

## Follow-Up Q&A to August 17, 2022 Special Board Meeting

This document responds to questions raised by the Regents at the August 17, 2022 Special Board Meeting to discuss the [Interim Report on the Impact of UCLA Joining the Big Ten](#). This document seeks to respond directly to the Regents' questions without presupposing a particular outcome.

### 1. What is the current state of play? What is going to happen with the Big Ten and Pac-12?

As discussed at the August meeting, conditions remain in flux with continued negotiations on long-term media deals and conference realignments. On August 18, 2022, the Big Ten announced a media deal totaling \$8 billion with multiple TV networks, including CBS, NBC and Fox<sup>1</sup> and the College Football Playoff's (CFP) board began discussions on whether college football should be governed outside the NCAA.<sup>2</sup> On September 2, 2022, the CFP board unanimously voted to triple in size to 12 teams, a decision some analysts project could yield another \$2 billion a year for teams that compete in bowl games.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, there continue to be media stories about ongoing conference realignment discussions, from the Big Ten considering further expansion that could include other Pac-12 schools,<sup>4</sup> to the Pac-12 fielding dozens of inquiries from schools expressing interest to join,<sup>5</sup> to the Big-12 seeking a media deal with ESPN and exploring whether Pac-12 members might be interested in joining their conference.<sup>6</sup>

### 2. What revenues go to which sports – that is, what percent of revenues go to football and basketball, compared to non-revenue sports?

Table 1 below provides financial data for football, men's basketball, and all other sports, along with other revenues for the UCLA and UC Berkeley athletics departments. Revenue distributions are comparable across the two campuses' athletics. The revenue sports, i.e., football and men's basketball, contribute over 80 percent of the sports-generated revenues while comprising just over 55 percent of sports-specific expenses. In contrast, non-revenue sports contribute about 16 percent of sports-generated revenues while accounting for just under 45 percent of sports-specific expenses.

<sup>1</sup> <https://theathletic.com/3518414/2022/08/18/big-ten-tv-deal-details-rights/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.si.com/fannation/college/cfb-hq/ncaa-football/college-football-playoff-ncaa-separation>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/02/sports/ncaafotball/college-football-playoff-expansion.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://athlonsports.com/college-football/report-big-ten-targeting-5-major-schools-for-conference-expansion>

<sup>5</sup> <https://247sports.com/Article/Conference-realignment-Pac-12-fielding-inquiries-from-more-than-a-dozen-schools-per-report--192413835/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.kansas.com/sports/college/big-12/article265128416.html>

**Table 1: Athletic program revenues**

**UCLA Athletics revenues and expenses**

Fiscal year 2019, shown as a pre-pandemic reference point

	Revenues		Expenses	
	Dollars	% of all sports revenue	Dollars	% of all sports expenses
Football	41.3 M	65%	35.5 M	40%
Men's Basketball	12.0 M	19%	15.5 M	17%
All other sports	9.9 M	16%	38.3 M	43%
<b>Total for all sports</b>	<b>63.1 M</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>89.3 M</b>	<b>100%</b>
Other	45.3 M		38.1 M	
<b>Total</b>	<b>108.4 M</b>		<b>127.3 M</b>	

**UC Berkeley Athletics revenues and expenses**

Fiscal year 2019, shown as a pre-pandemic reference point

	Revenues		Expenses	
	Dollars	% of all sports revenue	Dollars	% of all sports expenses
Football	38.1 M	68%	30.5 M	46%
Men's Basketball	8.5 M	15%	6.8 M	10%
All other sports	9.2 M	17%	29.2 M	44%
<b>Total for all sports</b>	<b>55.9 M</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>66.6 M</b>	<b>100%</b>
Other	36.7 M		45.2 M	
<b>Total</b>	<b>92.7 M</b>		<b>111.8 M</b>	

Other revenues include those not allocated to specific sports, such as royalties, licensing, advertisement, and sponsorship revenues, student fees and institutional support, non-sport-specific donor contributions, etc.

Other expenses include non-sport-specific support staff, administrative expenses, general operations, etc.

Source: NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Report, Fiscal Year 2018-19, provided by UCLA and UC Berkeley

**3. What is a best and worst case scenario on travel impacts with a move to the Big Ten?**

A move to the Big Ten or other conference realignment would increase the amount of time that student-athletes spend on travel during the season, along with expanding travel to different time zones, for some UCLA and UC Berkeley teams. The Big Ten currently includes 14 teams; six of the current Big Ten teams are in the Central time zone and two hours ahead and eight are in the Eastern time zone and three hours ahead. Due to the number of teams in the conference, teams do not necessarily play each other annually. Regarding the Pac-12 teams, four – Colorado, Utah, Arizona and Arizona State – are in the Mountain time zone and usually one hour ahead, except the Arizona schools, as Arizona does not observe daylight savings time.

