



## Comprehensive Excellence – Academics and Athletics at Cal

The Athletic Study Center and Office of Planning and Analysis have collaborated to produce this briefing to illustrate how comprehensive excellence includes both academics and intercollegiate athletics at Cal.

As Chancellor Birgeneau has described in his new plan for U.C. Berkeley's Intercollegiate Athletics' future, "this plan preserves what sets Cal Athletics apart from the crowd – a rare combination of competitive excellence, academic achievement and community engagement... Leaders of this country's best universities have long understood the value of high-quality athletics programs and the extent to which they are an integral part of what defines institutional character and identity."

The table to the right presents three academic rankings – 2010 Shanghai Jiaotong Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), 2010 National Research Council (NRC) Top PhD Program Rankings, and the 2011 US News and World Report (USNWR) Top Undergraduate University Rankings – compared to the latest Director's Cup Rankings of Athletic Programs. This table illustrates UC Berkeley's comprehensive excellence in both academics and athletics.

As background, the ARWR focuses predominantly on measures of academic research, while the NRC uses a broader set of indicators meant to reflect the quality of graduate faculty, students and resources. The USNWR is also relatively broad in scope, but focuses on undergraduate education and uses indicators that favor private institutions over public. The Directors' Cup is an award given annually to colleges and universities with the most success in intercollegiate athletics by their respective athletic division, with Division 1 being the most competitive athletically. UC Berkeley has finished in the top ten of the Division 1 Directors' Cup seven of the last eight years. After eliminating the five athletic programs from the 2009-2010 rankings, UC Berkeley would rank 12<sup>th</sup>, ahead of the University of Southern California.

For student-athletes, excelling in academics is an important and essential part of the program. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) reports multiple graduation rates for student-athletes who received athletic aid, compared to all undergraduate students on campus. They report student athlete graduation rates for the most recent entry cohort (2002-03), compared to a campus total, along with a four-class average for student athletes. Not reported here, the NCAA also reports a student-athlete graduation success rate (which takes into account students transferring to and graduating from another institution). The chart to the right reports the

**Comparison of Academic and Athletic Rankings**

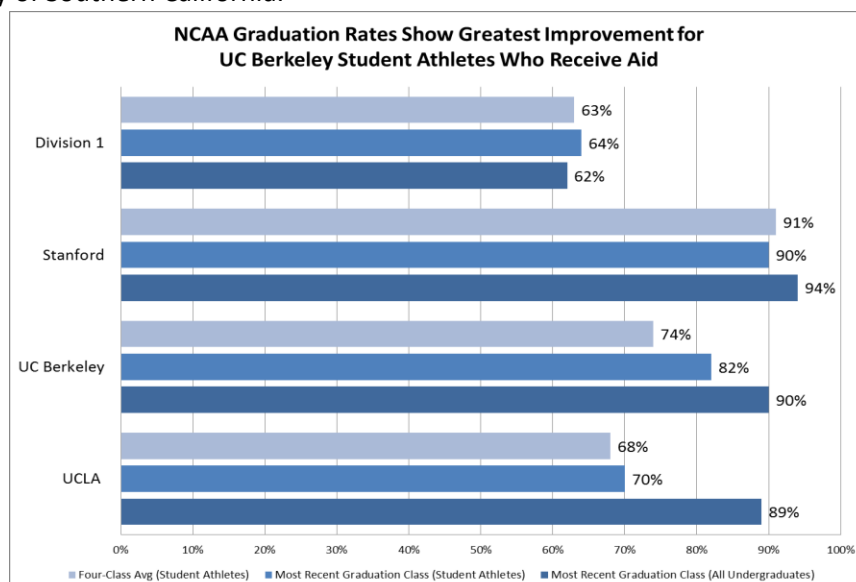
	Academic Ranking of World Universities <sup>1</sup>	Largest Number of PhD Programs in Top 10 <sup>2</sup>	Top Undergraduate Universities <sup>3</sup>	Top Ranked Athletic Programs <sup>4</sup>		
				Div 1	Div 2	Div 3
Harvard	1	2	1	64		
California	2	1	22	9		
Stanford	3	5	5	1		
MIT	4	13	7			11
Cal Tech	6	19	7			NA
Princeton	7	9	2	32		
Columbia	8	9	4	151		
Chicago	9	16	9			29
Yale	11	7	3	76		
Cornell	12	8	15	52		
UCLA	13	3	24	4		
UC San Diego	14	30			8	
Pennsylvania	15	13	5	81		

<sup>1</sup> 2010 Shanghai Jiaotong University Rankings

<sup>2</sup> 2010 National Research Council Rankings of Research-Doctorate Programs

<sup>3</sup> 2011 US News & World Report; UC Berkeley Ranked #1 Public University

