Freshman)</b>	<b>Male Student-Athletes</b>	<b>Total Male Students</b>	<b>Female Student-Athletes</b>	<b>Total Female Students</b>

<b>NR Alien</b>	**	19	**	27
<b>Black</b>	**	18	**	21
<b>Am Ind</b>	**	**	**	**
<b>Asian</b>		25		63
<b>Hispanic</b>		5		36
<b>White</b>	44	26	86	44
<b>Total</b>	45	24	75	42

\*\* FERPA regulations require that these data be suppressed

Based on the data provided, it is our assessment that Liberty University male and female student-athletes graduate at higher rates than the general male and female student population regardless of their gender. The one exception to this statement was that 56% of the white female student-athletes graduated in 2003 compared to 63% of the total female students. When comparing the graduation rates for female student-athletes to male student-athletes, female student-athletes graduated at higher rates than male student-athletes for the years 2002 (75% and 45%, respectively) and 2004 (81% and 58%, respectively).

The overall graduation rates for male Student-Athletes by Gender, Sport, Ethnicity, and Year taken from the Official Division I Graduation-Rates Reports for 2004, 2003, and 2002 are:

<b>2004 (1997-98 Freshman)</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Baseball</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>CC/Track</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>NR Alien</b>	36		0*		50	
<b>Black</b>	25		0*	100	57	0*
<b>Am Ind</b>	**					
<b>Asian</b>	57					
<b>Hispanic</b>	50					100
<b>White</b>	42	67	0*	100	50	100
<b>Total</b>	39	67	0*	100	53	75
<b>2003 (96-97 Freshman)</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Baseball</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>CC/Track</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>NR Alien</b>	28					
<b>Black</b>	14				80	
<b>Am Ind</b>	**					
<b>Asian</b>	**					
<b>Hispanic</b>	**			**		
<b>White</b>	38	**			55	50
<b>Total</b>	33	**		**	59	50

<b>2002 (95-96 Freshman)</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Baseball</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>CC/Track</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>NR Alien</b>	19		0*			
<b>Black</b>	18					
<b>Am Ind</b>	**				100	
<b>Asian</b>	25					
<b>Hispanic</b>	5					
<b>White</b>	26	33			75	0*
<b>Total</b>	24	33	0*		80	0*

\* Only 1-5 athletes in this group

\*\* FERPA regulations require that these data be suppressed

Based on the data provided, it is our assessment that Liberty University male student-athletes nearly always graduate at higher rates than the general student population regardless of their ethnicity or sport. Some teams exhibited extremely high graduation rates during the three years observed. In 2004, 100% of the black, white, and total CC/Track student-athletes graduated compared to 25%, 42%, and 39%, respectively, of the general black, white, and total students. In 2003, 80% of the black football players graduated compared to 14% of the black general students. In 2003, the football team exhibited extremely high graduation rates. In that year, 100% of the American Indian players graduated. Seventy-five percent of the white players graduated compared to 25% of the general white students and the total graduation rate was 89% compared to 24% of the general student population.

There were only a few cases during the 2002-2004 timeframe, (Men's Basketball and Other) where the rate was zero. However, in each case, this was a group size of 1-5 athletes, making it difficult to determine if this is statistically significant. However, a graduation rate problem was identified for men's basketball prior to academic year 2003-2004. Beginning in 2003, at-risk Student-Athletes were identified by an Athletics Academic Advisor and adjustments were made with regard to tutoring and study hall requirements. A part-time Athletics Academic Support Staff member was assigned to men's basketball in 2004 to monitor the academic progress of Student-Athletes. In 2005, that Support Staff member was assigned full-time to the men's basketball team. It is anticipated that the men's basketball players of all ethnicities will benefit from the increased attention given to their academic needs.