Assuming the use of charter flights as needed and normal travel logistics, UCLA and UC Berkeley estimate that additional travel days related to Big Ten competitions could range from one to two per season for the teams with lowest impact to four days for the teams with highest impact. If there are more complicated travel logistics and particularly difficult scheduling of away competitions, the schools estimate that teams could experience an additional three to six travel days per season.

Not all UCLA or Cal athletes would be affected by a change in athletic conference. Sports that are not in the Big Ten would have no travel impact, and those in the Big Ten that do not participate in conference play, but instead in multi-team events or tournaments, would experience minimal impact. In real numbers, this translates to around 60 percent of UCLA and Cal athletes who would have no or minimal travel impact by moving to the Big Ten or undergoing similar conference realignment; 13 percent would have no impact and about 46 percent would have minimal impact. The 19 percent of UCLA athletes and 16 percent of UC Berkeley athletes that play football and men's and women's basketball and currently use charter flights would have marginal impact, primarily experiencing longer flight hours and potentially three to four additional days away from campus per year. Eight UCLA teams and nine UC Berkeley teams – just under 25 percent of athletes – who rely on commercial flights or bus trips would likely have increased travel impacts, potentially spending an additional five to six days away from campus per year. Appendix I provides detail by individual sports teams. As indicated in the Appendix, women athletes would be less affected by the move, with around 60 percent having no or minimal travel impact.

**Estimated number of additional travel days per year with Big Ten membership**

	<b>Best case</b>	<b>Worse Case</b>
Teams with:		
Low impact	1-2 days	3-5 days
Marginal/medium impact	3-4 days	5-6 days
High impact	3-4 days	5-6 days

Some of the additional travel days are associated with the longer flight distance and time zone changes, such as needing to arrive a day early in order to adjust, and would not be significantly mitigated by using charter flights. However, potential delays and the number of hours around a flight, such as with checking luggage and navigating general airport security, could be reduced using charter flights.

UCLA noted that the Big Ten has expressed willingness to work on creative scheduling and neutral site competitions to possibly reduce travel days.

**4. What would be the estimated cost of using charter instead of commercial flights?**

UCLA and UC Berkeley analyzed travel scenarios and the costs of using charter flights to mitigate travel impacts on student-athletes. For football and men’s and women’s basketball, which already utilize charter flights, some additional costs would result from increases in flight time. For other sports which currently rely on commercial flights, utilizing charter flights for most away competitions would result in about 40 to 60 additional roundtrip charter flights annually. The estimated charter costs range from \$4.6 million to \$5.8 million annually for all sports teams at UCLA, depending on the particular opponents and scheduling efficiencies in a given year.

**5. Weather varies by region and season – what do flight delays and cancellations look like for Big Ten schools?**

Travel delays and flight cancellations are inevitable, unpredictable, and can vary by airport and season. An [analysis of NCAA football flight patterns](#) identified the airports most frequently used by Big Ten and Pac-12 schools. The [Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#) publishes monthly and annual data on flights, including the number and percent that are delayed and cancelled. Based on this data, the overall average for delays and cancellations for airports near Big Ten and Pac-12 schools are close to the national average, with local airports near Ohio State, University of Maryland, Colorado, Rutgers, and UC Berkeley having higher than average flight delay and cancellation rates in the 25% to 35% range. University of Minnesota, Penn State, Michigan State and Washington State have lower delays and cancellation rates, in the 8% to 12% range. Flight delays and cancellations were more likely for fall sports (football, soccer and volleyball), than sports played in winter (basketball, gymnastics, and tennis) and spring (softball, baseball, and lacrosse) seasons.

**6. What is the estimated impact on travel for parents with a move to the Big Ten?**

The vast majority of UCLA undergraduate students being California residents, there may be financial impacts to student-athletes’ families if attending away games in a new conference and time zone. To potentially mitigate this hardship, campuses plan to schedule the same number of home competitions, regardless of conference affiliation, allowing athletes’ local family and fans to attend. In addition, the increased television and streaming coverage expected from the Big Ten’s media deal may increase media exposure for UCLA, allowing families and other fans to watch more competitions.

## **7. What are the graduation rates for UCLA and UC Berkeley sports teams?**

Appendix II provides Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data for UCLA and UC Berkeley athletic programs, sorted by those with no, minimal, marginal, and increased impact in travel with a move to the Big Ten. The most recent publicly available GSR data reflect the campuses' 2011-14 cohorts, including all transfers in and out and graduation over six years. The GSR calculation adjusts the entry cohort by removing student-athletes in good academic standing who leave school to play professional sports or transfer to another school.

