

Athletics Committee Final Report for 2005–2006

Committee Members

James Bailey, C.A. Debelius, Joel Diambra, Bethany Dumas, Michael Fitzgerald, Thomas Handler, Don Hodges, Barb Kaye, Ronald Pevey, Deb Thomas, Todd Diacon, Bob Levy, Mike Hamilton, Joan Cronan, Rex Pringle, Eric Brey, Donna Thomas, Brad Bertani, John Venditti, Jessica Reust

Invited Guests for Briefing on Various Issues Related to Athletics

William Myers (Budget Director, Athletics–Men–Bus Office), Timothy Rogers (Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs), Richard Bayer Dean, Enrollment Services)

The Committee thanks these guests for their informative briefings and candid responses to inquiries from the Committee members.

Committee Meetings and Minutes of the Meetings

The Committee met in September (16th), October (19th), November (16th), January (18th), February (22nd), and April (12th). The minutes of the January 18th and Feb 22nd meetings have been posted on the Faculty Senate web site; the minutes of the April 12th meeting will be posted soon.

Issues Considered by the Committee

(1) VASF and Boos-Her Club

The Committee obtained clarification from the Athletic Department regarding the revenues and expenses pertaining to these two accounts. In 2005-2006, the money raised was \$15.878 million (VASF – \$14.76 m + Boost-Her Club – \$1.118 m). Out of this \$6.48 m was spent on student athlete scholarships, \$0.478 m for academic scholarships, \$1.8 m toward support of the Thornton Center, and the rest (\$7.12 m) for operations. Further details can be found on the Senate web site — minutes of the April 12th meeting of the Athletic Committee.

Realizing that a large portion (actually, more than 50%) of the VASF money is not spent on scholarships, last year the Senate Budget and Planning Committee had urged the Athletic Department to change the name of the fund to reflect correctly its actual usage. The present name (Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund) will be changed to “Volunteer Athletic and Scholarship Fund”.

(2) Procedure for handling alleged misconduct by student athletes

According to Vice Chancellor Rogers, the procedure for handling alleged misconduct of students athletes is exactly the same as outlined in *Hilltopics* for all students of the University. A student athlete is neither entitled to nor receives any special treatment regarding disposal of alleged misconduct cases. However, a student athlete may, and often does, face additional penalties imposed by the concerned coach and/or the Athletic Director. This will continue to be the official University policy.

As far as media reports are concerned, neither the Athletic Department office nor the Vice Chancellor’s office has ever been the source of such news for the media.

(3) Admission policy for student athletes

Applications from potential student athletes who do not qualify on the basis of combined GPA and standardized test score, and the subsequent holistic review by two admissions counselors (the Director plus the Associate or Assistant Director of Admissions), are further reviewed by the Athletic Review Committee (Univ. Registrar, Dean of Enrollment Services, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Faculty Athletic Rep., and representative from Thornton Center). There is an appeals procedure in place for candidates who are denied admission after review by the Athletic review Committee.

The NCAA Initial Eligibility Trends Working Group is in the process of formulating guidelines that will address concerns related to the legitimacy of high school academic credentials presented by some student athletes applying for admission. The Working Group has already made some preliminary recommendations and the Group's final report is expected to be complete by June 1. The Athletic Committee will take a critical look at the final report when it becomes available.

The UTK Admissions Office is fully aware of the problem and is taking every possible step not to admit any candidate, student athlete or not, with suspicious high school academic credentials.

(4) Academic performance by student athletes

Eric Brey presented a series of tables and graphs showing a comparison of the performances of the UT sports units with those of the other SEC universities as well as and some other Universities which are well recognized for their academic and athletics prowess. These charts, along with along with a "Summary of Academic Rates" , are being posted on the Faculty Senate Web page.

Some noteworthy conclusions from the available data are as follows

(a) UTK's Academic Progress Rate (APR) for the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 is below the magic number 925 in four units: Baseball, Men's basketball, Men's swimming, and Men's tennis (and the score for Football is 926!). The only sports in which we had to take a penalty is baseball (UTK score of 850 in baseball is the lowest among SEC schools!)

(b) UTK's overall Federal Graduation Rate (FDR) for student athletes stands at 62%, which actually is slightly better than that for UTK-Campus (59%) and all other SEC Universities except for MSU (61%), Vandy (73%) and South Carolina (78%). However, UTK's FGR figures for some sport units are matters of concern: baseball (14%) and Men's basketball (0%!!) rank the lowest among the SEC universities, and for football (28%) it is only better than that of Georgia (18%).

(c) The coaches have been made aware of the APR and GSR problems it is hoped that the academic performance will improve in the next couple of years. The Athletic Committee will follow this up next year for signs of improvement, especially in baseball, football, and Men's basketball.

(d) The Women's basket ball continues to be in the top group among the SEC universities and perhaps also nationally.

Some of the success stories during 2005-2006 related to student athletics are:

- (a) 53% of the 243 student-athletes on campus achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher for the Fall semester, and 28 of them earned a perfect GPA of 4.0.
- (b) In 2005, UT was placed third overall nationally in the Excellence in Athletics Cup rankings by the Laboratory for the Study of Intercollegiate Athletics (LSIA) at Texas A&M University. The purpose of this award is to recognize institutions that are excellent in both academics and athletics.

Submitted by
Kula C. Misra
Chair, Athletics Committee

SUMMARY OF ACADEMIC RATES

Graduation Success Rate (GSR)

- Proposed annual graduation rate to be calculated by the NCAA (Proposal No. 2002-72).
- Developed to provide a more accurate measure of student-athlete graduation success than the federal graduation rate.
- Data are delayed due to six-year window for degree completion.
- Captures scholarship student-athletes entering the institution (i.e., full-time, degree-seeking), including transfers, nonqualifiers and walk-ons who eventually earn scholarships.
- For nonscholarship programs or teams, capture student-athletes who were “recruited.” [Note: The CAP will be responsible for defining “recruited” for this purpose.]
- Includes nonqualifiers.
- Student-athletes who leave the institution and would have been academically eligible had they remained are removed from the calculation.
- Provides rate by race/ethnicity and gender and for every sport team.

Key Point(s):

- The graduation success rate is not intended to replace the federal graduation rate; rather, it will be a fairer historical measure of student-athlete graduation success.
- The GSR will be used in the third filter of analysis for teams.
- The graduation success rate should be used as a management tool that more accurately reflects graduation success of student-athletes, because it will take into account those individuals who matriculate and then leave while eligible and on-track to graduate.
- Administrators, coaches, student-athletes, prospective student-athletes and others should use the graduation success rate to measure an institution’s historical graduation success.

Academic Progress Rate (APR)

- Proposed annual academic rate to be calculated by the NCAA.

