The success of Nebraska student-athletes reaches far beyond athletic competition. More Husker student-athletes have been selected to CoSIDA Academic All-America teams (307) than any other school in the nation, and Nebraska has produced more NCAA Top Ten Award winners (16) than any other school. As it enters its third season of Big Ten Conference competition in 2013-14, Nebraska continues to set the standard for the approximately 1,400 NCAA member institutions.

The Husker football team leads all individual sport programs in the nation with 104 all-time CoSIDA Academic All-America awards. The Notre Dame football program ranks second among all sports nationally with 58 all-time academic All-Americans. In fact, Nebraska's 104 football academic All-Americans would rank among the top 25 schools (all sports, all divisions) in the nation in the number of total CoSIDA Academic All-Americans. The NU volleyball program has captured more academic All-America awards (37) than any other women's team in the nation, while the Husker softball program ranks second on that list with 29 selections. Nebraska also ranks among the top 10 schools in the nation in CoSIDA Academic All-Americans in baseball, women's basketball and men's and women's track and field/cross country. Over the past two years, the men's and women's track and field programs have produced 10 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans - the most in the nation during that span.

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS
ALL SPORTS AS OF AUGUST 2013

307

231

204

182

HUSKERS BUILD ON ACADEMIC TRADITION IN 2012-13

Husker student-athletes produced another outstanding year in 2012-13, continuing NU’s tradition of academic success. The Huskers added eight CoSIDA Academic All-Americans to their nation-leading total (307) to become the first school in history to reach 300 academic All-Americans. Nebraska's eight academic All-Americans led the Big Ten Conference and ranked among the highest totals in the nation across all divisions. NU maintained its lead of 76 all-time CoSIDA Academic All-Americans over No. 2 Notre Dame. Since 2000, Nebraska has amassed a nation-leading 117 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, which would rank in a tie for 13th over the more than 60 years of the academic All-America program. Nebraska has produced at least one academic All-American in 42 consecutive seasons.

Senior I-back Rex Burkhead captured first-team academic All-America honors for the second straight season, while senior linebacker Sean Fisher earned second-team honors for the second straight year. Fisher added a prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship.

While Burkhead and Fisher became the 25th and 26th two-time academic All-Americans in the history of the Husker football program, senior track and field student-athlete Bjorn Barrefors became the first four-time CoSIDA Academic All-American in school history. A six-time All-American as a multi-eventer, Barrefors was Nebraska’s Male Student-Athlete of the Year and claimed an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. He was joined by 10-time All-American Mara Griva and Morgan Wilken in giving the track team a trio of academic All-Americans. All-America wrestler Josh Ihnen added his second straight academic All-America award, while eight-time gymnastics All-American Emily Wong captured the first academic All-America award of her career.

Gina Mancuso added a first-team CoSIDA Academic All-America award to the Husker volleyball team’s nation-leading total of 37, while helping the Huskers to an NCAA Elite Eight appearance on the court.

Senior Mary Weatherholt also capped the most brilliant career on and off the court in Nebraska women's tennis history. NU's Female Student-Athlete of the Year earned All-America honors in both singles and doubles, while finishing as the runner-up at the NCAA Singles Championship. She added an Elite Eight finish with teammate Patricia Veresova at the NCAA Doubles Championship, after leading the Huskers to their first-ever NCAA Sweet 16 as a team. For her performances on the court, in the classroom and in the community, Weatherholt claimed the ITA/Cissie Leary National Award for Sportsmanship, one of the top honors in collegiate tennis.

In addition to Nebraska’s continued success in creating CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, the Huskers produced a record 705 Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll selections during the fall and spring semesters of 2012-13. A total of 188 Huskers were honored as academic All-Big Ten recipients, while 105 NU student-athletes earned degrees in 2012-13.
NEBRASKA’S 2012-13 ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

» 307 All-Time CoSIDA Academic All-Americans across all sports (leads nation)
» 104 Football Academic All-Americans (leads all sports, all time)
» 37 Volleyball Academic All-Americans (leads all women’s sports, all time)
» 29 Softball Academic All-Americans (No. 2 among all women’s sports, all time)
» 35 Men’s & Women’s Track & Field Academic All-Americans (leads nation since 2002)
» Eight CoSIDA Academic All-Americans (4 first-team, 4 second-team)
  First-Team: Rex Burkhead (Football), Bjorn Barrefors (Men’s Track & Field), Gina Mancuso (Volleyball), Josh Ihnen (Wrestling)
  Second-Team: Sean Fisher (Football), Mara Griva (Women’s Track & Field), Morgan Wilken (Women’s Track & Field), Emily Wong (Women’s Gymnastics)
» Two NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Winners ($7,500)
  Sean Fisher (Football), Bjorn Barrefors (Men’s Track & Field)
» Big Ten Postgraduate Scholarship Winners ($7,500)
  Conor McDermott (Football), Megan Southworth (Softball)
» Male Student-Athlete of the Year- Bjorn Barrefors (Men’s Track & Field, Mary Weatherholt (Women’s Tennis)
» Big Ten Sportsmanship Award Winners
  Rex Burkhead (Football), Emily Wong (Women’s Gymnastics)
» 188 Academic All-Big Ten Selections Across All Sports (3.0 GPA)
» School-Record 705 Student-Athletes Honored on the Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Fall and Spring Honor Rolls (3.0 GPA or above)
» 84 Student-Athletes Earned Perfect 4.0 GPAs in either the Fall or Spring Semester
» 105 Student-Athletes Earned Degrees from August 2012 through May 2013
  (August 2012-11; December 2012-36; May 2013-58)
» Life Skills Team Award Winners - Wrestling, Women’s Swimming & Diving

