



Southern Illinois University System
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January 23, 2026

Members of the Board Academic Matters Committee

Ed Hightower, Chair
Mo Abuzaneh
Sara Salger
Toni Williams

Dear Committee Members:

The Academic Matters Committee will meet on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on the second floor of the Morris University Center in the Legacy Room, Room #2038 with YouTube option.

The agenda, Athletic Report and minutes from the December 4, 2025, meeting can be viewed through the Board portal system.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gireesh V. Gupchup", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gireesh V. Gupchup
Vice President for Academic Innovation, Planning, and Partnerships

GVG/jl

Attachments

c: Deborah Barnett
Hannah Connolly
Ed Curtis
J. Phil Gilbert
John Simmons

Dan Mahony
Austin Lane
James Minor
Jerry Kruse
Other Interested Parties

Office of the President

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AGENDA

MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Legacy Room – Room #2038
Morris University Center (2nd Floor)
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Edwardsville, Illinois,
live stream video at siusystem.edu via YouTube

1. Announcements
2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting December 4, 2025
3. Information Report: *Athletic Report*
4. Recommendation for Honorary Degree, SIUC
[Bartmes] (Board Agenda Item J)
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes of the Academic Matters Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 4, 2025**

**Immediately following the Executive Committee
live stream video at siusystem.edu via YouTube**

The Academic Matters Committee met at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2025, in person and via YouTube. Present were: Toni Williams (chair pro-tem), Deborah Barnett (pro-tem), Ed Hightower (virtual), Sara Salger (virtual), and John Simmons (pro-tem). Trustee Mo Abuzaneh was absent. Other Board members present were: Hannah Connolly, Ed Curtis, and J. Phil Gilbert. Executive Officers present were: President Dan Mahony; Vice President Justin Oates; Vice President Gireesh Gupchup; Vice President Sheila Caldwell, Chancellor Austin Lane, SIUC; Chancellor James Minor, SIUE; and Executive Associate Dean Chris McDowell, SIU School of Medicine.

Announcements

Dr. Gupchup introduced System Open Education Resources (OER) Taskforce members, Associate Provost Elza Ibroscheva (SIUE) and Director Amy Etcheson (SIU University Press), to present. Dr. Ibroscheva discussed the rising costs of textbooks and the need for textbook affordability. She discussed the OER initiative at SIUE, and the expansion of this to a system level initiative. She mentioned that, this year, the system taskforce joined DOERS, which is a leading national collaborative focused on OER. SIU is the first system in the state of Illinois to join this network. She also mentioned that the system taskforce has partnered with SIU University Press to submit a proposal to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact. Ms. Etcheson joined the OER taskforce to see how the press could support the OER production at each campus. She stated that it became clear that OER publishing assistance is needed beyond just SIU. This led to the proposal submission to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, which they were granted \$10,000.00. She said the grant funds will be used to hold a conference for all Illinois OER leaders to see what the needs are and how SIU University Press can establish themselves as a project management hub for OER publishing in the state.

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting September 18, 2025

Trustee Williams asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2025, meeting. Trustee Simmons made the motion. The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Barnett. Madam Secretary called roll call with Hightower, Barnett, Salger, and Simmons passing the motion.

Informational Report: Performance Report FY2025

Dr. Gupchup gave a brief overview of the Performance Report that documents the efforts of the university to achieve the goals of IBHE's strategic plan. The provosts presented slides highlighting their successes in the areas of equity, sustainability and growth. Provost Sheryl Tucker (SIUC) presented first with Executive Associate Dean Chris McDowell (SIU School of Medicine) and Provost Denise Cobb (SIUE) following.

Proposed Revisions to Board of Trustees Policies: National Defense Authorization Act Section 889 Compliance Policy 7-R (Board Agenda Item J)

Trustee Williams introduced Brenda Martin, Senior Export Control Officer in Export Controls, who provided an overview of Board Agenda Item J, a revision to the National Defense Authorization Act Section 889 Compliance Policy.

