

## OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

Geoff Gonella	Tisha Edwards
Tom McMillen	Dhruvak Mirani
Michelle Gourdine	Rayne Rivera-Forbes
Bill Wood	Linda Gooden, <i>ex officio</i>
Sherri Blount	

**FROM:** Ellen Herbst

**DATE:** June 3, 2026

**RE:** Meeting of the Committee via Video Conference

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The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare of the USM Board of Regents will meet in public session via video conference at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 3.

The agenda and supporting materials will be available on Nasdaq Boardvantage for members of the Board and the USM website at <https://www.usmd.edu/regents/agendas/>.

Zoom details will be provided to the Regents prior to the meeting.

Public listen-only access is provided at 301-715-8592; Conference ID - 980 7398 4881;  
Password: 122229

cc: Other Members, Board of Regents  
Office of the Attorney General  
Chancellor's Council  
Athletic Directors  
Office of Communications  
SVCAF Managers

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**AGENDA FOR PUBLIC SESSION**

Call to Order

Chair Gonella

1. [Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 27, 2026](#) (action)
2. [A Student-Athlete Academic Experience in the NIL Era - a Panel Discussion with Academic and Athletics Leaders from Coppin State University, Salisbury University, University of Maryland, College Park, and Frostburg State University](#) (information)
3. [Mid-Year Athletic Directors' Updates – Rotating – UMES, BSU, TU](#) (information)  
Tara Owens, University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
Jolisa Williams, Bowie State University  
Steve Eigenbrot, Towson University
4. [Title IX Intercollegiate Athletics Status](#) (information)
5. [Summary of Student-Athlete Admissions, Graduation, and Academic Progress](#) (information)

**TOPIC:** Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 27, 2026 (Action)

**COMMITTEE:** Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** June 3, 2026

**SUMMARY:** The Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare Committee will review the minutes from its March 27, 2026, public session and determine whether they accurately reflect the meeting and the actions taken.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** The Committee may defer approval or request corrections.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No fiscal impact is anticipated.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Chancellor recommends approval of the minutes.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

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BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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SUBMITTED BY: Ellen Herbst (301) 445-1923

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UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
of MARYLAND

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare**

March 27, 2026

Meeting via Video and Conference Call

DRAFT

Minutes of the Public Session

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Regent Gonella called the meeting of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order in public session at 1:00 p.m.

Regents participating in the session included: Mr. Gonella (Chair), Ms. Gooden, Mr. McMillen, Mr. Wood, Ms. Blount, Ms. Edwards, Ms. Rivera-Forbes and Mr. Mirani. Also participating were Chancellor Perman, Senior Vice Chancellors Herbst and Wrynn; Vice Chancellor Mosca; Director of Financial Planning and Analysis Norris; Associate Vice Chancellor Denson; Chief of Staff Wilkerson, and Senior Counsel to USM Boyle. In attendance were Athletic Directors Eigenbrot, Polizzi, Stevenson, Owens, Smith, Carter and Tucker; Interim Athletic Director Williams; and other members of the USM community and the public.

Regent Gonella offered remarks on the passing of Clyde Doughty from Bowie State University, honoring him as a deeply respected leader whose service beginning in 2015 included roles as Athletics Director and Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation, during which he advanced facilities and led programs to significant competitive success. His distinguished career, leadership within the CAAA, commitment to student mentorship, and lasting impact on the university community were acknowledged with appreciation, and the Board noted that he will be greatly missed.

The following agenda items were discussed:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2025 (Action)

Regent Gonella asked the committee members to move that the minutes from November 19, 2025 be approved.

**The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare has recommended that the Board of Regents grant approval of meeting minutes to be approved.**

(Regents Gonella moved recommendation, seconded by Regent Wood; approved)

Vote Count = Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

2. Presentation on Gambling Trends and Compliance Issues by NCAA Representatives (Information)

Regent Gonella introduced Clint Hangebrauck, Managing Director of Enterprise Risk Management for the NCAA and Dr. Carey Wheelhouse, Director of Health Promotion in the NCAA Sport Science Institute, who presented gambling trends and compliance issues, including the effects these activities can have on the student-athletes' well-being.

