The relationship between athletic participation and academic performance: evidence from NCAA Division III


The study finds that overall non-transfer student athletes have higher GPA’s and higher graduation rates while taking harder courses than their non-athlete peers. Transfer student athletes on the other hand have similar grades to non-athletes. Robst and Keil believe these results are this way because participation my increase competitive drive in non-athletic areas, boost self-confidence and reinforce self discipline, which is all necessities for academic success. This differs from the Division I level because these athletes have a much lower possibility of playing professional sports after college is over. Therefore Robst and Keil believe these students are more concerned with grades and their academic performance in order to go on further to graduate school and an even higher education.