

Athletics

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of Western Kentucky University Intercollegiate Athletics is to support the University’s vision by providing a comprehensive, high quality education for student-athletes and to serve the University community, alumni, and friends through success and distinction within an environment of uncompromising integ-



ity. WKU Athletics seeks to be a source of pride for the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and to be recognized as a nationally prominent program by consistently winning C-USA championships and achieving frequent success in NCAA post-season competitions. It is also imperative that we compete with dignity, honor and respect in upholding and advancing WKU’s rich history and tradition.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Intercollegiate athletics have long been an integral and visible aspect of Western Kentucky University life. Emphasis remains focused on the academic and personal development of the student-athletes as we prepare students to be productive, engaged leaders in a global society with the Institution’s commitment to honor the highest standards of amateur competition. We must operate in a manner that embraces the guidelines and principles established by the NCAA and C-USA, which promote the principles of sportsmanship and ethical conduct. Fair and equitable opportunities will be a priority and will be provided for student-athletes and staff to participate in intercollegiate athletics at the Division I level regardless of gender and ethnicity. Our ultimate purpose is to provide a world-class academic and athletic experience for our student-athletes resulting in the vital personal development necessary for long-term success.

WKU Athletics Core Values

- Academic excellence
- Student-athlete welfare
- Integrity
- Social responsibility
- University integration
- Community engagement
- Competitiveness

It is the objective of the WKU administration, the Board of Regents, and in particular, the Department of Athletics to continue to provide an intercollegiate athletics program that:

- Shows concern for the growth and development of the student-athlete in all areas of college life and stresses the importance of each athlete obtaining a degree;
- Reflects WKU’s commitment to a strong, broad-based program for men and women in

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both revenue and non-revenue producing sports;

- Encourages good sportsmanship and decency not only among its student-athletes, but throughout the WKU community;
- Employs the highest caliber coaches and administrators who are committed to the integrity and excellence of the total athletic program;
- Assumes a leadership role in intercollegiate athletics regionally and nationally;
- Maintains control and integrity of fund-raising activities, such as control of access to athletic events both on and off-campus and by playing a central role in the management of televised athletic events and the income derived from such events;
- Follows the established guidelines of the admissions policies and administrative policies when recruiting student-athletes;
- Encourages the importance of character development by imparting the qualities of self-discipline, honesty, teamwork, endurance, and commitment;
- Works with constituencies within WKU to maintain a policy of openness and to promote unity and flexibility, basing all final decisions on the premise, "What is best for WKU"; and
- Provides an intercollegiate athletic program that maintains a high level of competitive excellence in intercollegiate sports.

GOALS/ANTICIPATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

- Exceed the required NCAA 930 Academic Progress Report Rate (APR) for each WKU sport;
- Maintain or exceed an overall 85% graduation rate for all student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility;
- Maintain WKU's academic standard as "TOPS" within the C-USA honor roll;
- Participate in post-season play in each of the C-USA core sports (football, men's and women's basketball, baseball, volleyball and softball) and participate as individual student-athletes or as a full WKU team in at least six of WKU's other sports;
- Continue to improve athletic venues for student-athlete and fan enjoyment;
- Engage the external community in supporting WKU Athletics by asking them to purchase tickets and merchandise, volunteer or contribute with a donation;
- Provide the necessary resources for student-athletes to compete academically and athletically at the highest level;
- Operate with strong core values in order to meet optimal student-athlete welfare; and
- Meet minimum average actual or paid attendance at WKU home football games as specified by NCAA membership standards.

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Listing of sports and anticipated total number of student-athletes:

	Men # of Athletes	Women # of Athletes
Fall		
Football	123	
Cross Country	12	7
Volleyball		15
Soccer		35
Winter		
Basketball	17	23
Indoor Track	30	18
Spring		
Outdoor Track	29	17
Golf	10	9
Baseball	38	
Tennis		7
Softball		19

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

		2019-20 Unrestricted Budget		2020-21 Proposed Budget
<i>Education & General</i>	<i>Pos.</i>		<i>Pos.</i>	
Personnel/Fringe Benefits	91.1	9,024,925	92.1	8,949,080
Operating Expense		5,668,168		4,611,334
Student Aid		8,130,784		8,130,784
Capital Outlay		26,000		26,000
Total		22,849,877		21,717,198