The overall graduation rates for female Student-Athletes by Gender, Sport, Ethnicity, and Year taken from the Official Division I Graduation-Rates Reports for 2004, 2003, and 2002 are:

<b>2004 (97-98 Freshman)</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>CC/Track</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>NR Alien</b>	55	100		

<b>Black</b>	18		100	
<b>Am Ind</b>	**			
<b>Asian</b>	33			
<b>Hispanic</b>	36			
<b>White</b>	52	100	75	73
<b>Total</b>	48	100	86	73
<b>2003 (96-97 Freshman)</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>CC/Track</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>NR Alien</b>	39			
<b>Black</b>	17		**	**
<b>Am Ind</b>	**			
<b>Asian</b>	**			
<b>Hispanic</b>	30			**
<b>White</b>	63	**	60	57
<b>Total</b>	56	**	67	56
<b>2002 (95-96 Freshman)</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>CC/Track</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>NR Alien</b>	27			
<b>Black</b>	21		0*	
<b>Am Ind</b>	**			
<b>Asian</b>	63			
<b>Hispanic</b>	36			
<b>White</b>	44	50	100	100
<b>Total</b>	42	50	50	100

\* Only 1-5 athletes in this group

\*\* FERPA regulations require that these data be suppressed

Based on the data provided, it is our assessment that Liberty University female student-athletes nearly always graduate at higher rates than the general student population regardless of their ethnicity or sport. Some teams exhibited extremely high graduation rates during the three years observed. In 2004, 100% of the NR alien, white, and total basketball student-athletes graduated compared to 55%, 52%, and 48%, respectively, of the general NR alien, white, and total students.

There was only a one case during the 2002-2004 timeframe (Cross Country/ Track) where the rate was zero. However, in each case, this was a group size of 1-5 athletes, making it difficult to determine if this is statistically significant.

Liberty University continues to improve the educational opportunities for its student-athletes. Beginning in 2006, the Athletic Academic Affairs Office was established at Liberty University and a new Associate Athletics Director for Academic Affairs was

hired. Among the new initiatives established for the Liberty University Student-Athletes are:

### **Staff**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Sport Responsibilities</b>	<b>Administrative Responsibilities</b>	<b>Start Date</b>
Kristie Beitz Associate AD	W Soccer, M Soccer, Golf, Wrestling, Baseball	APR, Graduation Rate, Study Skills Implementation, Mentor, Eligibility, Degree Progress, Transition Program	7/2006
Laurie Gulluscio Academic Coordinator	M/W Cross Country, M/W Indoor/Outdoor Track, Volleyball, Softball	Champs Life Skills Tutor Coordinator Study Hall	8/2005
Buck Romero Academic Coordinator	M/W Basketball	Faculty Relations Guest Coach Program Study Hall	8/2005
Andy Coleman Academic Coordinator	Football	Guest Coach Program	6/2006
Jen Termini Graduate Intern	Football, M/W Tennis	Book Forms Summer Athletic Orientation	

### **Study Hall**

- Comprehensive mandatory study hall program for all sports
- Under direct guidance of the Academic Affairs for Athletics department
- Increased days and hours of operation from previous years
- Increased number of classroom & computer labs specifically for student-athlete use

### **Tutor Program**

- Independent consultant reviewed existing program & recently submitted a comprehensive report with suggestions for improvement
- Revamped tutorial training
- Increased number of tutors & variety of subjects
- Implementation of Mentor program that complements as well as supports tutorial program.
  - Focus on freshmen, transfer, and identified at-risk candidates

### **Tracking**

- Implementing a proactive progress report with freshmen, transfer, and at-risk candidates that will track long and short-term assignments
- Grade reports will be distributed to academic coordinators & coaches

### **Students with Disabilities**

- Identification of potential students with learning disabilities by academic coordinators
- Set up individual testing with a certified tester utilizing monies awarded through the Big South Conference
- Time management, study skills, and organizational skills

**Assistive Technology (Future)**

- Create a lab with assistive technology to support students with deficits in Reading Comprehension, Reading Rate, Written Expression
- Dragon Naturally Speaking, Kurzweil 3000, Inspiration
- Additional laptop computers for student use