- Developed to provide a more accurate and current measure of academic success of student-athletes.
- Captures scholarship student-athletes entering the institution (i.e., full-time, degree-seeking), including transfers and walk-ons who eventually earn scholarships, and nonqualifiers and for nonscholarship programs or teams, captures recruited student-athletes who: (a) on or after the varsity team's first date of competition in the championship segment are listed on the varsity team's roster, or (b) have exhausted eligibility and returned to the institution as a fifth-year student to complete a baccalaureate degree.

[Note: It is anticipated that soon after beginning its work, the CAP will define "recruited" for these purposes.]

[Note: Data collection to occur over the next two years on nonscholarship/walk-ons.]

- Based on three elements: eligibility, retention and graduation.
- Provides "snapshot" rate of academic performance year-to-year.
- Includes current student-athletes in the measurement.
- Calculates rate for every sports team.

Key Message Point(s):

- The federal methodology and the GSR do not reflect current, actual conditions. The APR will.
- The APR has been developed to provide a more accurate and "real-time" depiction of a team's academic success and to serve as the primary measurement on which incentives and disincentives will be based.
- The APR is not intended to replace the federal measure or GSR; rather, it will be a fairer measure that will help provide accurate, real-time data on academic progress on which the NCAA will base its reform principles.
- The APR will provide a much clearer snapshot of the current academic "culture" in each sport.

Federal Graduation Rate

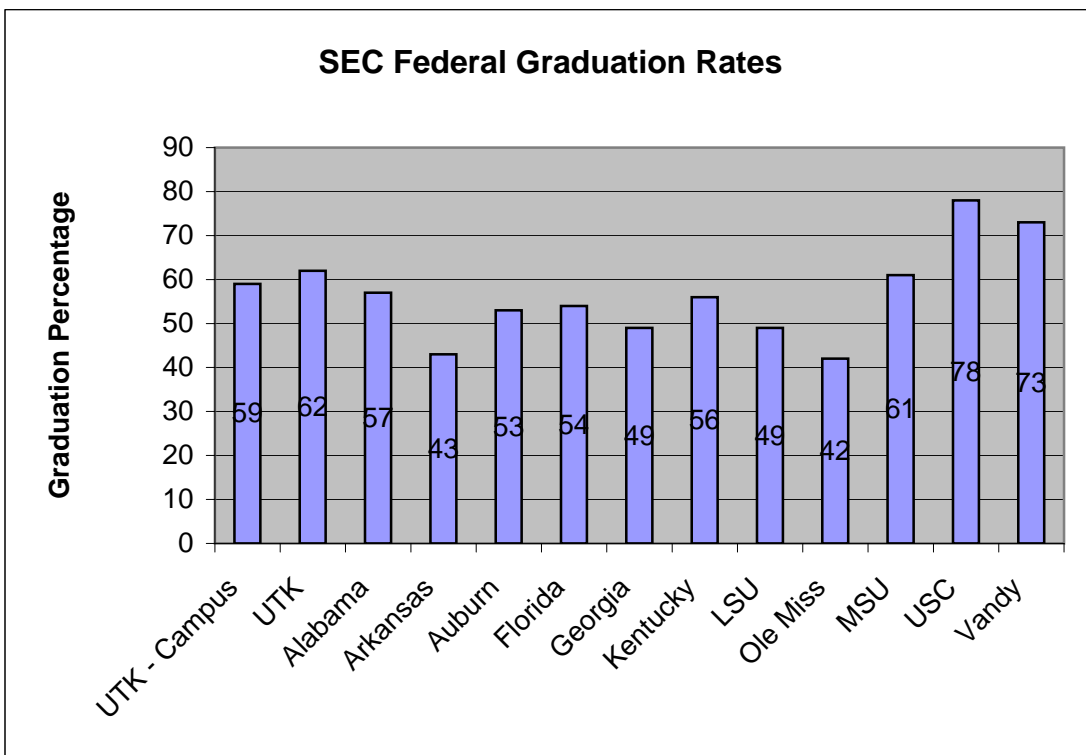
- Annual graduation rate required and calculated by the government.
- Developed to help institutions comply with Student Right-To-Know Act.

- Sometimes referred to as the “GRS” or “IPEDS” (*eye-peds*) rate, as data collected through response to Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Graduation-Rate Survey (IPEDS GRS-1).
- Data are delayed due to six-year window for degree completion.
- Once a student enters the cohort as a freshman, he or she remains in the cohort throughout the six-year period.
- Captures only scholarship student-athletes entering the institution as freshmen (i.e., full-time, first-time, degree-seeking).
- Counts as failures all students who leave the institution for any reason, regardless of academic standing.
- Does not include transfer students. *[Note: The NCAA currently calculates a supplemental rate that does include transfers.]*
- Does not include nonqualifiers or “walk-on” student-athletes.
- Provides rate by race/ethnicity and gender and for selected sports teams (i.e. football, baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s track and field, other).

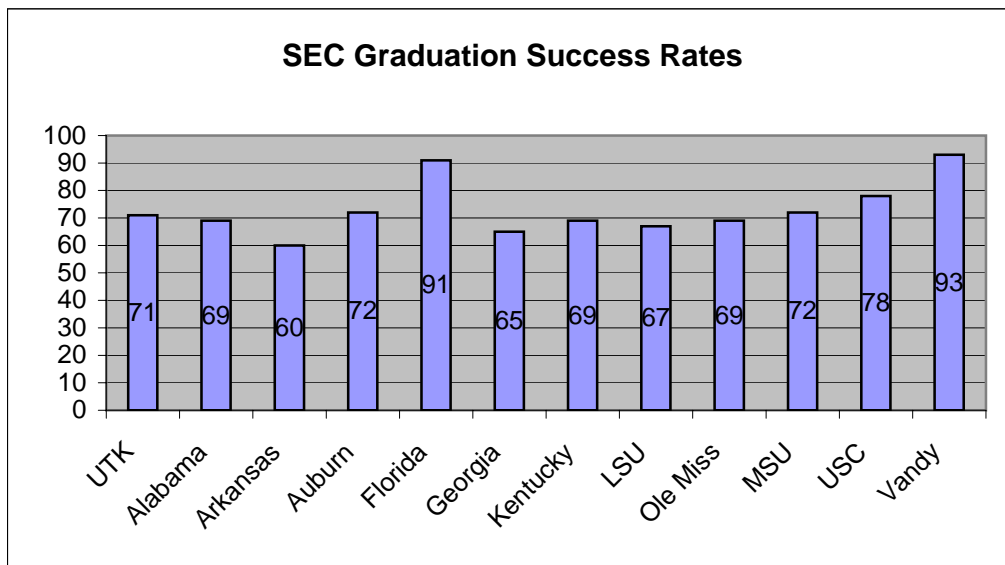
Key Message Point(s):

- The federal graduation-rates methodology does not paint an accurate picture of academic success at our institutions.
- The federal graduation rate is an inaccurate representation of success because transfer student-athletes and other students who leave while in good academic standing count negatively in the calculation. In other words, an academically eligible student-athlete who transfers to another institution and eventually graduates counts neither toward the institution he or she transferred from nor toward the institution he or she transferred to.
- Due to the noted flaws, the academic performance program will not include the federal graduation rate as part of the official process for analyzing a team’s academic performance. It is possible that an institution or team may refer to this rate in an appeals situation.

