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Philadelphia University Student Athletes Recognized by NCAA

Philadelphia University only Division II athletic program in Nation to place in top 10 in all three categories of USA TODAY/NCAA Academic Achievement Awards

PHILADELPHIA (September 3, 2003) ³/₄ Philadelphia University was recently recognized by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) as the only Division II school in the nation to place in the top 10 in all three categories considered for this year's USA TODAY/NCAA Academic Achievement Awards.

This year's rankings tracked the freshman class of 1996 in three categories: overall student athlete graduation rates, student athlete graduation rates compared to those of the student body, and student athlete graduation rate increases from the previous year. Philadelphia University scored fifth with an overall graduation rate of 81%, and eighth in both graduation rates above student body and graduation rate increases from the previous year.

"Our student athletes personify what it means to be a successful, well-rounded individual," said James P. Gallagher, Ph.D., president. "They strive for excellence both in the classroom and on the field and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments."

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“We constantly emphasize “student” in the term, ‘student athlete,’ and much of the credit goes to our coaches and outstanding faculty, who realize that wins and losses is only part of the job,” said Tom Shirley, athletic director and women’s basketball coach. “It goes beyond the field of play and into the classroom, where our student athletes prepare for the real world that awaits them once their athletic career is over.”

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a fully accredited, private university with 3,500 part- and full-time students from 38 states and 42 countries. The University offers more than 40 undergraduate and graduate degree programs leading to the bachelor of science, bachelor of architecture and master’s degrees. Academic programs encompass architecture, design, business, textiles, fashion, science and health. Philadelphia University offers 12 varsity sports, seven for women and five for men.