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Moving to Division II

Change allows scholarships in all sports, making athletics more accessible

KALEIA LAWRENCE
Editor in Chief

Representing WolfPack athletics is not an easy feat. During their season, athletes are spending about 20 hours per week practicing, competing and traveling. Tournaments can span entire weekends and away games have players riding the bus late into the night.

In order to be eligible to play, athletes must be full time students. Not only that, but they have to maintain good grades to stay eligible.

Because of the time commitments to being a full time student and athletic obligations, little time is left for work. This can put athletes in a tight spot where many already struggle. In 2019, the NJCAA found that 37 percent of athletes come from households earning \$20,000 or less a year.

One of the main differences between Division II and III is that the higher the division, the more scholarship money can be offered to athletes.

Most athletes represent Madison College without

any financial help. All of the sports except for baseball and softball currently compete at the NJCAA Division III level, meaning no athletic scholarships are given. Baseball and softball have been playing at the Division II level and receiving athletic scholarships since 2000 and 2014, respectively.

But starting next season, Madison College athletics are moving to a whole new level. All sports will compete at the NJCAA Division II level. This shift greatly affects returning and future student athletes in many ways.

"It provides access," said Steve Hauser, athletic director. "It's not going to cost more in terms of the teams that we play and it provides better competition, which we're really excited about."

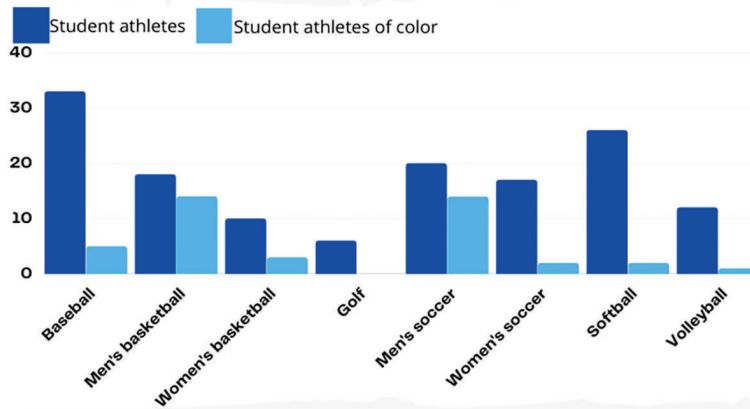
One of the main differences between Division II and III is that the higher the division, the more scholarship money can be offered to athletes. Scholarships can be used for tuition and books, but not for room or board.

The school hopes to have at least \$200,000 avail-

Looking at the numbers...

Diversity in WolfPack athletics

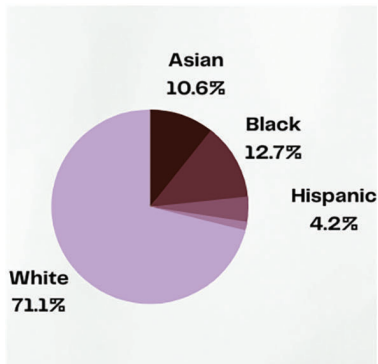
With the move to Division II, the new offerings of scholarships will likely impact equity within athletics. Here's a deeper look into some of the numbers...



In the 2020-21 season, there were 142 total student athletes, 28.9 percent were minorities.



Across Madison College, student enrollment came to 22,852 people, with 26.1 percent were minorities, according to data provided by the athletic office.



It's one thing to see percentages...

And another to know the numbers. Across the student athlete body, there are 15 Asian athletes, 18 Black athletes, six Hispanic athletes, two multi-racial athletes and 101 white athletes.



FAFSA recorded

A majority of the teams filed for financial aid. In order of appearance from left to right: baseball, men's basketball, women's basketball, golf, men's soccer, women's soccer, softball and volleyball.

WHO GETS THE MONEY?



The goal is to have 20 percent of the scholarships be awarded to athletes of color.

If the athletics program can meet the goal of \$200,000 then \$40,000 would be awarded to underrepresented athletes.

Source Information was shared by the athletics department at Madison College

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Legal help removes a barrier to employment

STUART PATE
News Editor

Students with convictions on their records face unique challenges in finding their careers. These "barriers to employment" are fought on Madison College campuses by Megan Sprecher, an attorney working with Legal Action of Wisconsin.

"The goal of that is to make it easier and more feasible for students to access their education, finish their programs and then find a job that can be fulfilling for them," said Sprecher. "Just having certain convictions on your record can make it difficult to find employment."

Sprecher's project utilizes pro bono and volunteer attorneys, paralegal interns and paralegal and law students from places like Madison College and UW Madison and focuses on expungements, pardons, corrections and removals as well as challenging driver's license suspensions and revocations.

When approaching Legal Action of Wisconsin, everybody goes through a background check to see what can be removed, corrected, expunged or pardoned. Then work is done either in house or through a network of volunteer attorneys.

Pardons are granted by the governor. According to Sprecher, a pardon hearing takes about 14 months. A pardon is something that restores civil rights that were lost because of conviction. Currently, Governor Evers is only considering felonies for pardons.

Madison College faculty and staff can play a role in an individual's pardon case.

A support letter would be

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Alternative Break featured 4 projects

KALEIA LAWRENCE
Editor in Chief

This past spring break, the Madison College Volunteer Center stayed busy. Over the course of the week, the group did four different projects across Dane County.

On Monday, nine students volunteered at Second Harvest. The organization is southwestern Wisconsin's largest

foodbank.

On Tuesday, students gathered at the Truax campus to do some benevolent DIY.

Twelve students came together and made 24 blankets for Project Linus, nine cat beds for Dane County Humane Society, 18 posters for Bleed Shamelessly, and three Kynd Kits for project helping.

On Wednesday, five students helped out at the Dane

County Humane Society. Various volunteers said they had a good time with the animals.

On Thursday, seven students visited Little John's kitchen in Verona. There, the volunteers packed meals for those in need. The kitchen focuses on eliminating food waste and meal insecurity at



PHOTO PROVIDED TO THE CLARION

» SEE **PROJECTS** PAGE 4 Students show the blankets they made for Project Linus.