For UCLA athletics, the GSR rate in this period was 90 percent or higher for 13 sports teams and between 80 and 90 percent for another four sports teams. Men's basketball had a 55 percent and football had a 71 percent GSR. Men's basketball had 11 student-athletes on scholarship, with six of them graduating in the six-year period. The remaining five left ineligible, with two of them drafted by and playing in the NBA, one earning his degree but after the six-year period, and one still working on his degree with one class to complete. Football had 68 student-athletes on scholarship during this reporting period, with 48 graduating during this six-year period. For the 20 student-athletes that did not graduate within six years, UCLA reports 10 were drafted/signed/played in the NFL, one graduated after six-years, and two transferred.

UCLA also provided information on GPAs and progress towards degree for its student-athletes. On a quarterly basis, approximately 60 percent of the student-athletes earn a 3.0 term GPA or higher, 15-20 percent are over a 3.75 cumulative GPA, and less than 3 percent are below 2.0. During most terms, less than 20 of 700 student-athletes, or less than 3 percent overall, are ineligible to compete, meaning all the rest are passing their classes, making significant progress towards their degree and earning a GPA sufficient to graduate.

For UC Berkeley athletics, the GSR rate for its 2011-14 cohorts was over 90 percent or higher for 12 sports team and between 80 and 90 percent for another eight sports teams. Two sports teams had a GSR less than 80 percent: men's gymnastics (67 percent) and baseball (71 percent). The men's gymnastics program only had three student-athletes on scholarship during the most recent reporting period, with two of them graduating, for a 67 percent GSR. Baseball had five student-athletes out of 17 in the GSR cohort who did not graduate over a four-year period, resulting in a 71 percent GSR.

## **8. What are best practices for supporting student-athletes, particularly when they are on travel?**

A 2015 study of over 400 Pac-12 athletes<sup>7</sup> found that the two biggest concerns student-athletes face were the overall lack of free time (66 percent) and the challenges with academic work (61 percent). During their season, they reported spending up to 50 hours a week on athletics, with around 20 hours spent on required athletic activities and 22 hours on travel. Also noted were that 85 percent of student-athletes were satisfied with their athletic (85 percent), academic (93 percent) and general college (93 percent) experiences.

While these athletes noted having sufficient resources to succeed academically, they did report some difficulties resulting from missing classes and not having enough time to complete tests.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://sports.cbsimg.net/images/Pac-12-Student-Athlete-Time-Demands-Obtained-by-CBS-Sports.pdf>

For sports teams that would experience greater travel with a move to the Big Ten (see Appendix I), student-athletes are likely to rely more on tutors and learning specialists, instead of professors, to address coursework. They may miss more class time, which could negatively impact grades.<sup>8</sup> During the season, a weekend trip could include two days of travel, potentially resulting in a return to campus late Sunday night. For some student-athletes, this could be a challenging turnaround for Monday morning classes. These challenges might be greater for student-athletes on the quarter system, compared to semester, due to the compressed timeframe.

Both UCLA and UC Berkeley currently provide academic and mental health support for student-athletes; these resources will be available to students regardless of conference alignment.

UCLA's Academic & Student Services (AS2) unit supports the unique needs of each student-athlete by providing strategic services and programming in the areas of academic support, academic counseling, career development, and student services. This approach is designed to help student-athletes maximize their educational experience as they pursue academic, athletic and personal goals.

AS2, located within the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, has 18 FTE and 65 part-time staff that serve as academic counselors, academic mentors, learning specialists, tutors, eligibility coordinators, student-athlete success directors, and student-athlete development directors.

In partnership with Counseling & Psychological Services, UCLA Athletics has a Student-Athlete Mental Health Program focused on three areas: counseling and psychological services, sports psychiatry series, and behavior and addiction medicine specialists. Within those focus areas, the program emphasizes four priorities: holistic health and high-quality clinical care; early intervention and stigma reduction; community building and identity; and coach engagement and staff training. It has 4.5 FTE (3.5 counselor /psychologists and a student-athlete well-being coordinator).

UC Berkeley's Athletic Study Center (ASC) provides academic support for student-athletes and reports directly to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. ASC has 17 FTE (5 administrative staff members, 6 academic advisors for specific sports, and 7 learning specialists who work with athletes that need additional comprehensive support). In addition, there are also hundreds of tutors that support student-athletes in specific courses.

UC Berkeley has 2.75 FTE dedicated to student-mental health in University Health Services and 3 full-time sports psychologists working in the Cameron Institute in a non-clinical capacity. The Cameron Institute supports student-athlete development in four areas: leadership and personal development, high performance and well-being, community engagement, and career development. The Institute has 8 FTE that will grow to 11. The goal of the Institute is to enable student-athletes to develop holistically, maximize their academic and athletic potential, and secure a desirable professional career opportunity outside of athletics following graduation.