Regent McMillen asked about the discrepancy between the current survey results and the 2023 report regarding the percentage of males who gamble and inquired about what actions schools are talking to address gambling. Mr. Hangebrauck explained that the current survey focuses on the student population overall, rather than exclusively on student athletes. Dr. Wheelhouse added that gambling is a widespread issue affecting students across all schools, not just within athletics and emphasized the importance of a systemwide approach to addressing the issue.

Regent Wood noted that a number of consequences have emerged following the Supreme Court's decision and asked whether there has been any consideration for raising these unintended consequences with the Court and requesting reconsideration. Mr. Hangebrauck responded that he had not heard of any such efforts but indicated that he could raise the issue with their government relations team and follow up on whether this is something they could pursue.

3. Mid-Year Athletic Directors' Updates – Rotating – CSU, FSU (Information)

Regent Gonella informed the Committee members they would hear from two athletic directors on their perspectives on current issues. The presentations are intended to be informative and keep the committee abreast of current challenges and impacts felt on the ground at the institutions including but not limited to student health and safety, academic performance and progress, and financial affairs of their programs. AD Carter presented from CSU and AD Stevenson from FSU.

Chancellor Perman raised questions about the transfer portal, including its pros and cons, and sought reassurance that academic considerations, particularly the transferability of student credits are being addressed, noting concerns that this issue may be overlooked. AD Carter responded that credit transfer is a part of the discussion, but acknowledged that students are transferring more frequently while campuses are still held accountable for APR. As a result, campuses have measures in place to support academic success, and although transfer students go through the standard admissions process, some are denied admission because they do not meet eligibility requirements.

Regent Wood asked about the robustness of the transfer portal, including transfer admission and the likelihood of credit acceptance. AD Carter responded that Admissions reviews each transcript to determine acceptable credits, with decisions varying by prior institution and major, and noted that some applicants are denied. Ms. Herbst clarified that transfer decisions follow the standard admissions process for all students, not just student athletes, and are managed by the admissions

office. Dr. Wrynn noted that campuses can analyze credit loss among transferring students but emphasized that students must present sufficient acceptable credits to be admitted.

Regent Mirani asked about the role of student advisory groups, including the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), their coordination with student government and campus committees, and whether there are codified roles or policies related to student-athlete involvement in policy discussions. AD Rubin responded that efforts are made to include student athletes by meeting with them to discuss plans and address their concerns, as well as by encouraging SAAC participation in local community engagement to identify needs and ways to contribute.

#### 4. Internal Audit Summary of Intercollegiate Athletics (Information)

Regent Gonella introduced Mr. Mosca, who provided a general overview of what Internal Audit examines when auditing ICA and offered remarks recognizing his retirement, noting his leadership of the University System of Maryland's Office of Internal Audit since 2005 and his longstanding service as Vice Chancellor for Accountability. His commitment to transparency, accountability, and sound governance was acknowledged, and best wishes were extended for his retirement effective June 1.

Regent McMillen raised concerns regarding potential gender-related lawsuits, noting that some schools question whether House settlement allocations should align with athlete demographics rather than a 90/10 split, and asked whether this presents a future legal risk and whether institutions are setting aside litigation reserves. Mr. Mosca responded that the primary risk lies in financial exposure, citing disparities in revenue between men's and women's sports, particularly basketball. He expressed concern that equal revenue-sharing approaches under Title IX could pose significant legal risk and that the current treatment of female athletes in revenue sharing and NIL may lead to future litigation.

Regent Mirani asked what resources, training, or best practices are available to help make the concept of "culture" more tangible. Mr. Mosca responded that culture change is challenging, particularly with long-tenured coaches, while newer coaches are generally more receptive to training. He emphasized the importance of clearly defining expectations, strong leadership, and setting the "tone at the top," noting that leadership must model priorities, follow through on issues, and address problems consistently to establish and sustain culture.