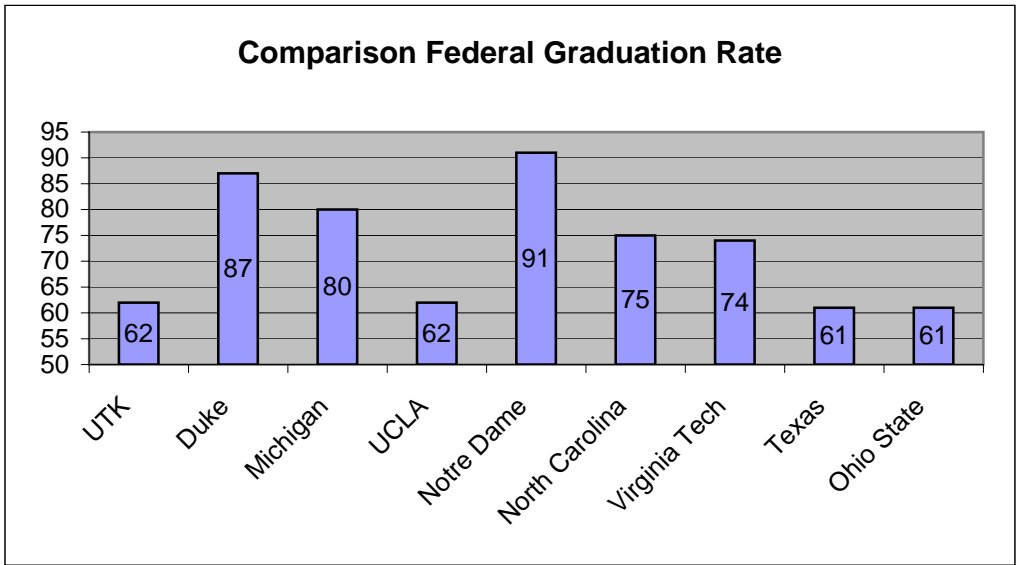
UTK - Campus	59
UTK	62
Alabama	57
Arkansas	43
Auburn	53
Florida	54
Georgia	49
Kentucky	56
LSU	49
Ole Miss	42
MSU	61
USC	78
Vandy	73



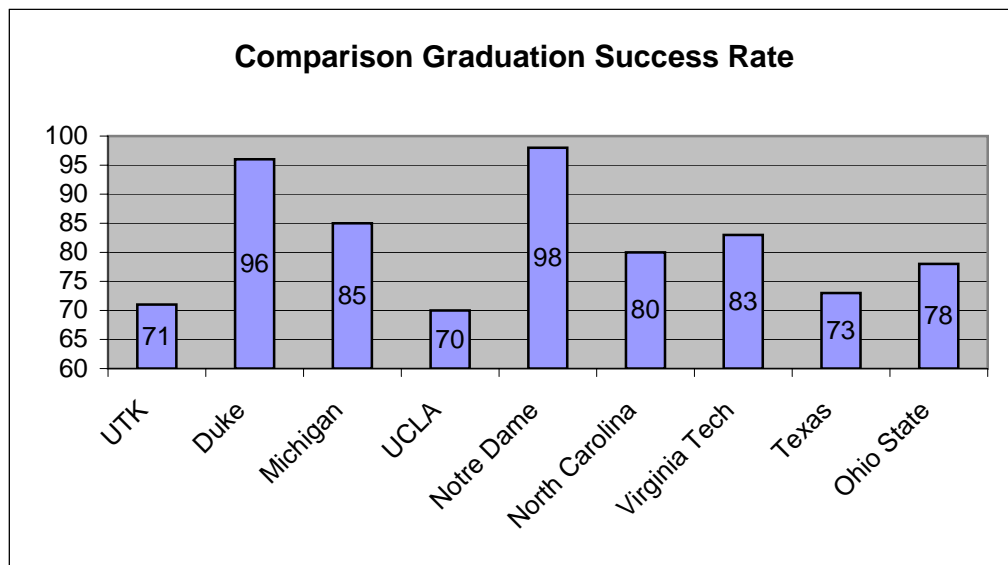
UTK	71
Alabama	69
Arkansas	60
Auburn	72
Florida	91
Georgia	65
Kentucky	69
LSU	67
Ole Miss	69
MSU	72
USC	78
Vandy	93



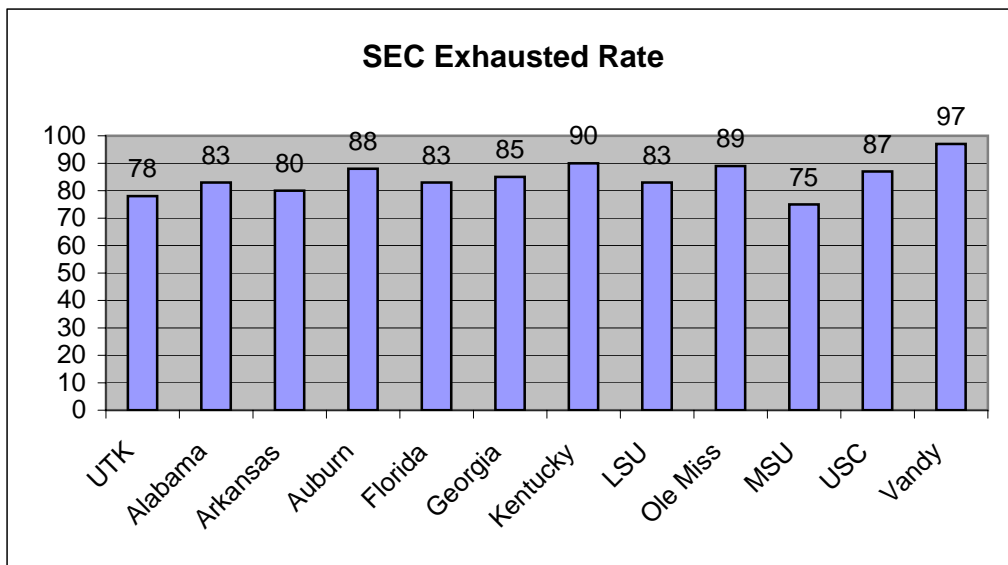
UTK	62
Duke	87
Michigan	80
UCLA	62
Notre Dame	91
North Carolina	75
Virginia Tech	74
Texas	61
Ohio State	61



