



Estimated Probability of Competing in College Athletics

	High School Participants	NCAA Participants	Overall % HS to NCAA	% HS to NCAA Division I	% HS to NCAA Division II	% HS to NCAA Division III
Men						
Baseball	487,097	35,460	7.3%	2.2%	2.2%	2.9%
Basketball	551,373	18,816	3.4%	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%
Cross Country	270,095	14,270	5.3%	1.8%	1.4%	2.1%
Football	1,036,842	73,557	7.1%	2.8%	1.8%	2.5%
Golf	144,024	8,609	6.0%	2.0%	1.6%	2.3%
Ice Hockey	35,060	4,229	12.1%	4.8%	0.6%	6.6%
Lacrosse	113,313	14,310	12.6%	3.0%	2.4%	7.2%
Soccer	456,362	25,072	5.5%	1.3%	1.5%	2.7%
Swimming	138,935	9,697	7.0%	2.7%	1.1%	3.2%
Tennis	158,151	7,838	5.0%	1.6%	1.0%	2.3%
Track & Field	600,097	28,698	4.8%	1.9%	1.2%	1.7%
Volleyball	60,976	2,163	3.5%	0.7%	0.6%	2.2%
Water Polo	22,501	1,047	4.7%	2.7%	0.8%	1.2%
Wrestling	245,564	7,239	2.9%	1.0%	0.8%	1.2%
Women						
Basketball	412,407	16,614	4.0%	1.2%	1.2%	1.6%
Cross Country	223,518	15,632	7.0%	2.7%	1.7%	2.6%
Field Hockey	59,856	6,103	10.2%	3.0%	1.4%	5.8%
Golf	78,781	5,375	6.8%	2.8%	2.0%	2.1%
Ice Hockey	9,609	2,400	25.0%	8.9%	1.2%	14.9%
Lacrosse	96,904	12,061	12.4%	3.8%	2.7%	6.0%
Soccer	390,482	27,811	7.1%	2.4%	1.9%	2.8%
Softball	367,861	20,316	5.5%	1.7%	1.6%	2.2%
Swimming	175,594	12,848	7.3%	3.3%	1.2%	2.9%
Tennis	190,768	8,608	4.5%	1.5%	1.0%	2.0%
Track & Field	488,592	30,018	6.1%	2.7%	1.5%	1.9%
Volleyball	446,583	17,471	3.9%	1.2%	1.1%	1.6%
Water Polo	21,054	1,216	5.8%	3.6%	1.0%	1.1%

Sources: High school figures from the [2017-18 High School Athletics Participation Survey](#) conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations; data from [club teams](#) not included. College numbers from the NCAA [2017-18 Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report](#).



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Methodology and Notes

High school to NCAA

- High school figures come from the [2017-18 High School Athletics Participation Survey](#) conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations. College numbers are from the NCAA's [2017-18 Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report](#). These college numbers account for participation in college athletics at NCAA-member schools only.
- High school-to-NCAA percentages were calculated by dividing the number of NCAA participants in 2017-18 by the number of HS participants in that same year. This assumes that high school and college rosters are turning over at roughly the same rate (e.g., both HS and college participation numbers include four classes of students and both sets of teams turn over roughly one-quarter of their rosters each year). In prior versions of this table, more complex calculations were used to estimate the number of HS departures and open college roster slots each year; however, these more involved calculations did not lead to substantially different percentages than the simple calculation used currently. Given several potential confounds (e.g., multi-sport participation in high school, frequency of redshirt in NCAA Division I football that would lead to a 5-year rather than 4-year college track), these calculations should be considered approximations and not exact accounting.
- The high school-to-NCAA divisional percentages were calculated by dividing the number of 2017-18 participants within each NCAA division by the total number of HS participants. For example, we estimate that approximately 3.4% of HS boys basketball participants go on to play at an NCAA school (Divisions I, II or III), but only 1.0% of HS participants do so at the Division I level.
- As the high school figures account only for participants on high school teams and not those competing exclusively on club teams or similar, the true pre-college to NCAA percentages could be lower in some sports (e.g., ice hockey, tennis). Data for several sports (e.g., rowing, skiing, gymnastics) are not shown due to the low number of high school programs in those sports relative to non-scholastic pre-college participation opportunities.



Estimated Probability of Competing in Professional Athletics

	NCAA Participants	Approximate # Draft Eligible	# Draft Picks	# NCAA Drafted	% NCAA to Major Pro	% NCAA to Total Pro
Baseball	35,460	7,880	1,214	775	9.8%	--
M Basketball	18,816	4,181	60	52	1.2%	21.3%
W Basketball	16,614	3,692	36	32	0.9%	6.9%
Football	73,557	16,346	256	255	1.6%	--
M Ice Hockey	4,229	940	217	65	6.9%	--



Estimated Probability of Competing in Professional Athletics

Methodology and Notes

General

- College participation numbers are from the NCAA's [2017-18 Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report](#). These college numbers account for participation in college athletics at NCAA-member schools only.
- To estimate the number of NCAA student-athletes in a sport eligible for a particular year's professional draft, the total number of NCAA student-athlete participants in the sport was divided by 4.5. This figure was used to provide a general estimate of the number of student-athletes in a draft cohort (single draft class) in a given year, accounting for redshirting, degree completion delays due to transfer, etc. that extend the average time to graduation to just beyond four year in all sports. In other words, we observe a year-to-year departure rate (whether due to graduation, dropout or departure for a professional sports opportunity) of just below one-quarter of the total number of student-athletes in each sport. Because the sports examined (baseball, M/W basketball, football and men's ice hockey) have dramatically different rules for draft eligibility, these calculations should be treated as estimates only.
- Data on available professional opportunities are described below for each sport.