Opposite page: Linebacker Alonzo Whaley earned his bachelor’s degree from Nebraska in December of 2012 before playing in the Capital One Bowl on New Year’s Day. Whaley was one of 20 Huskers to earn their degrees before playing in the Capital One Bowl.

Top left: Nebraska Student-Athletes of the Year Bjorn Barrefors (left) and Mary Weatherholt (right) made history in 2012-13. Barrefors became the first four-time CoSIDA Academic All-American at Nebraska, while Weatherholt became the first All-American in both singles and doubles in women’s tennis history at NU, while finishing as the 2013 NCAA singles runner-up.

Bottom left: Offensive tackle Jeremiah Sirles was honored at the 2012-13 Nebraska Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet for his outstanding work in the classroom. A second-team All-Big Ten pick in 2012, Sirles earned his degree in management last May.

Top right: Senior defensive end Jason Ankrah earned his degree in child, youth and family studies in May. He is one of nine current Huskers who earned their undergraduate degrees before the start of the 2013 season.

Bottom right: Rex Burkhead, the fifth-leading rusher in Nebraska history, earned his degree in history in December of 2012 prior to completing his career in the Capital One Bowl. Burkhead was a two-time first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American and the captain of the AFCA Good Works team in 2012. Following his career, Burkhead was selected in the sixth round of the 2013 NFL Draft by the Cincinnati Bengals.
From the day student-athletes decide the University of Nebraska is the right place to be, the athletic academic counseling unit provides personal and academic support to ensure that student-athletes will get the most out of their years as Huskers. Featuring one of the most innovative and comprehensive academic support systems in the country, Nebraska is dedicated to helping its student-athletes become outstanding leaders in their chosen fields. The academic support team is comprised of 13 full-time staff members and a tutorial staff of approximately 75 tutors addressing all subject areas.

ACADEMIC COUNSELING
Eight academic counselors and three assistant academic counselors are in place to monitor daily academic progress, receive consistent course feedback, assist with the advising-registration process and monitor continuing eligibility and progress toward graduation. Essentially, academic counselors assist student-athletes in navigating the University of Nebraska system.

TUTORIAL SUPPORT
A tremendous resource for all academic abilities, unlimited tutorial support is available from day one up to college graduation. Subject and mentor tutors help provide academic support and study strategies to be successful. Supplemental instruction, a sub-component of the tutorial program, provides targeted group review sessions to help ease the transition to college academics while improving study strategies and building academic self-esteem.

STUDY HALL
Nebraska’s study hall program is housed in the D.I. Sokol Enrichment Center within the Student Life Complex. Student-athletes attend a supervised, flex-time study hall that features day, evening and weekend hours. Each student-athlete is required to complete a specific number of study hours each week as determined by their academic counselor and/or coach. In addition, weekly study hall reports are provided to the coaching staff. Additional performance-based or tutor-based study hall may also be determined by the academic counselor.

MENTORING
Many student-athletes meet with a mentor on a weekly basis to assist in making a smooth transition from high school to college. Mentors collect syllabi, gather and report academic progress information and teach academic success strategies.

EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS
Assessments are administered upon the request of the student-athlete, academic counselor, or coach to determine student strengths and areas for improvement. Results allow academic counselors to develop a personalized academic support program and to determine if more in-depth testing is warranted. When additional assessments are necessary, referrals are made to a consulting psychologist who conducts the assessments. If it is determined that a student-athlete has a learning disability, appropriate accommodations are made through the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ORIENTATION
The academic staff coordinates New Student-Athlete Orientation to help newcomers adjust to the multiple demands of being a college student-athlete. Presentations are made by academic counselors, compliance officials, NU faculty and administrators, business/community professionals and student-athletes.

PERSONAL COUNSELING
Student-athletes will find a supportive and caring environment at Nebraska. Transitional issues, stress management, time management, academic focus and problem resolution are all addressed in a proactive manner throughout the year. If necessary, counseling referrals are also made to designated practitioners.

COMPUTER RESOURCES
Student-athletes enjoy a new state-of-the-art computer lab and technology center with 58 computers and professional supervision. Laptops are also available during team travel. Student-athletes have the benefit of ongoing education and assistance from a full-time computer technician.

“You definitely get the total package of an experience from athletics, academics, community outreach and campus life. Everybody on staff within the program makes sure that the student-athletes reach their fullest potential and that is why there is no place like Nebraska.”

Rex Burkhead
2013 NFL draftee