

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 integrity. 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. A student-athlete is a student who participates in intercollegiate athletics;
- Reflects WKU's commitment to a strong, broad-based program for men and women in 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.

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

| <u>MEN</u> | <u>NUMBER OF ATHLETES</u> | <u>WOMEN</u> | <u>NUMBER OF ATHLETES</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Fall | | | |
| Football | 123 | Volleyball | 15 |
| Cross Country | 12 | Soccer | 35 |
| | | Cross Country | 7 |
| Winter | | | |
| Basketball | 17 | Basketball | 23 |
| Indoor Track | 30 | Indoor Track | 18 |
| Spring | | | |
| Outdoor Track | 29 | Outdoor Track | 17 |
| Golf | 10 | Golf | 9 |
| Baseball | 38 | Tennis | 7 |
| | | Softball | 19 |

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

| | 2018-19 Revised Budget | | 2019-20 Proposed Budget | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Unrestricted Budget</u> | <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Unrestricted Budget</u> |
| <u>Educational and General</u> | | | | |
| Personnel/Fringe Benefits | 88.1 | 8,684,477 | 91.1 | 9,024,925 |
| Operating Expenses | | 6,017,168 | | 5,668,168 |
| Student Aid | | 7,881,283 | | 8,130,784 |
| Capital Outlay | | 26,000 | | 26,000 |
| Total Expenditures | | 22,608,928 | | 22,849,877 |