Trustee Williams asked if there was a motion to approve Board Agenda Item J. Motion was made by Trustee Simmons. The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Hightower. Madam Secretary called roll call with Hightower, Barnett, Salger, and Simmons passing the motion.

Recommendation for Distinguished Service and Honorary Degree Awards, (Board Agenda Item K-O)

Chancellor Austin A. Lane presented the recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards and Honorary Degrees for Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Recommendation for Honorary Degree, SIUC
[Gilbert] (Board Agenda Item K)

Recommendation for Honorary Degree, SIUC
[Miller] (Board Agenda Item L)

Recommendation for Honorary Degree, SIUC
[Glenn] (Board Agenda Item M)

Recommendation for Distinguished Service Award, SIUC
[Green] (Board Agenda Item N)

Recommendation for Distinguished Service Award, SIUC
[Pericak-Spector] (Board Agenda Item O)

Trustee Williams asked if there was a motion for approval of committee items 5-9. Trustee Simmons made the motion. The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Hightower. Madam Secretary called roll call with Hightower, Barnett, Salger, and Simmons passing the motion.

Other Business

Having no other business, the Committee adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Adjournment

GVG/jl

THE METRO EAST'S DIVISION 1

Roll Cougars



2024-2025 Student-Athlete Academic Report



SIUE Athletics Academic Points of Pride

Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

1. The spring 2025 semester marked the 38th consecutive semester (19 years) that SIUE student-athletes have achieved a cumulative semester grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The departmental grade point average was 3.326 for fall 2024 and 3.325 for spring 2025.
2. During fall 24 and spring 25, an average of 43% of our student-athletes were on the Dean's List and 70% of our student-athletes had a semester grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
3. In 2024-2025, SIUE's Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of 97% was ranked #1 nationally among all Division I public institutions, #1 in Division I public institutions in the state of Illinois, and #1 in the Ohio Valley Conference. Since 2014 (SIUE's first year eligible for GSR), SIUE's GSR has been in the top 35 of all Division I public universities and #1 or #2 in Illinois public universities.
4. For the 2024-2025 academic year, seven SIUE teams earned a perfect score of 100 percent on the GSR report (baseball, golf, men's cross country/track, women's soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball).
5. In the latest NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) Report that will be released in May 2026, four SIUE teams recorded a multi-four-year rate of 1000 (Women's Cross Country, Men's Cross Country, Men's Golf, and Women's Tennis). Seven teams scored a perfect 1000 rate for the 24-24 year (Men's Cross Country, Men's Golf, Men's Soccer, Women's Cross Country, Softball, Women's Tennis, and Volleyball).

Table 1 – Term GPA by Gender (Institutional and Athletic)

Compares the term GPA of the general student body to the term GPA of the student-athlete population for the past two years.

SIUE		2023-2024		2024-2025	
General Student Body		Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Male		2.91	2.99	3.00	3.05
Female		3.12	3.21	3.17	3.22
Total		3.03	3.11	3.10	3.15
Student-Athletes					
Male		3.14	3.15	3.21	3.11
Female		3.45	3.38	3.49	3.54

Total	3.30	3.27	3.33	3.33
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Table 2 – Term GPA by Ethnicity (Institutional and Athletic)

Compares the term GPA by ethnicity (and international status) for the student-athlete population with the general student body for the past two years.

SIUE General Student Body	2023-2024		2024-2025	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Asian	3.09	3.17	3.16	3.22
Black/African American	2.68	2.74	2.76	2.78
Hispanic/Latino	2.97	3.03	3.07	3.13
White	3.14	3.09	3.18	3.24
International	3.10	3.05	3.05	3.12

SIUE Student-Athletes	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Asian	3.24	3.22	3.13	3.09
Black/African American	3.08	3.10	3.13	3.14
Hispanic/Latino	3.11	3.06	3.16	3.13
White	3.36	3.30	3.38	3.31
International	3.65	3.61	3.64	3.67

Table 3 – SIUE term GPA by sport

Term specific team grade point averages by sport for the last two years (includes scholarship and non-scholarship student-athletes).