#### 5. Financial Condition and Results of Intercollegiate Athletic Programs (Information)

Regent Wood raised questions regarding the report showing approved budget adjustments, noting his assumption that funds used to offset athletic program shortfalls came from outside athletics and asking for clarification on their source. Ms. Herbst explained that the funds came from campus general funds, prompting Mr. Wood to question whether those funds had specific allocations and which programs might be impacted by transfers to athletics, including concerns about who may be losing funding as a result. Citing UMCP's report, Regent Wood observed that it routinely exceeds its fund balance goals and described those balances as institutional savings.

Ms. Herbst stated that these funds are allocated at the president's discretion, noting that some programs generate margins while others do not and emphasizing that presidents determine internal spending priorities rather than "taking away" funds. Regent Gonella clarified that such decisions are made by campus presidents, not USM, after which Mr. Wood asked how presidential performance should be evaluated in relation to these allocation decisions.

Regent McMillen requested a cumulative view of operating deficits in order to gain a clearer understanding of their overall impact. Ms. Herbst responded that this information could be reviewed through the institution's fund balance and noted, in response to Mr. McMillen's request to examine data over a ten-year period, that such an analysis has been conducted previously.

The public meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regent Geoff J. Gonella  
Chair, Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

**TOPIC:** *A Student-Athlete Academic Experience in the NIL Era – A Panel Discussion (Information)*

**COMMITTEE:** Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** June 3, 2026

**SUMMARY:** This panel will frame the committee’s work by examining student-athletes’ academic experiences and institutional academic supports in intercollegiate athletics today. Academic leaders from Divisions I, II, and III will share cross-divisional perspectives on common challenges and highlight effective practices across diverse institutional contexts. This discussion will focus on key issues influencing student-athlete academic success, transfer and credit mobility, and student support services. Panelists will also explore how student-athlete success aligns with broader institutional goals.

Panelists presenting include Vera Carrington, Associate Director, Athletics for Coppin State University, Jessica Stoltz, Associate Director for Athletics for Salisbury University, Brady W. Rourke, Associate Athletic Director/Director of GSAC (Gossett Student Athlete Center) for University of Maryland, College Park, and Carrie E. Saunders, Assistant Athletic Director for Frostburg State University.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** This item is presented for information purposes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This item is presented for information purposes.

**CHANCELLOR’S RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented for information purposes.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

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BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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SUBMITTED BY: Ellen Herbst (301) 445-1923

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**TOPIC:** Mid-Year Athletic Directors' Updates – Rotating – UMES, BSU, TU (Information)

**COMMITTEE:** Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** June 3, 2026

**SUMMARY:** Each committee meeting, institution athletic directors are invited to provide a mid-year update focused on the unique issues and challenges currently facing their athletic program and discuss nationwide trends, developments, and future potential actions with an impact on their athletic programs.

This meeting we have invited athletic directors to each spend 15-20 minutes discussing their athletic program, including:

- Student health and safety
- Academic performance and progress
- Financial affairs of the program

Athletic directors presenting at this meeting include:

1. Tara Owens, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
2. Jolisa Williams, Bowie State University
3. Steve Eigenbrot, Towson University

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** This item is presented for information purposes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This item is presented for information purposes.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented for information purposes.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

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BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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SUBMITTED BY: Ellen Herbst (301) 445-1923

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**TOPIC:** Title IX Intercollegiate Athletics Status (Information)

**COMMITTEE:** Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** June 3, 2026

**SUMMARY:** Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the education programs receiving Federal financial assistance. Athletics are considered an integral part of an institution's education program and are therefore covered by this law. Failure to comply with the requirements of Title IX could result in administrative action revoking an institution's ability to receive federal funding, including student financial aid. Highlights of requirements for Title IX compliance follow.

