

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Among Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) institutions, the three weeks of playoff participation may take a toll on football student-athletes' grades when compared to non-playoff teams.
- Football team GPA does not suffer when FCS teams spend more or less than three weeks participating in playoffs, though the generalizability of this finding is limited by a lack of institutional data.
- Analyses using Academic Progress Rate (APR) data show that playoff participation in and of itself is not a significant predictor of academic year APR.
- A relationship does exist between APR and the duration of postseason play. Teams spending three weeks in FCS playoff contention see increased APR scores compared to non-playoff teams when accounting for other control variables, including school and year fixed effects.

*Post-season
play affects
FCS football
teams
academically,
albeit in
curious ways.*

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. Does our athletic department have a strategy for supporting football student-athletes during the rigors of playoff participation?
2. How can existing campus and athletic department resources be tailored to help football players manage the most academically rigorous time of their semester and the most athletically pressured time of their season?
3. How can our athletic department work to ensure our football players achieve both academic eligibility (per APR) and academic success (per GPA)?



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Read the forthcoming paper, Starcke, M. A., & Crandall, R. E., (in press; *Journal for the Study of Sports and Athletes in Education*). The academic effects of participating in college football playoff games.

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