Sport	2023-2024		2024-2025	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Baseball	3.12	3.20	3.178	3.164
Basket-M	2.80	2.83	3.185	3.091
Basket-W	3.36	3.16	3.426	3.520
Soccer-M	3.41	3.35	3.445	3.449
Soccer-W	3.48	3.61	3.488	3.538
Golf-M	3.51	3.40	3.370	3.355
Softball	3.48	3.23	3.422	3.402
Cross-M	3.14	3.27	3.187	3.033
Cross-W	3.45	3.41	3.621	3.518
Tennis-W	3.78	3.78	3.577	3.757
Track-M	2.95	2.99	3.057	2.644
Track-W	3.34	3.23	3.462	3.418
Volleyball	3.36	3.25	3.426	3.601

Wrestling	3.07	3.05	3.031	3.003
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Table 4 – Percentage of athletes with a term GPA of 3.0 or higher

Term specific account of the percentage of student-athletes who earned a GPA of 3.0 or above. On average over the last two years, 66.6% of our student-athletes have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

SIUE	2023-2024		2024-2025	
Student-Athletes	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Male	52.89%	56.91%	56%	55.16%
Female	79.39%	70.79%	82.09%	88.10%
Total	66.14%	63.83%	68.76%	71.06%

Table 5 – Number of athletes on academic probation

Term specific account of the number of student-athletes on academic probation. During both years, SIUE Athletics did not have any student-athletes on academic suspension.

SIUE	2023-2024		2024-2025	
Student-Athletes	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Male	1	0	0	1
Female	0	3	0	0
Total	1	3	0	1

Table 6 – Federal Graduation Rate (FGR)

Compares the Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) of SIUE student-athletes vs. Division I Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) peers. The FGR is the percentage of first-time, full-time freshman who graduate within six years.

SIUE	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Student-Athletes	64%	82%	84%
General Student Body	52%	53%	55%
Division I OVC Universities (student-athletes)	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Eastern Illinois	64%	62%	64%
Morehead State	69%	56%	51%
Southeast Missouri State	69%	58%	61%
Tennessee State	74%	40%	51%
Tennessee Tech	48%	62%	58%
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	61%	52%	66%
University of Tennessee - Martin	64%	62%	44%
Western Illinois	66%	66%	54%

Table 7 – Academic Progress Rate (APR)

The Academic Progress Rate is an NCAA-created rate that holds institutions accountable for the academic progress of their student-athletes through a team-based metric that accounts for the eligibility and retention of each scholarship student-athlete for each academic term.

Team	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Current 4-year multi-rate
Baseball	989	989	989	981	987
Basket-M	980	979	978	955	973
Basket-W	1000	1000	959	981	986
Soccer-M	1000	936	1000	1000	983
Soccer-W	1000	974	1000	989	991
Golf-M	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Softball	1000	955	957	1000	980
Cross-M	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Cross-W	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Tennis-W	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Track-M	1000	985	958	985	982
Track-W	1000	1000	948	989	983
Volleyball	1000	978	976	1000	988
Wrestling	977	965	935	959	959

Table 8 – Graduation Success Rate (GSR)