<sup>4</sup> 2009-2010 Directors' Cup Rankings



NCAA graduation rate data for UC Berkeley and the peer institutions reported in the Comparison of Academic and Athletic Rankings; not all institutions, particularly privates, report graduation rates for their student athletes, so we included a Division 1 average for comparison. From this limited data set, it shows that UC Berkeley's graduation rates for the most recent cohort were significantly higher than previous years, reported at 82% for 2002-03 compared to 74% for the last four-class average, and an 8% difference from the 90% graduation rate for all students. As one comparison, UCLA's most recent and four-class average was much closer (70% and 68% respectively) and 19% different from the 89% graduation rate for all students. UC Berkeley has supported their commitment to comprehensive excellence by working to support the academic performance of its student athletes. This success can be attributed to the supportive environment created by faculty, coaches, and the Athletic Study Center, recognized as a model of academic support for the nation.<sup>1</sup>

UC Berkeley's athletics program also contributes to the diversity of the Berkeley campus, with higher percentages of underrepresented (African American, American Indian, and Hispanic) and international students.

The demographic profile varies by sport, with football, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's track and field, women's softball and men's soccer teams having higher percentages of underrepresented students and the men's and women's tennis, women's golf, men's crew and men's basketball teams having higher percentages of international students.

One of UC Berkeley's goals for the campus is to reduce, and eventually eliminate, intergroup disparities in graduation rates. The NCAA reports graduation rates by ethnicity for student athletes receiving athletic aid, compared to all students; the most consistent data is for the four-class average. For UC Berkeley students, the NCAA reports a 63% graduation rate for African American student athletes, compared to 72% for all African American students; 76% graduation rate for all Hispanic student athletes, compared to 80% for all Hispanic students; 78% for all White student athletes, compared to 88% for all White students; and 80% for all Asian student athletes, compared to 92% for all Asian students. The most recent graduation rate data shows some improvements, including a 70% graduation rate for African American student athletes (compared to 77% for all African American students) and a 100% graduation rate for the six female African American student athletes from the 2002-2003 cohort (compared to 83% for all African American female students).

### Fall 2010 Comparison of Demographic Profile

	Underrepresented			Asian		White		International	
Undergraduates	25,618	4,039	16%	10,151	40%	7,757	30%	1,854	7%
Undergraduates (excl Athletes)	24,816	3,862	16%	10,093	41%	7,301	29%	1,778	7%
Athletes	802	177	22%	58	7%	456	57%	76	9%

### Fall 2010 Comparison of Demographic Profile for Student Athletes by Sport

	Underrepresented		Asian		White		International		Total
Football	52	47%	8	7%	43	39%	0%		110
Women's Crew	5	8%	4	7%	46	77%	4	7%	60
Women's Track/Cross Country	29	48%	3	5%	23	38%	2	3%	60
Men's Crew	3	5%	5	9%	32	55%	16	28%	58
Men's Rugby	7	12%	3	5%	43	75%	1	2%	57
Men's Track/Cross Country	20	39%		0%	27	53%	2	4%	51
Men's Water Polo	4	10%		0%	29	73%	5	13%	40
Men's Baseball	5	13%	3	8%	29	74%		0%	39
Men's Swimming/Diving	3	8%	1	3%	25	66%	7	18%	38
Women's Swimming/Diving	0	0%	4	13%	19	59%	5	16%	32
Women's Soccer	6	21%	2	7%	17	59%	3	10%	29
Women's Lacrosse	1	4%	1	4%	23	82%	1	4%	28
Men's Soccer	10	38%	1	4%	15	58%		0%	26
Women's Field Hockey	0	0%	1	4%	18	78%	4	17%	23
Women's Water Polo	3	14%	4	18%	11	50%	4	18%	22
Men's Gymnastics	5	26%	7	37%	5	26%	1	5%	19
Women's Softball	8	42%		0%	10	53%	1	5%	19
Men's Basketball	6	43%		0%	4	29%	3	21%	14
Women's Gymnastics	1	7%	6	43%	7	50%		0%	14
Men's Golf	0	0%	2	15%	9	69%	2	15%	13
Men's Tennis	0	0%		0%	5	42%	7	58%	12
Women's Volleyball	0	0%		0%	11	92%		0%	12
Women's Basketball	8	73%		0%	1	9%	1	9%	11
Women's Golf	0	0%	1	13%	4	50%	3	38%	8
Women's Tennis	1	14%	2	29%		0%	4	57%	7
Student Athlete Subtotal	177	22%	58	7%	456	57%	76	9%	802

<sup>1</sup> "If They Awarded a Heisman for Homework, UC Berkeley Would Win for Its Program to Produce True Student Athletes," LA Times (September 5, 2004).

The Athletic Study Center estimates that approximately one-third of student athletes receive no athletic aid and are therefore not included in the NCAA graduation rate data; these non-scholarship student athletes are still supported by the ASC's academic support services. The ASC will work with OPA to calculate graduation rates for all student athletes and support institutional efforts to improve graduation rates for all student athletes, including underrepresented students, and thus help reduce intergroup disparities among groups of students on campus.