Information about Title IX changes and/or procedures will be discussed.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** This item is presented for information purposes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This item is presented for information purposes.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented for information purposes.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

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BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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SUBMITTED BY: Ellen Herbst (301) 445-1923 and Alison Wrynn (301) 445-1992

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**TOPIC:** Summary of student-athlete admissions, graduation, and academic progress (Information)

**COMMITTEE:** Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** June 3, 2026

**SUMMARY:** Board of Regents Policy V-2.10 Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics details the Board of Regents' values and expectations of institutions that operate intercollegiate athletics programs. One of the basic principles articulated is:

*Student athletes are first and foremost students, and it is the expectation of the Board of Regents that their academic performance and progress will be comparable to that of non-athletes.*

A considerable volume of detailed information on the academic progress, admission profiles and graduation rates for student-athletes is reviewed by System Office staff.

To ensure that publicly-presented information does not jeopardize Federal student privacy requirements, staff have summarized the information for ease of use by the Regents and the attached report details the results of the review.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** This item is presented for information purposes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This item is presented for information purposes.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented for information purposes.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

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BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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SUBMITTED BY: Ellen Herbst (301) 445-1923

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# FY 2026 Academic Summary Report

## Board of Regents' Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

June 3, 2026

***“Student athletes are first and foremost students, and it is the expectation of the Board of Regents that their academic performance and progress will be comparable to that of non-athletes.”***

This report summarizes the student-athlete academic performance and progress compared to the non-athlete student peers for the University System of Maryland (USM) institutions with NCAA Intercollegiate Athletics programs. The following summary includes the synthesis for the academic measures requested by the Chancellor in Policy (V-2.10 USM Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics) and includes comparisons of the preparedness of incoming student-athletes, their ongoing academic success, and their graduation rates. Finally, a summary of the Academic Progress Rates (APR) is included to ensure that minimum NCAA standards are being met at each institution.

### ***The Changing NCAA Environment and Academic Success***

Intercollegiate athletics continues to experience rapid policy and operational changes, particularly in eligibility rules, academic accountability, and student-athlete compensation. The NCAA is increasingly focused on modernizing how it measures student-athlete academic progress, especially in response to transfer behavior, shifting participation patterns, and the expanding Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) environment.

A major emerging change is the NCAA's movement toward an age-based eligibility framework, often described as a “five-in-five” model. Under this concept, student-athletes would have five years of eligibility beginning after high school graduation (or a defined age threshold), with limited exceptions. This proposed shift is intended to simplify eligibility rules, reduce reliance on waivers, and create a clearer and more consistent standard across institutions.

At the same time, NCAA academic leadership is actively evaluating adjustments to the Academic Progress Rate (APR), recognizing that the current metric does not fully account for today's transfer-heavy environment. Current discussions include how to treat different transfer pathways, whether current credit allocation rules remain appropriate, and whether a transfer-sensitive APR model should be introduced.

A key long-term initiative is the NCAA's Graduation Passport, which will represent a significant shift in academic tracking. Rather than relying on institution-based snapshots, the Graduation Passport will enable longitudinal, student-level tracking across institutions. This will allow the NCAA to evaluate academic outcomes based on complete student-athlete pathways, including multiple transfers, and to categorize outcomes such as graduated, still enrolled, or left without a degree.

In parallel, the NIL landscape continues to evolve as a major structural component of intercollegiate athletics. Increased reporting requirements, growing compliance oversight, and continued variability in state and national policy frameworks are shaping how institutions manage student-athlete compensation. NIL has also become an important factor influencing recruiting, retention, and competitive balance, while adding new administrative and compliance considerations for institutions.

Collectively, these developments signal a more outcomes-focused NCAA environment that will place increased emphasis on consistent definitions, validated data, and longitudinal academic and athletic success measures. As these initiatives mature, they will create new opportunities for systemwide benchmarking, deeper analysis, and dashboarding to better understand student-athlete progress and institutional performance.

Within this changing NCAA landscape, the core academic accountability is how USM student-athletes are performing against Board expectations and their campus peers. The results that follow present a systemwide view of academic preparedness, mid-year performance, and progress toward degree completion, identifying both areas of consistency and key differences across institutions competing in NCAA Division I, II, III.