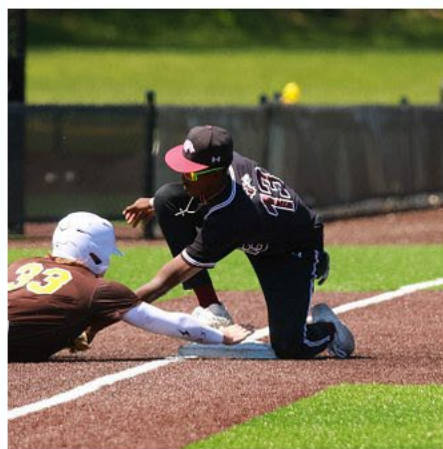
Compares Graduation Success Rate of SIUE student-athletes, OVC universities and state of Illinois public universities. The GSR is like the FGR, but excludes those athletes who leave the institution in good academic standing and includes those who transfer into the institution and graduate. Since 2014, SIUE's GSR has been in the Top 35 of Division I public universities and either #1 or #2 in the state of Illinois public universities. SIUE's current 2024-2025 GSR is tied for #1 in Division I public universities and #1 in Division I State of Illinois public universities.

SIUE	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Student-Athletes	95%	96%	97%
Division I OVC Universities	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Eastern Illinois	83%	87%	89%
Morehead State	79%	80%	79%
Southeast Missouri State	88%	88%	88%
Tennessee State	82%	82%	81%
Tennessee Tech	88%	88%	87%

University of Arkansas - Little Rock	84%	87%	89%
University of Tennessee - Martin	81%	83%	84%
Western Illinois	85%	87%	85%
Division I Illinois Public Universities	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Chicago State	71%	71%	74%
Eastern Illinois	83%	87%	89%
Illinois State	90%	90%	92%
Northern Illinois	88%	88%	87%
Southern Illinois Carbondale	91%	89%	89%
University of Illinois - Chicago	93%	92%	91%
University of Illinois - Champaign	95%	93%	91%
Western Illinois	85%	87%	87%

STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC PROFILE

2024-25



Overview

Southern Illinois University student-athletes demonstrated exceptional performance in their sports while prioritizing academic achievement during the 2024-2025 academic year. Coaches and administrators rely on the data presented in this report to make strategic decisions in recruiting and to uphold the high academic standards of their programs. In the ever-evolving landscape of college athletics, SIU student-athletes continue to exemplify dedication to their education, community engagement, and personal growth.

SIU takes great pride in the academic accomplishments of its student-athletes and values the efforts of its academic services team in supporting both student-athletes and coaching staff. Success in college athletics is defined by achievements in both athletic competition and academics. By evaluating key metrics such as grade point average (GPA), Academic Progress Rate (APR), and graduation rates, coaches, administrators, and the University can effectively gauge the potential for success both in the classroom and on the field.

Below is an overview of the academic profile for Saluki student-athletes during the 2024-2025 academic year.

2024-2025 SIU Athletic Department Academic Highlights

The Academic Progress Rates (APR) for all sports in the 2024-25 academic year was 987, an increase from the 2023-24 academic year. This rate exceeds the NCAA threshold of 985 to earn academic-based revenue. Nine of 15 sports earned 1,000 single-year APR. Softball and volleyball continued to earn a multi-year APR of 1,000.

Josh Delgado (Men's Track & Field), Mia Sinkiewicz (Women's Swim & Dive) and Ashlyn Henrie (Women's Soccer) earned the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Good Neighbor Award, awarded to student-athletes who demonstrated good citizenship through sportsmanship and community service. One athlete from each member school is identified in fall, winter, and spring to receive the award. Recipients must be in good academic standing, must demonstrate good citizenship through good sportsmanship and significant community service, and participate in a sport during the season of recognition.

Olivia Herron (Women's Swimming) earned Missouri Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors for the 2024-25 academic year.

Alex Cimera (Men's Swim & Dive) earned Missouri Valley Conference Elite 18 honors. This award honors the highest achievement in academics and athletics by a student-athlete in each MVC-sponsored sport.

Twenty-five student-athletes were named to 2024-25 Conference Scholar-Athlete teams, including the Missouri Valley Conference and the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

Seven student-athletes earned MVC Board of Directors Academic Award, 86 student-athletes earned MVC Commissioner’s Academic Excellence Awards, and 214 student-athletes earned MVC Honor Roll.