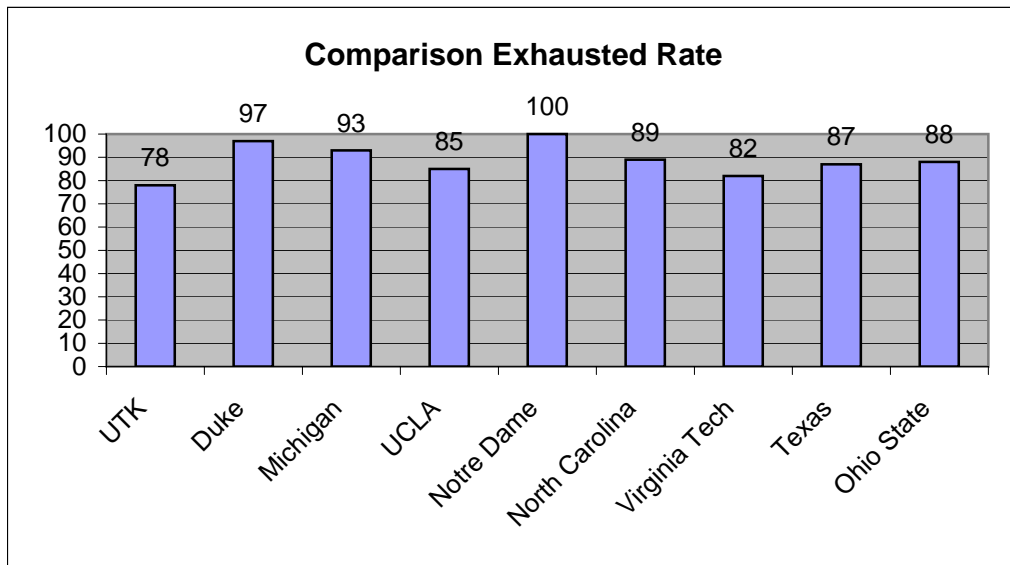
UTK	71
Duke	96
Michigan	85
UCLA	70
Notre Dame	98
North Carolina	80
Virginia Tech	83
Texas	73
Ohio State	78



UTK	78
Alabama	83
Arkansas	80
Auburn	88
Florida	83
Georgia	85
Kentucky	90
LSU	83
Ole Miss	89
MSU	75
USC	87
Vandy	97

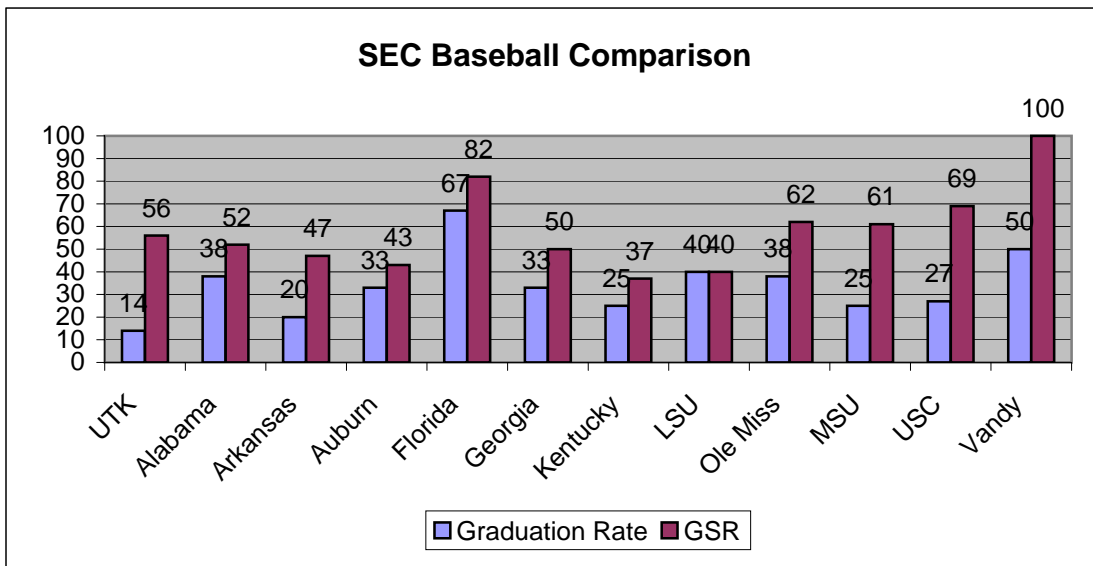


UTK	78
Duke	97
Michigan	93
UCLA	85
Notre Dame	100
North Carolina	89
Virginia Tech	82
Texas	87
Ohio State	88



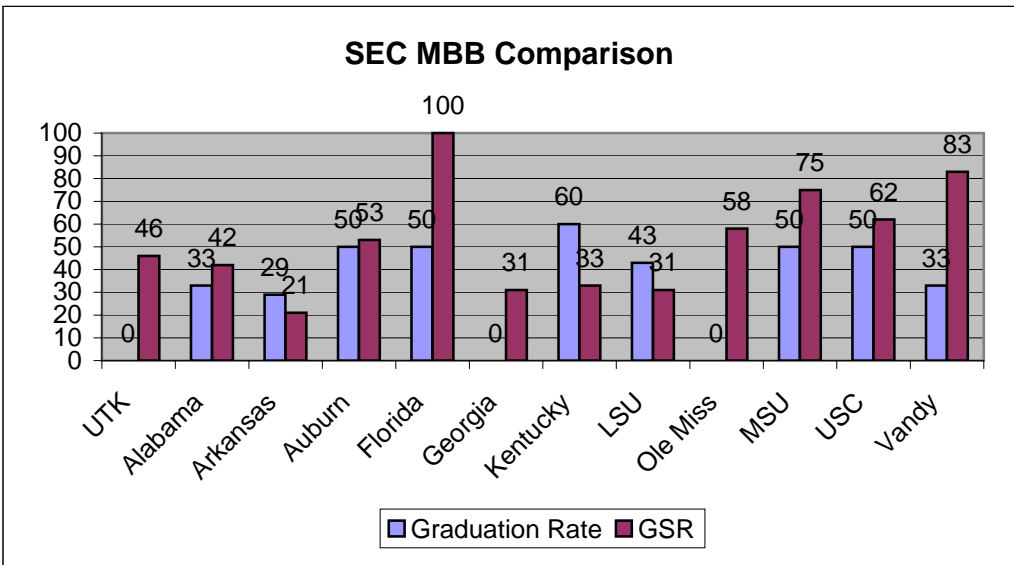
Graduation Rate GSR

UTK	14	56
Alabama	38	52
Arkansas	20	47
Auburn	33	43
Florida	67	82
Georgia	33	50
Kentucky	25	37
LSU	40	40
Ole Miss	38	62
MSU	25	61
USC	27	69
Vandy	50	100