#### ***Summary of Academic Preparedness by Institution:***

Institutions reported the high school GPA and SAT (Standardized Tests) scores for student-athletes and the institutional first-time, full-time fall cohort of new students. It should be noted that admission policies have transitioned to test-optional at most institutions, so any SAT averages reported were a subset of the entire population. However, with few exceptions, USM institutions reported similar academic preparedness for student-athletes when compared to their peers (See Table 1).

The exceptions to the Board Policy requiring similar academic preparedness were few. At the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), men student-athletes reported a lower average high school GPA (3.64) compared to their peers (4.45) and lower average SAT scores (1220 vs. 1440). Women student-athletes at UMCP also reported a lower average high school GPA (4.06) compared to their peers (4.44) and lower SAT scores (1224 vs. 1393).

**Table 1: Academic Preparation of Fall 2025 New First-time Full-Time Students**

Regular Admit Students	Men				Women			
	All		Student-Athletes		All		Student-Athletes	
	HS GPA	SAT	HS GPA	SAT	HS GPA	SAT	HS GPA	SAT
Bowie State University	3.11	NA	3.15	NA	3.24	NA	3.48	NA
Coppin State University	2.96	966	3.33	NA	3.20	921	3.58	NA
Frostburg State University	3.16	NA	3.35	NA	3.25	NA	3.85	NA
Salisbury University	3.62	1254	3.66	1266	3.80	1239	4.03	1236
Towson University	3.77	1108	3.70	1045	3.85	1049	3.95	1216
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	4.05	1289	3.87	1311	4.11	1255	3.87	818
University of Maryland, College Park	4.45	1440	3.64	1220	4.44	1393	4.06	1224
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	3.01	NA	3.35	NA	3.89	NA	3.42	NA

Special Admit Students	Men				Women			
	All		Student-Athletes		All		Student-Athletes	
	HS GPA	SAT	HS GPA	SAT	HS GPA	SAT	HS GPA	SAT
Towson University	2.72	NA	2.72	NA	2.65	NA	2.67	NA
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	2.85	770	NA	NA	3.42	NA	NA	NA
University of Maryland, College Park	2.67	NA	2.67	NA	2.79	NA	2.79	NA

*Note: Institutions with NA for SAT scores are test-optional schools that do not report an average number. All Special Admits at UMCP are student-athletes.*

*Data Limitation Note: These data include both scholarship and non-scholarship first-time student-athletes. This report mirrored NCAA reporting and the practices where student-athletes rarely transferred. The volume and academic preparedness of transfer students are not reported.*

## Summary of Mid-Year Academic Performance

Following the fall semester, institutions reported mid-year academic performance metrics for full-time undergraduate students. With few exceptions, student-athletes demonstrated comparable or stronger academic outcomes than their peers.

At UMCP, student-athletes reported a lower average cumulative GPA (3.18) than full-time undergraduates overall (3.44) and slightly lower average credit hour completion (13.6 vs. 14.4), although they maintained low percentages of students earning fewer than 6 or 12 credits.

Continuous academic achievement and progress towards degree attainment are essential for students to graduate, graduate on time, and remain academically eligible to compete in athletics. Student-athletes with a GPA below 2.00 jeopardize eligibility and retention, and student-athletes earning fewer credit hours may require completing more credits in the spring semester or registering for summer courses to make sufficient progress toward degree completion.

With few exceptions, the trend for student-athletes is to have the same or higher cumulative GPA, have higher credit hour completion averages, have a lower percentage of students with cumulative GPA averages below 2.00, and a lower percentage of students completing fewer than 12.0 or 6.0 credit hours (See Table 2).

With only one exception, the data supports the claim that most student-athletes are succeeding at rates like, if not higher than, their peers. Student-athletes at UMCP are not performing at the same rates as their peers. When comparing across institutions, the UMCP peer GPA averages and credit hour completion were the highest in the USM, but the UMCP student-athlete average cumulative GPA and average fall credit hour completion averages were more like other USM student-athletes averages.

