boston.com MORE CAMPUSES

Sign In | Register now

HARVARD

< Back to front page

Text size -

HARVARD

Harvard basketball team's academic performance hits low as play sees record success



By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The academic performance of Harvard University's men's basketball program has dropped dramatically over the past several seasons while the team has seen rising success on the court.

Harvard's latest progress rate score was its lowest since the NCAA grading system was implemented a decade ago, records released this summer show. It was the worst mark among the eight Ivy League schools and was below average compared to all other Division 1 teams at private colleges nationally, according to the NCAA reports, which were released in June and show data for the 2011-2012 season.

Bloomberg first reported Friday that Harvard basketball's academic scores area nearing levels low enough that they may jeopardize the team's NCAA eligibility.

To compete in the 2013-14 postseason, teams must post either a 900 four-year average score or a 930 average for the two most recent years. Next season, the benchmark will increase, requiring a four-year score of at least 930 or a two-year average of 940.

The Crimson's four-year average score was 956, according to NCAA reports. Over the past two years, Harvard's average score is 919.5.

The NCAA defines a score of 930 as about the equivalent of a 50 percent graduation rate.

Teams that fall below the NCAA's minimum standard for academic performance can be subject to penalties beyond ineligibility to compete in the postseason, including restrictions on practicing and playing in games, reduced financial aid and coach suspensions.

Harvard's most recent four-year score was down from a mark of 991 just two seasons prior and a high of 995 for the 2007-08 season.

The university's latest four-year average was also 25 points lower than Columbia University, which posted the second-worst four-year average among Ivy League schools, and 11 points below the four-year average for all private schools in the country is 967.

Cornell led all Ivy League basketball schools with a perfect four-year score of 1000.

Connect to Harvard



Follow @YCHarvard on Twitter

Click here to follow Your Campus Harvard on

ADVERTISEMENT

Other Boston Area Campuses

- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brandeis
- Emerson
- Harvard
- MIT
- Northeastern
- Tufts
- Wellesley
- UMass Boston
- Simmons
- Berklee
- Babson
- Bentley

Recent blog posts

- When does Spring Break start? A handy calendar for many
- Comcast testing new Internet-streamed TV service designed for college campuses at Emerson
- Harvard to build long-awaited campus center by 2018
- DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman to give MIT's 2014 commencement address
- TEDxRoxburyWomen to host 2nd annual talk at UMass Boston on Dec. 6

ADVERTISEMENT

Get Updates



Learn about RSS

Officials from Harvard and the NCAA did not immediately respond to requests for comment Friday.

Bloomberg reported that Harvard athletics spokesman Tim Williamson emailed a statement to the publication saying: "Harvard has maintained our high academic standards for all students and student athletes. The Ivy League has the most rigorous academic requirements of any athletic conference, and we are in full compliance with those standards."

Williamson told Bloomberg that Harvard has calculated that its basketball team will receive a perfect or near-perfect academic progress rate score this season

"This strong score will reaffirm the program's continued commitment to academic achievement and ensure the team's continued postseason eligibility," he told Bloomberg in the statement.

The recent cheating scandal at Harvard, which led to students withdrawing from the university including two men's basketball co-captains, may account for some of the drop in the team's academic scores, though that is not clear.

Bloomberg also reported that the drop in the team's academic performance began at the same time as the arrival of Harvard coach Tommy Amaker, who has been criticized in recent years for recruiting players to Harvard with a lower academic standing that the university had traditionally brought.

In the 2010-11 season, Harvard was the Ivy League co-champion with Princeton. It was the first time the Harvard had ever even shared the title of league champion. The following season, Harvard won the league outright and made it to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1946.

Last season, Harvard won the Ivy League again and, in a major upset as a No. 14 seed, defeated the third-seeded New Mexico in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, before falling to the No. 6 seed, Arizona.

The university unveiled a 10-year master plan last fall that includes a proposal to build a new basketball arena at Harvard's campus in the Allston neighborhood of Boston.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at mjrochele@gmail.com. Looking for more coverage of area colleges and universities? Go to our Your Campus pages.



RELATED CONTENT



Retire 5 Years Early With These



If You Ever Want to Retire Look New 'House of Cards' Trailer is

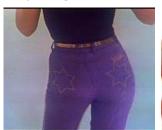
38 Stock Trades

Newsmax



Jenny McCarthy Bares All Ora.TV

at This Chart Money Morning



One of the Most Classic SNL Sketches of All Time Yahoo Screen

Everything You Hoped Netflix



16 Songs Everyone Over 50 Should Own AARP

FROM THE WEB

'Warren Buffett Indicator' Signals Collapse in Stock Market (Moneynews)

The Grim Surprise behind Never Transferring a Credit Card Bal...

(Next Advisor)

Millennials are Drinking so Much Wine
They're Changing How it's Sold (Parade)

Nine Comments That Could Get You Fired

Lindsey Vonn Tells Vogue: No More Marriage (ThePostGame)

FROM BOSTON.COM AND PARTNER

Woman on flight from Florida becomes ill and is pronounced dead at Logan

Airport (Boston.com)

Pierce Brosnan's daughter dies of ovarian

cancer (Boston.com)

Student killed and 3 hurt in high school

fight (Boston.com)

Red Sox intensifying search for trade possibilities (Boston.com)

Married couple, infant twin sons found dead

in Arlington (Boston.com)

Promoted Content by Taboola

S

Be the first to comment below

Oldest

Newest

Best

Please log In to comment.

Home | Today's Globe | News | Business | Sports | Lifestyle | A&E | Things to Do | Travel | Cars | Jobs | Real Estate | Local Search

CONTACT BOSTON.COM | Help | Advertise | Work here | Privacy Policy | Your Ad Choices | Terms of Service | Newsletters | Mobile | RSS feeds | Sitemap

CONTACT THE BOSTON GLOBE | Subscribe | Manage your subscription | Advertise | Boston Globe Insiders | The Boston Globe Gallery | © 2014 Boston Globe Media Partners,

LLC