Baseball

- MLB draft data from 2018. There were 1,214 draft picks in that year; 775 of those picked were from NCAA schools (source: [MLB Draft Tracker 2018](#)). Of the 775, Division I student-athletes comprised 680 of those chosen, Division II provided 84 and Division III had 11.
- Percent NCAA to Pro calculated as number of NCAA student-athletes taken in the draft divided by the approximate number draft eligible (calculated as $775 / 7,880 = 9.8\%$). Not all of the student-athletes drafted go on to play professional baseball and many draftees fail to reach the Major League.

Men's basketball

- NBA draft data from 2018. There were 60 draft slots in that year and 52 went to NCAA players (seven others chosen were international players not attending U.S. colleges and one spent a season at a prep school). Percentage NCAA to Major Pro calculated using the 52 NCAA selections. Since 2008, 11 international players have been drafted on average each year.
- On 2018-19 opening day NBA rosters, former NCAA Division I players filled 83% of roster spots. Two NBA players attended non-Division I colleges. (Source: [Jim Sukup, College Basketball News](#)).
- Data on other professional opportunities in men's basketball were collected by NCAA staff with the assistance of Marek Wojtera from [eurobasket.com](#). Tracking 2018-19 international opportunities for the 2018 draft cohort, it was determined that an additional 839 former NCAA student-athletes played internationally, in the G-League or in the NBA as undrafted players (606 from Division I, 194 from Division II and 39 from Division III) after leaving college; this includes international players who attended NCAA institutions. These numbers were combined with the NBA draftees to calculate an approximate NCAA to Total Professional opportunities figure (calculated as $[52 + 839] / 4,181 = 21\%$).

- We estimate that 4.2% of draft-eligible Division I players were chosen in the 2018 NBA draft (52 / 1,230). However, in total, 53% of draft-eligible Division I players competed professionally (NBA, G-League or internationally) in their first year after leaving college (calculated as $[52 + 606] / 1,230$). Approximately 17% of draft-eligible players from the five Division I conferences with autonomous governance (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC) were drafted by the NBA in 2018 (38 / 228), while 80% played professionally somewhere in their first year post-college (calculated as $[38 + 144] / 228$).

Women's basketball

- WNBA draft data from 2018. There were 36 draft slots in that year's draft, 32 of which went to NCAA players (other selections were international players not attending U.S. colleges). All 32 NCAA selections came from Division I colleges. Percentage NCAA to Major Pro calculated using the 32 NCAA selections.
- Data on international professional opportunities in women's basketball were collected by NCAA staff with the assistance of Marek Wojtera from eurobasket.com, and are limited to the 2018 draft cohort. It was determined that an additional 223 former NCAA student-athletes from the cohort played internationally in 2018-19 (208 from Division I, 13 from Division II and 2 from Division III). These numbers were combined with the WNBA draftees to calculate an approximate NCAA to Total Professional opportunities figure (calculated as $[32 + 223] / 3,692 = 6.9\%$).
- We estimate that 2.8% of draft-eligible Division I players were chosen in the 2018 WNBA draft (32 / 1,124). However, in total, 21% of draft-eligible Division I players competed professionally (WNBA or internationally) in their first year after leaving college (calculated as $[32 + 208] / 1,124$). Approximately 12% of draft-eligible players from the five Division I conferences with autonomous governance (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC) were drafted by the WNBA in 2018 (24 / 204), while 41% played professionally somewhere in their first year post-college (calculated as $[24 + 59] / 204$).

Football

- NFL draft data from 2018. There were 256 draft picks in that year's draft, 255 of whom were former NCAA players. NCAA to Major Pro figure calculated using these data.
- NCAA divisional breakdown of the 255 NCAA players selected in the 2018 NFL draft: Division I FBS (232), Division I FCS (19), Division II (4). The five football conferences with autonomous governance accounted for 185 of the 253 NCAA draft picks (SEC=53, ACC=49 [includes Notre Dame], Big Ten=33, Pac-12=30, Big 12=20).
- We estimate that 3.9% of draft-eligible Division I players were chosen in the 2018 NFL draft (251 / 6,451). Splitting this calculation into subdivision, 6.7% of FBS players were estimated to be drafted (232 / 3,468), as compared to 0.6% of FCS players (19 / 2,983). Narrowing further to the five Division I conferences with autonomous governance (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC), we estimate that 11% were drafted (185 / 1,739).
- Additional professional or semi-professional opportunities exist in leagues such as the Canadian Football League and the Arena Football League. Estimations for opportunities beyond the NFL are not included in our table.

Men's ice hockey

- NHL draft data from 2018 (source: hockeydb.com). There were 217 draft picks in that year. Only 9 players from NCAA rosters were selected in that draft (all from Division I teams). However, this is not indicative of the likelihood of going from a college team to a professional team due to the nature of the NHL draft, where players are typically selected prior to college enrollment.
- In examining the subsequent hockey pathways of 2018 draftees (hockeydb.com), *College Hockey, Inc.* reported that 65 of the 217 (source: collegehockeyinc.com) were current student-athletes or committed recruits at NCAA colleges. These numbers, although not fully comparable to those used in the other sports examined, were used to calculate an approximate NCAA to Major Pro percentage (calculated as $65 / 940$). Note that only a small subset of players drafted ever plays in an NHL game. Undrafted college players may go on to sign contracts with NHL teams after completing college (those numbers are not part of the current NCAA to Major Pro calculation).
- In 2018, 32% of players on active NHL rosters played college hockey (all Division I), up from about 20% in the year 2000 (source: collegehockeyinc.com). 69% of former college players in the NHL played at least three college seasons, and 34% played all four. Thanks to Nate Ewell at College Hockey, Inc. for providing these data.