

Appalachian Excels Academically

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Appalachian State University's 20 varsity teams excelled in the latest full NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR), which was released by the NCAA on Wednesday. Each of Appalachian State's 20 programs have a multi-year APR score of 947 or higher (out of 1,000), comfortably above the 925 threshold used by the NCAA to dole out sanctions to

institutions, including reductions of scholarships and practice time and postseason bans. Additionally, 13 of Appalachian's 20 teams have APR scores above the national averages for their respective sports while the other seven all stand within seven points of their sports' national averages.

Leading the way is the academic performance of Appalachian State's football program, which boasts a multi-year APR of 982, 38 points higher than the NCAA Division I FCS average of 944. The Mountaineers' football APR easily leads the Southern Conference and is 25 points higher than the SoCon average of 957.

A total of six Appalachian teams have APR scores of at least 10 points higher than the national average in their respective sports: football, men's cross country (1,000 — 27 points higher than national average of 973), men's indoor track and field (978 — 15 points higher than national average of 963), wrestling (975 — 15 points higher than national average of 960), men's outdoor track and field (977 — 12 points higher than national average of 965) and field hockey (1,000 — 10 points higher than national average of 990).

Last week, the NCAA announced that football, men's cross country and field hockey had received NCAA Public Recognition Awards for ranking among the top 10 percent nationally in their respective sports.

The APR provides a real-time look at a program's academic success each semester by tracking the academic progress of each scholarship student-athlete. The APR formula accounts for eligibility, retention and graduation and provides a measure of each team's academic performance. The latest multi-year APR data accounts for a four-year period beginning in 2007-08 and ending in 2010-11.

NOTES: Connecticut athletic director Warde Manuel said Wednesday the school would continue to fight what it believes was an unfair process that led to the banning of its men's basketball team from the 2013 postseason, but he does not believe the punishment will be overturned. His comments came as the NCAA released its annual Academic Progress Rate report for the 2010-2011 academic year, and UConn, as expected, received a 978 of a possible 1,000. Under rules implemented last October, the NCAA requires a team to have a 900 average over four years or a 930 over two years to qualify for its postseason. Connecticut men's basketball scored 826 on the APR for 2009-10. The school's four-year score is 889 and its two-year average is 902. There's ten basketball teams on the list, including UNC-Wilmington led by former Appalachian State coach Buzz Peterson; and there's three football teams that will be banned from post-season play, including North Carolina A&T.