Volleyball earned the AVCA (American Volleyball Coaches Association) Team Academic Award for the 20th straight year.

The Men’s and Women’s Swimming & Diving earned CSCAA (College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America) team and individual academic awards.

SIU Academic Reporting

2024-25 Grade Reports

TEAM	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	2024-25
Baseball	3.26	3.40	3.33
Men’s Basketball	2.86	2.72	2.79
Men’s Cross Country	3.43	3.11	3.27
Football	3.11	3.13	3.12
Men’s Golf	3.17	3.22	3.20
Men’s Swimming & Diving	3.44	3.32	3.37
Men’s Track & Field	2.96	3.00	2.98
Women’s Basketball	3.57	3.57	3.57
Women’s Cross Country	3.56	3.19	3.31
Women’s Golf	3.20	3.73	3.40
Softball	3.67	3.79	3.73
Women’s Soccer	3.48	3.53	3.50
Women’s Swimming & Diving	3.69	3.65	3.67
Women’s Track & Field	3.20	3.21	3.20
Volleyball	3.59	3.67	3.63
All Teams	3.29	3.32	3.33

- For Fall 2024, Men’s Swim & Dive earned the highest men’s team GPA with a 3.44 and the Women’s Swim & Dive team earned the highest women’s team GPA with a 3.69.
- For Spring 2025, the Softball team finished with the highest women’s GPA with a 3.79 and the Baseball team finished with the highest men’s GPA with a 3.40.

Academic Progress Rate

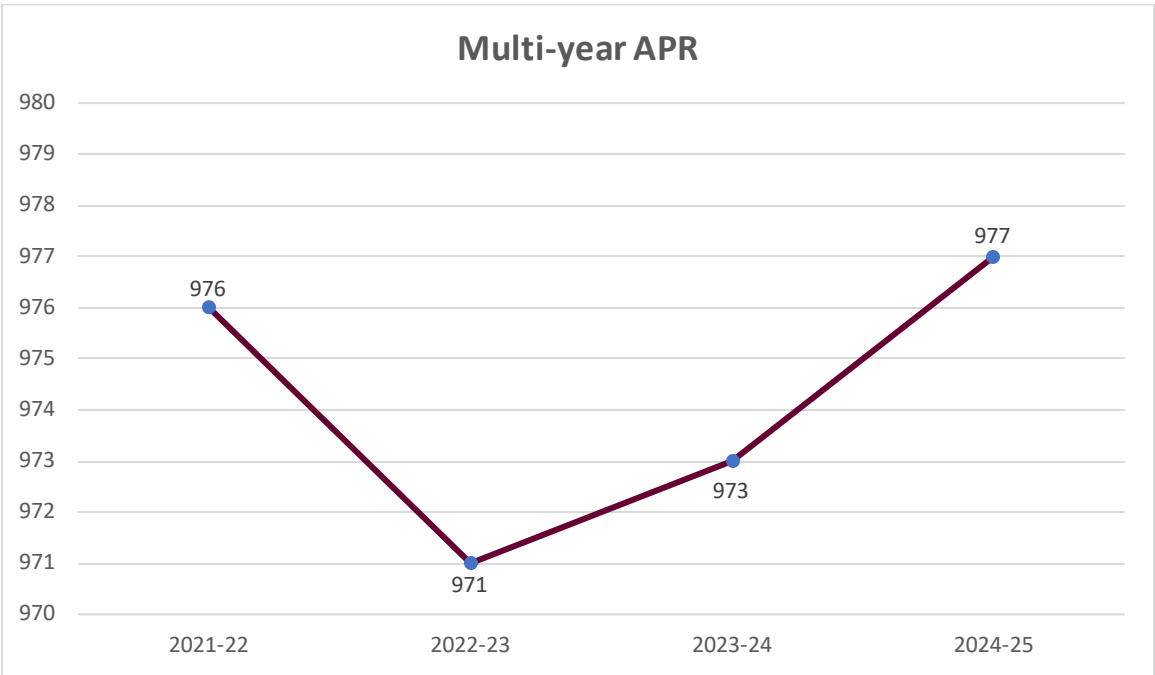
The Academic Progress Rate (APR) is an NCAA metric used to track the academic success of Division I student-athletes and serves as an early indicator of graduation by assessing two critical factors each term: academic eligibility and retention.