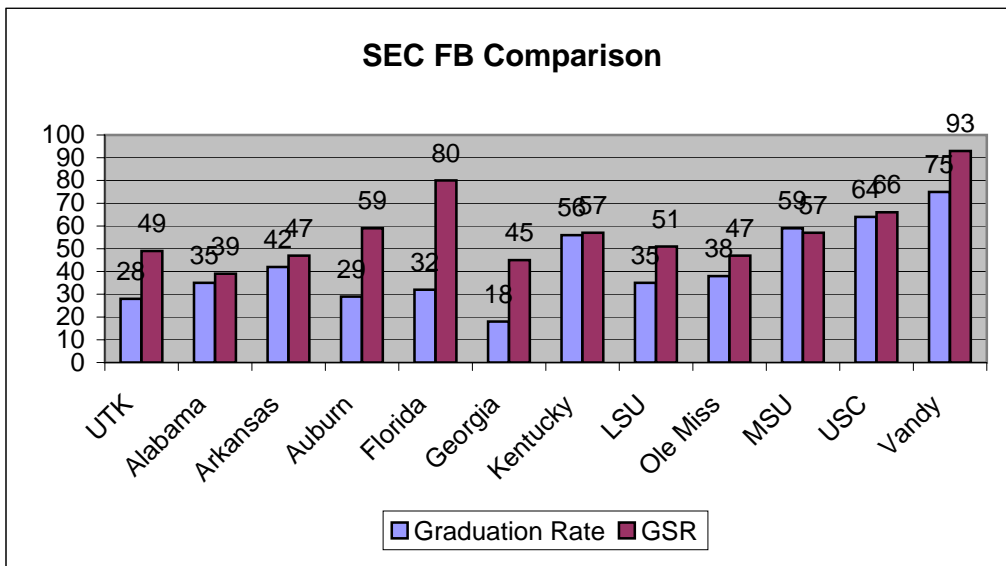
Graduation GSR

UTK	0	46
Alabama	33	42
Arkansas	29	21
Auburn	50	53
Florida	50	100
Georgia	0	31
Kentucky	60	33
LSU	43	31
Ole Miss	0	58
MSU	50	75
USC	50	62
Vandy	33	83



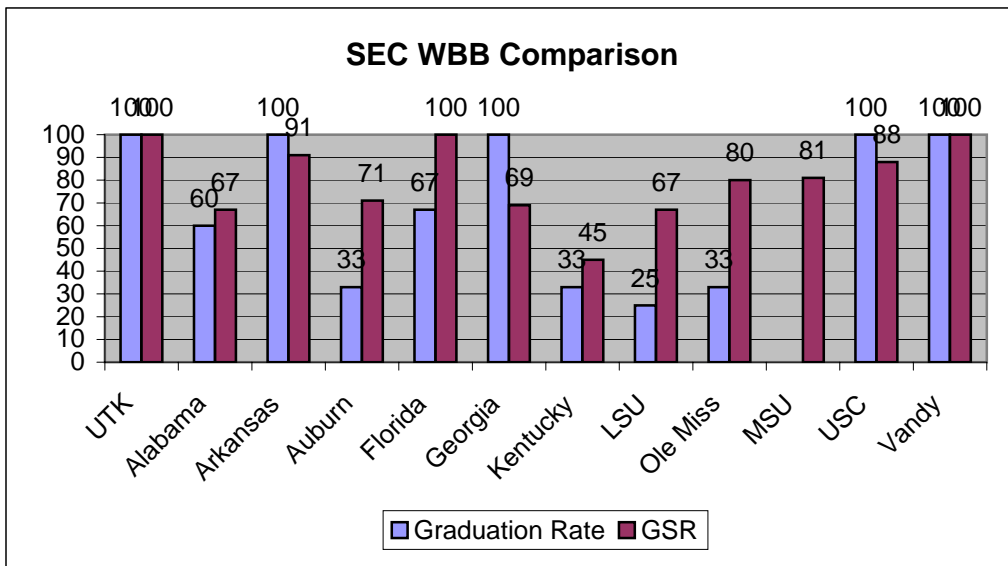
Graduation GSR

UTK	28	49
Alabama	35	39
Arkansas	42	47
Auburn	29	59
Florida	32	80
Georgia	18	45
Kentucky	56	57
LSU	35	51
Ole Miss	38	47
MSU	59	57
USC	64	66
Vandy	75	93



Graduation GSR

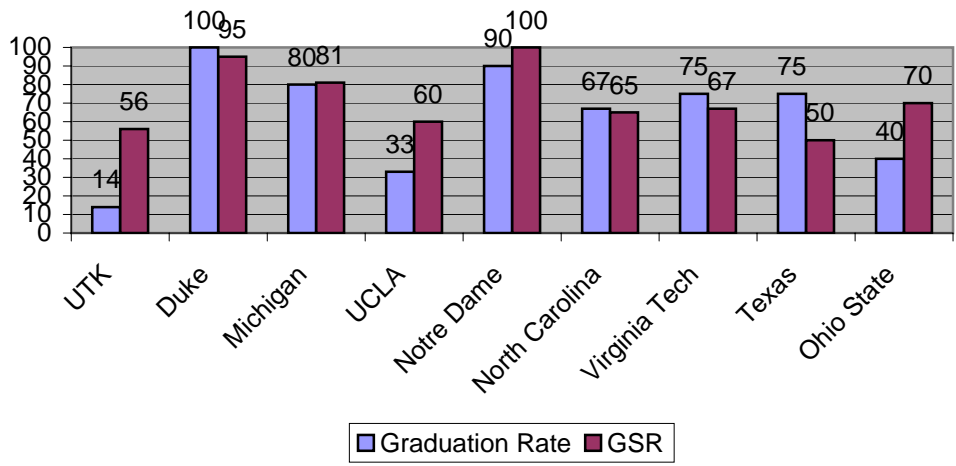
UTK	100	100
Alabama	60	67
Arkansas	100	91
Auburn	33	71
Florida	67	100
Georgia	100	69
Kentucky	33	45
LSU	25	67
Ole Miss	33	80
MSU		81
USC	100	88
Vandy	100	100



Graduator GSR

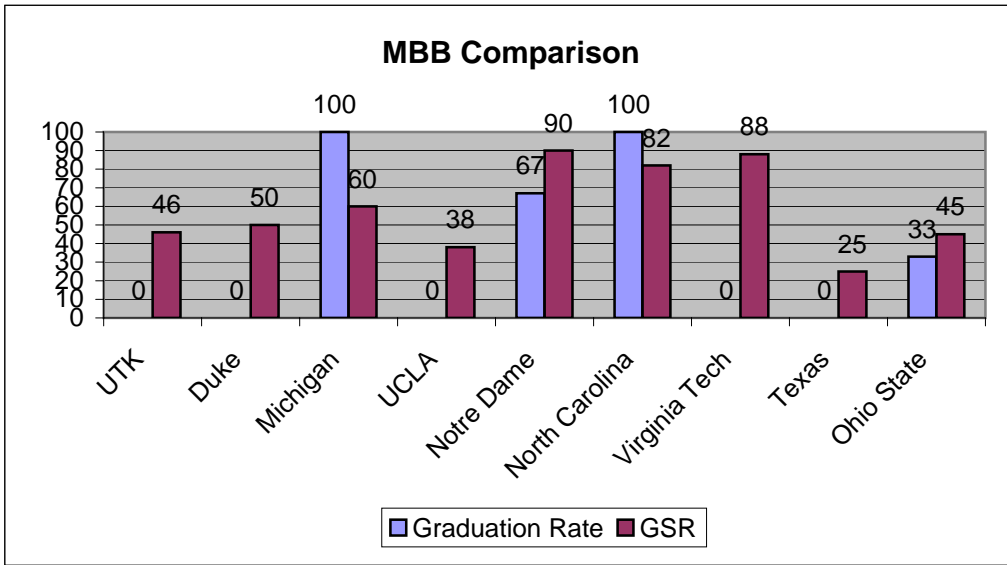
UTK	14	56
Duke	100	95
Michigan	80	81
UCLA	33	60
Notre Dame	90	100
North Carolina	67	65
Virginia Tech	75	67
Texas	75	50
Ohio State	40	70