**Table 2: Mid-Year Academic Performance of Full-time Undergraduates After Fall 2025**  
All Full-time Undergraduates

	Average Cumulative GPA	% of Students Under 2.0 Cumulative GPA	Average Fall Credit Hours Attempted	Average Fall Credit Hours Completed	% below 6 Credit Hours Complete in Fall Term	% below 12 Credit Hours Complete in Fall Term
Bowie State University	2.95	8.8%	14.9	12.9	4.9%	19.3%
Coppin State University	2.83	14.8%	15.2	12.6	7.5%	25.6%
Frostburg State University	3.06	9.4%	15.1	13.5	4.8%	15.0%
Salisbury University	3.03	8.2%	14.3	13.0	4.5%	13.9%
Towson University	3.01	7.5%	14.8	13.3	4.2%	15.3%
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	3.11	6.8%	14.8	13.4	4.6%	16.1%
University of Maryland, College Park	3.44	1.5%	14.6	14.4	0.9%	6.5%
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	2.83	14.6%	15.2	12.7	8.3%	26.5%

**Student-Athletes**

	Average Cumulative GPA	% of Students Under 2.0 Cumulative GPA	Average Fall Credit Hours Attempted	Average Fall Credit Hours Completed	% below 6 Credit Hours Complete in Fall Term	% below 12 Credit Hours Complete in Fall Term
Bowie State University	2.97	9.4%	15.0	13.0	4.7%	22.7%
Coppin State University	3.09	6.1%	14.7	14.1	0.0%	15.5%
Frostburg State University	3.29	6.0%	15.2	14.5	1.9%	12.9%
Salisbury University	3.21	3.2%	15.0	14.3	0.4%	5.3%
Towson University	3.20	2.4%	15.1	14.2	1.3%	6.2%
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	3.41	0.5%	15.4	14.6	0.8%	5.8%
University of Maryland, College Park	3.18	1.4%	14.0	13.6	0.2%	8.2%
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	3.48	1.8%	15.7	15.2	0.0%	0.0%

*Data Limitation Note: These data include all student-athletes on rosters as of the fall semester. The data includes both new first-time and new transfer student-athletes as well as both scholarship and non-scholarship student-athletes and offers the most complete picture of student-athlete academic performance within this report.*

**Summary of Academic Student Success**

Graduation rates for first-time, full-time new undergraduates are measured across a 6-year timeframe. The USM institutions reported the regular admit graduation rates and percentage of undergraduates who “left in good standing” for the Fall 2019 first-time, full-time cohort and the subset of student-athletes within this cohort. Institutions provided these data for women and men as well as for regular admits and special admits (See Table 3).

The NCAA GSR (Graduation Success Rates) and ASR (Academic Success Rates) reports data comparable to the graduation rate and left in good standing data discussed in Table 3. It should be

noted that the GSR and ASR are reports that publish modified rates for student-athletes by including both the percentage of students who graduated and the percentage who left/transferred in good standing. The cohorts are appropriately adjusted to include new transfer students. This rate is higher than the federal graduation rate which does not include students who dropped out or transferred in good standing like the GSR and ASR. Athletic departments will often point to this measure as a better indicator of student success given the increased transfer-out rates in college athletics. Looking at Table 3, if one combined both the graduation rates and students who left in good standing, the rates will be appropriately adjusted for the entire student body as well as the student-athletes, most student-athlete success rates are comparable to their peers.

There was a general trend for the graduation rate data and the percentage of students who left in good standing (when combined) for student-athletes were comparable or higher than their peers at all USM institutions. In some cases, the increased impact of the NCAA transfer portal shifts the proportion of students in the cohort from graduation to left in good standing.

Comparing graduation rates only, there were few exceptions. Men student-athletes at UMCP graduated at a lower rate (71.0%) than their non-athlete peers (87.1%), and men student-athletes at UMBC graduated at a lower rate (12.5%) compared to their peers (63.2%). Women student-athletes at UMCP graduated at a lower rate (81.1%) than women non-athletes (89.9%), and women student-athletes at UMBC graduated at a lower rate (45.5%) compared to their peers (73.5%).