The NCAA releases APR data annually with a one-year delay and also reports a four-year rolling average, providing a more complete and stable view of a team’s academic performance over time. SIU’s APRs by team are reported in the table below:

TEAM	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Multiyear
Baseball	979	893	991	973	959
Men’s Basketball	980	1000	1000	958	984
Men’s Cross Country	1000	1000	969	1000	991
Football	970	976	954	980	970
Men’s Golf	929	933	1000	1000	972
Men’s Swimming & Diving	882	964	1000	968	968
Men’s Track & Field	957	935	946	1000	953
Women’s Basketball	1000	889	1000	944	957
Women’s Cross Country	906	1000	1000	1000	979
Women’s Golf	972	993	1000	1000	994
Softball	990	1000	1000	1000	1000
Women’s Soccer	1000	1000	981	1000	990
Women’s Swimming & Diving	955	983	1000	1000	990
Women’s Track & Field	948	967	955	980	955
Volleyball	1000	995	1000	1000	1000
All Teams	965	967	986	987	

The NCAA’s minimum APR for post-season participation is 930. Nine of fifteen SIU teams earned a 1,000 single-year APR. Softball and Volleyball earned 1,000 multi-year APRs.

SIU Multi-Year APR Trend



Graduation Rates

Similar to the Academic Progress Rate, the Federal Graduation Rates (FGR) are also reported with a one-year lag. The FGR is calculated based on student-athletes who graduate from their original institution of enrollment.

Federal Graduation Rates (Six-Year Cohorts)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Federal Graduation Rate (Six-Year Cohorts)					
Student-Athletes	68.0%	63.0%	69.0%	61.0%	57.9%
SIU Student Body	47.1%	45.0%	47.0%	54.0%	61.9%

**Data from NCAA Institutional Performance Program*

Graduation Success Rates

The single-year graduation success rate calculates the percentage of student-athletes who graduate from their current institution, regardless of transfer status.

Single-Year Graduation Success Rate by Sport

TEAM	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baseball	85.7%	75.0%	100%	80%	100%
Men's Basketball	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Football	82.4%	94.1%	100%	64.7%	86.7%
Men's Golf	N/A	60.0%	100%	100%	100%
Men's Swimming & Diving	100%	100%	100%	50%	100%
Men's Track & Field	88.9%	0%	60.0%	66.7%	87.5%
Women's Basketball	100%	100%	100%	80%	100%
Women's Golf	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A
Softball	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Women's Soccer	N/A	N/A	100%	100%	100%
Women's Swimming & Diving	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Women's Track & Field	100%	0%	90.0%	100%	80%
Volleyball	100%	50%	100%	100%	N/A

**Data from NCAA Institutional Performance Program*

Single-Year Graduation Success Rate Comparisons

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SIU Athletics	86.5%	92.6%	86.8%	95.9%	78.9%
All Division I Institutions	90.6%	90.4%	90.9%	92.9%	91.9%
Football Championship Division (FCS)	89.3%	88.6%	89.9%	89.6%	89.9%
Missouri Valley Conference	92.0%	90.1%	95.1%	93.0%	92.1%
Missouri Valley Football Conference	86.1%	89.3%	87.4%	92.5%	87.9%

**Data from NCAA Institutional Performance Program*

Southern Illinois University student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom as well as in their respective sports. The 2024-25 academic results reflect SIU’s continued commitment to excellence. These results underscore the effectiveness of academic support efforts and position SIU Athletics for sustained success in an increasingly complex collegiate landscape.