Baseball Comparison



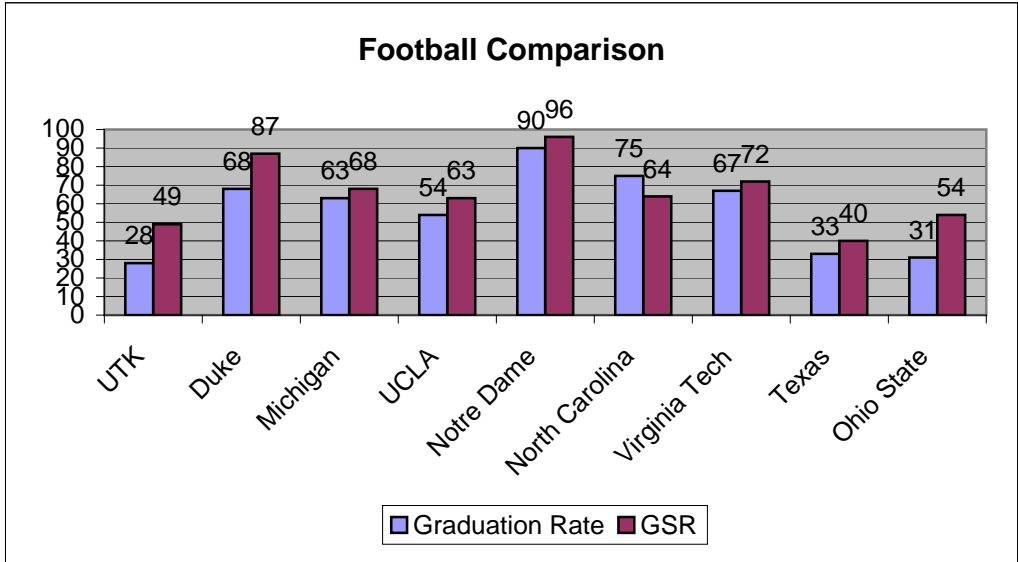
Graduation GSR

UTK	0	46
Duke	0	50
Michigan	100	60
UCLA	0	38
Notre Dame	67	90
North Carolina	100	82
Virginia Tech	0	88
Texas	0	25
Ohio State	33	45



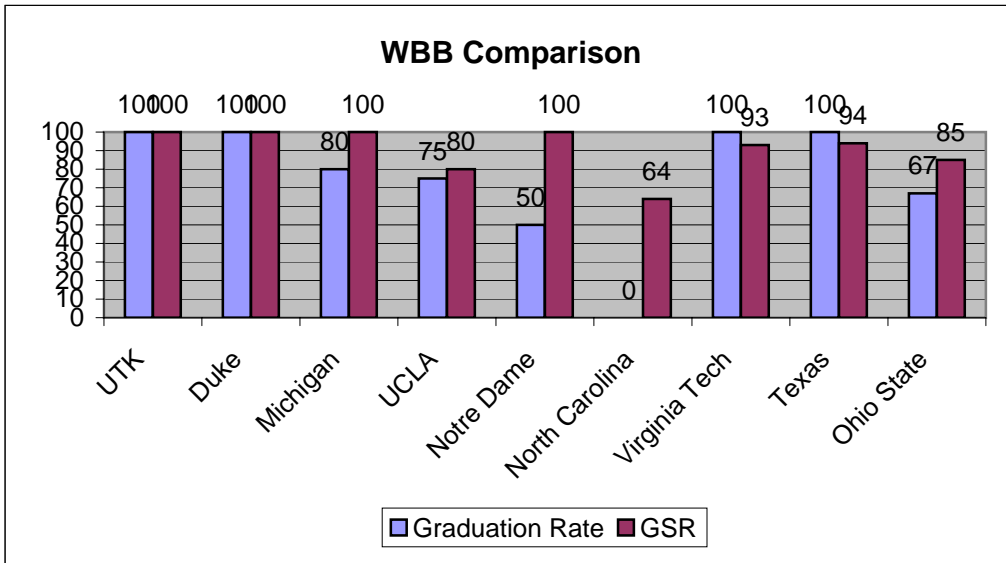
Graduation GSR

UTK	28	49
Duke	68	87
Michigan	63	68
UCLA	54	63
Notre Dame	90	96
North Carolina	75	64
Virginia Tech	67	72
Texas	33	40
Ohio State	31	54



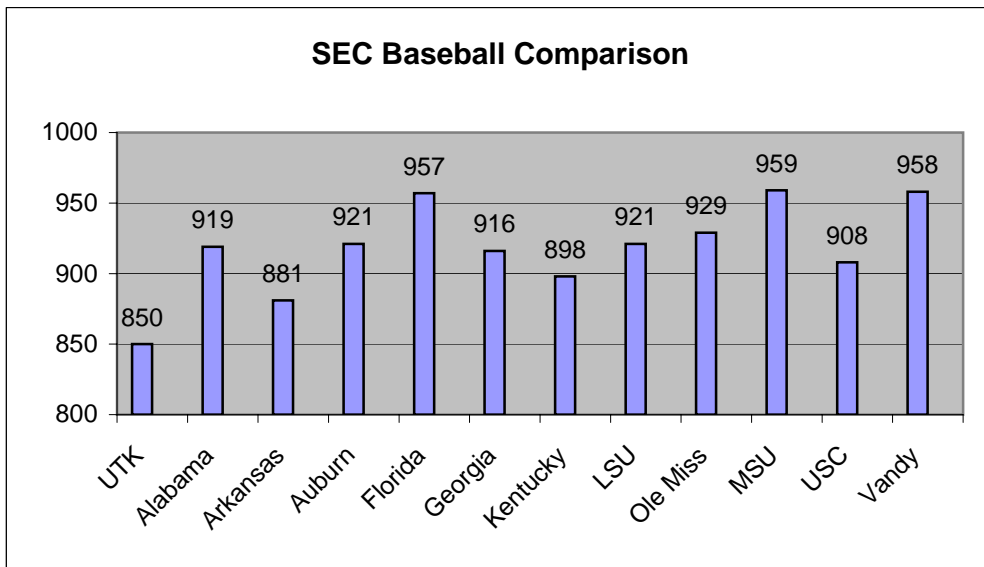
Graduation GSR

UTK	100	100
Duke	100	100
Michigan	80	100
UCLA	75	80
Notre Dame	50	100
North Carolina	0	64
Virginia Tech	100	93
Texas	100	94
Ohio State	67	85