**Table 3: Graduation Rates and Percentage of Students Left in Good Standing for Fall 2019 New First-time Full-Time Students**

Regular Admit Students Fall 2018	Men				Women			
	All	Student-Athletes	All	Student-Athletes	All	Student-Athletes	All	Student-Athletes
	% Graduated in 6 YEARS OR LESS	% Left in Good Standing	% Graduated in 6 YEARS OR LESS	% Left in Good Standing	% Graduated in 6 YEARS OR LESS	% Left in Good Standing	% Graduated in 6 YEARS OR LESS	% Left in Good Standing
Bowie State University	31.1%	41.6%	83.3%	0.0%	40.5%	42.8%	81.8%	0.0%
Coppin State University	18.1%	5.5%	58.8%	41.2%	22.3%	3.0%	43.8%	56.3%
Frostburg State University	39.6%	21.2%	50.6%	24.1%	50.9%	23.9%	78.3%	17.4%
Salisbury University	57.3%	26.1%	69.1%	27.4%	64.5%	25.5%	90.6%	9.4%
Towson University	61.7%	24.6%	66.7%	33.3%	70.4%	22.9%	65.0%	33.3%
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	63.2%	22.6%	12.5%	12.5%	73.5%	20.0%	45.5%	54.5%
University of Maryland, College Park	87.1%	9.9%	71.0%	25.8%	89.9%	8.9%	81.1%	18.9%
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	29.0%	29.0%	46.7%	66.7%	39.6%	34.4%	54.5%	72.7%

  

Special Admit Students Fall 2018	Men				Women			
	All	Student-Athletes	All	Student-Athletes	All	Student-Athletes	All	Student-Athletes
	% Graduated in 6 YEARS OR LESS	% Left in Good Standing	% Graduated in 6 YEARS OR LESS	% Left in Good Standing	% Graduated in 6 YEARS OR LESS	% Left in Good Standing	% Graduated in 6 YEARS OR LESS	% Left in Good Standing
Towson University	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	NA
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	NA	NA	NA	25.0%	100.0%	NA	NA	100.0%
University of Maryland, College Park	33.3%	66.7%	33.3%	66.7%	66.7%	25.0%	66.7%	33.3%

*Data Limitation Note: These data include only student-athletes who entered the university as first-time, full-time students. If the student-athlete left in good standing, it is unknown if the student joined another NCAA roster or if the student-athlete graduated from another institution. The student-athletes who entered the USM as new transfers were not included in the USM data collection.*

*The NCAA GSR includes only aided student-athletes. Should a student-athlete transfer and earn a roster spot at a USM institution, the new student-athlete is included in the GSR. Similarly, the NCAA ASR includes transfer-in students who earn a degree. Both the NCAA GSR and ASR do not account for the degree attainment of student-athletes who “leave in good standing” but do not earn a roster spot.*

## **NCAA APR**

The NCAA publishes an annual report to monitor student-athlete academic eligibility and retention. High APR scores indicate that teams remain in good standing and are eligible for postseason competition. It is important to note the APR scores are based primarily on student-athletes receiving athletic financial aid, whereas the USM data previously presented earlier includes all student-athletes. Per Policy (V-2.20 – USM Policy on Academic Achievement in Intercollegiate Athletics) all institutions met the NCAA multiyear APR benchmark of 930. The exception was Coppin State University Women’s Softball with a 924 but no penalties issued. In summary, all sports across all USM institutions are in good standing based on the NCAA APR scores and adjustments.

*Data Limitation Note: APR is a term-based Division I metric that tracks academic eligibility and retention and was modified in 2021 to account for transfer activity, allowing institutions to retain retention points when transferring student-athletes meet progress-toward-degree requirements. While APR provides a timely measure of academic progress, it does not fully capture long-term academic outcomes, particularly for student-athletes who transfer across institutions or complete degrees outside their original campus.*