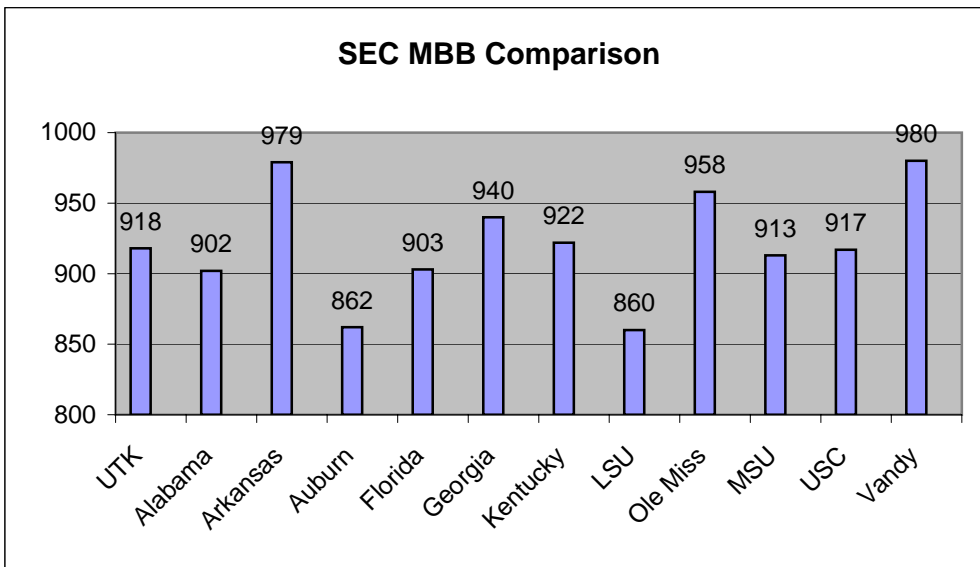
APR

UTK	850
Alabama	919
Arkansas	881
Auburn	921
Florida	957
Georgia	916
Kentucky	898
LSU	921
Ole Miss	929
MSU	959
USC	908
Vandy	958



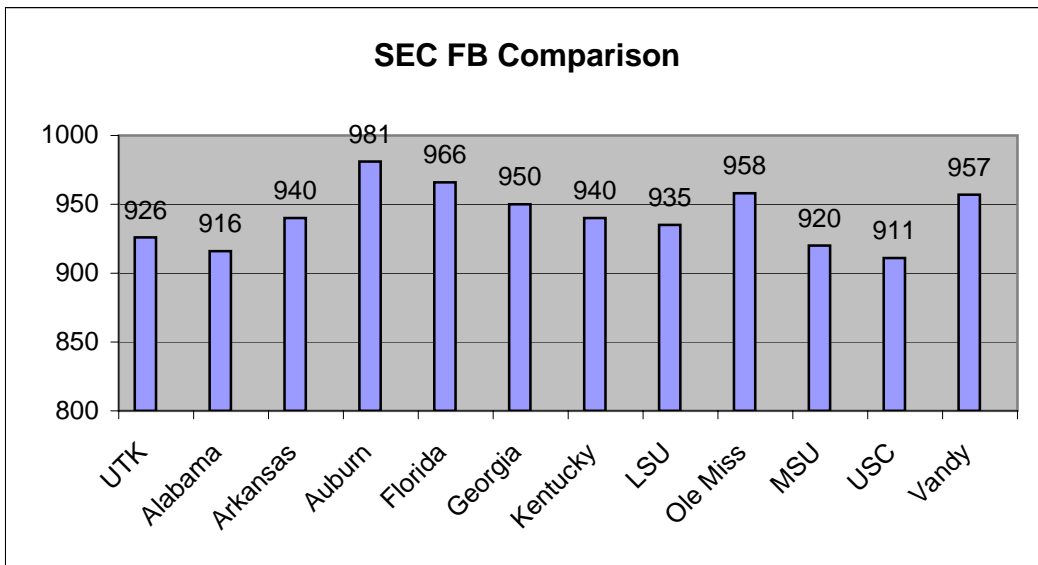
APR

UTK	918
Alabama	902
Arkansas	979
Auburn	862
Florida	903
Georgia	940
Kentucky	922
LSU	860
Ole Miss	958
MSU	913
USC	917
Vandy	980



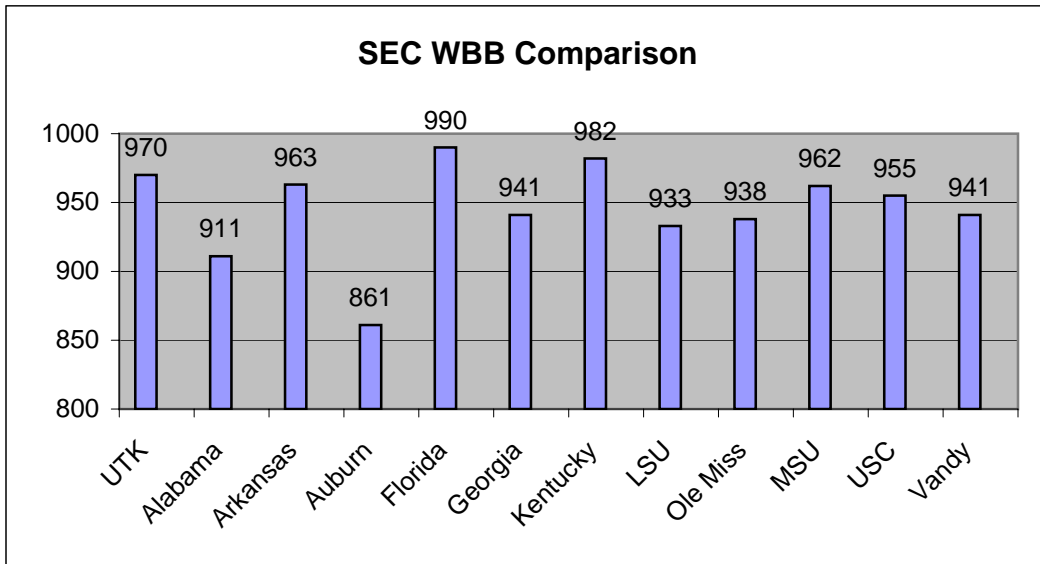
APR

UTK	926
Alabama	916
Arkansas	940
Auburn	981
Florida	966
Georgia	950
Kentucky	940
LSU	935
Ole Miss	958
MSU	920
USC	911
Vandy	957



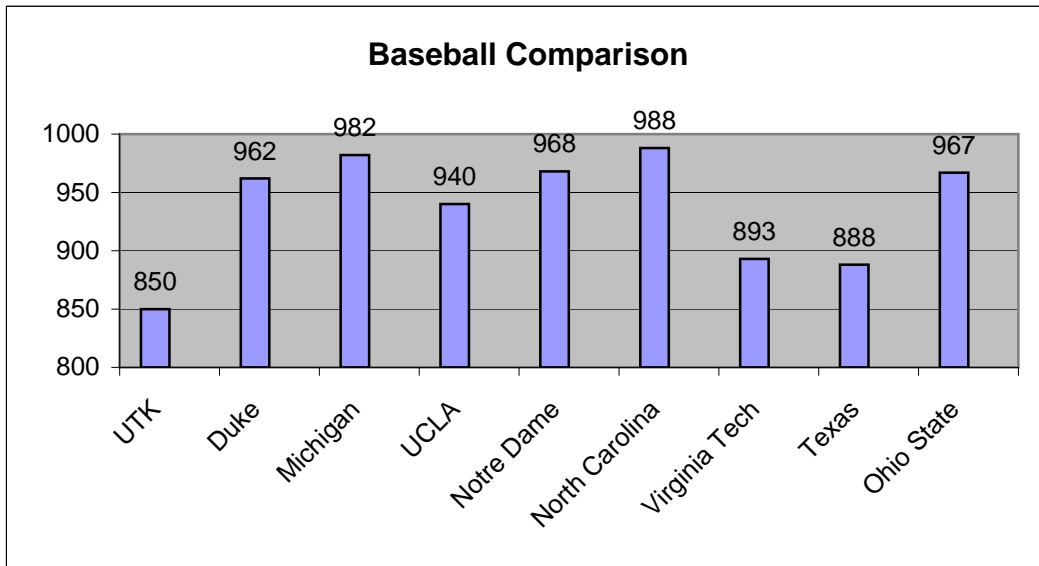
APR

UTK	970
Alabama	911
Arkansas	963
Auburn	861
Florida	990
Georgia	941
Kentucky	982
LSU	933
Ole Miss	938
MSU	962
USC	955
Vandy	941



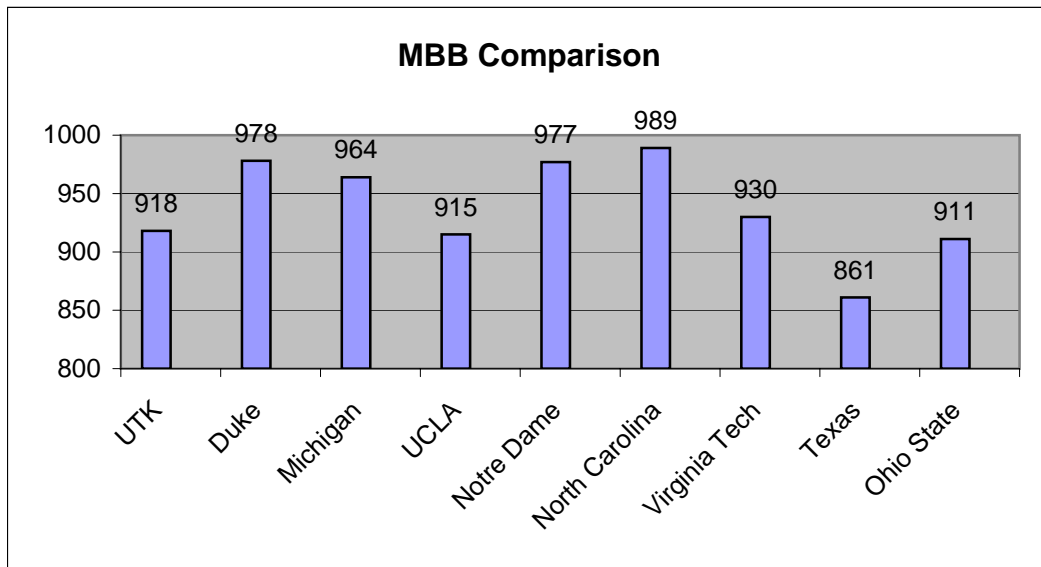
APR

UTK	850
Duke	962
Michigan	982
UCLA	940
Notre Dame	968
North Carolina	988
Virginia Tech	893
Texas	888
Ohio State	967



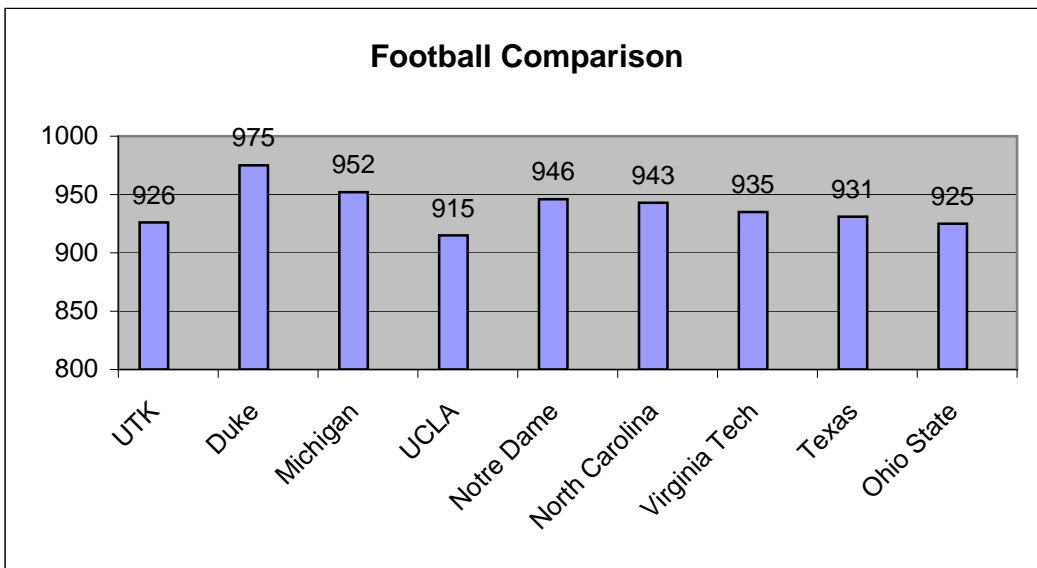
APR

UTK	918
Duke	978
Michigan	964
UCLA	915
Notre Dame	977
North Carolina	989
Virginia Tech	930
Texas	861
Ohio State	911



APR

UTK	926
Duke	975
Michigan	952
UCLA	915
Notre Dame	946
North Carolina	943
Virginia Tech	935
Texas	931
Ohio State	925



APR

UTK	970
Duke	989
Michigan	906
UCLA	932
Notre Dame	977
North Carolina	982
Virginia Tech	972
Texas	966
Ohio State	996