UC Berkeley student-athletes also have access to the CALM App, which is an app offering guided meditations, stress reduction, and sleep stories.

UCLA and UC Berkeley both shared best practices to support student-athletes during travel.

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<sup>8</sup>[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357389902\\_It\\_effects\\_everything\\_we\\_do\\_Collegiate\\_athlete's\\_perceptions\\_of\\_sport-related\\_travel](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357389902_It_effects_everything_we_do_Collegiate_athlete's_perceptions_of_sport-related_travel)

**Utilization of priority registration.** UCLA and Cal student-athletes will continue to be able to take advantage of priority enrollment that provides early access to course offerings so student-athletes can manage their athletic and travel commitments around their academic interests.

**Individualized academic support plans.** At UCLA, learning specialists oversee the academic support services area within AS2 and facilitate the creation of academic support plans to meet the individual academic needs of student-athletes based on class schedules, travel commitments, past academic performance, and academic goals and interests. Academic support plans may include sessions with a learning specialist, an academic mentor and/or a tutor. Learning Specialists also help to identify educational concerns proactively through the use of the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI), where results inform an academic support plan and, when necessary, they may consult with the Center for Accessible Education (which considers requests for disability-related accommodations) and Counseling and Psychological Services for additional support.

**Travel opportunities for academic support staff.** UCLA sends academic support staff and UC Berkeley sends ASC staff (advisors and learning specialists) on athletic teams' road trips to provide academic support and mentorship, coordinate assignments, and proctor exams for student-athletes as they fulfill academic requirements on the road. UC Berkeley also reserves a space at the team hotel for team study sessions.

**Continuation of flexible academic support services.** UCLA will continue to provide flexible academic support services initiated during the pandemic, including individual and group tutoring and academic mentoring and learning specialist virtual sessions via Zoom.

**Access to technology.** UCLA and UC Berkeley are utilizing technology to mitigate the amount of missed class time and tutoring sessions. UCLA ensures student-athletes have access to necessary technology, such as laptops, Chromebooks, noise canceling headphones and internet access, to conduct coursework remotely. These tools allow student-athletes to remain engaged in their academic work whether they are on a plane, a bus or in a hotel.

**Communication with instructors.** UCLA and UC Berkeley notify instructors early in the term about potential travel conflicts to coordinate arrangements for missed classes and identify and resolve exam conflicts proactively. At UCLA, this is communicated through competition travel letters generated by the academic support staff which outline the travel dates by sport.

Both campuses strive to provide additional revenue to increase support in these areas, including providing all student-athletes the necessary technology tools to support learning while on travel. UCLA Athletics also noted it would work with students and faculty to establish best practices for making reasonable exam accommodations, respecting the value of out-of-classroom learning that occurs through athletic participation, creating alignment across academic departments on what is expected when student-athletes travel, and providing peace of mind for student-athletes that they will be given a full opportunity to meet the expectations of their classes even when traveling.

## **9. Did UCLA speak to faculty about a move to the Big Ten?**

UCLA has engaged with Academic Senate leadership, the Faculty Athletics Representative, and faculty who work most closely with student-athletes about the transition to the Big Ten Conference. Their initial feedback included concerns about increased travel commitments, time away from the classroom,

and the need for additional academic support. However, UCLA reports that faculty also recognize that this is an opportunity to strengthen the student-athlete academic experience with new revenues while continuing to be mindful of the student's academic success. For example, UCLA faculty recommended that UCLA Athletics should explore adding more staff (tutors, learning specialists, academic advisors), increasing academic staff travel, creating individualized education plans for certain students, and targeted long-term career and professional development. The intent is for UCLA to maintain an ongoing dialogue with the Academic Senate and seek further opportunities to best support student-athletes in their academic pursuits.

## Appendix I: Level of Travel Impact from a Big Ten Move

### UCLA Athletic Teams by Travel Impact

#### Sports with no travel impact (sports not in Big Ten)

Men's sports	Roster	Women's sports	Roster
Volleyball	22	Beach Volleyball	17
Water Polo	30	Water Polo	29
<b>Men's total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>Women's total</b>	<b>46</b>

#### Sports with minimal impact (sports in Big Ten, not conference scheduling)

Men's sports	Roster	Women's sports	Roster
Cross Country/Track & Field	106	Cross Country/Track & Field	139
Golf	12	Rowing	62
		Swim & Diving	45
		Golf	8
<b>Men's total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>Women's total</b>	<b>254</b>

#### Sports with charter flights, marginal travel impact

Men's sports	Roster	Women's sports	Roster
Basketball	14	Basketball	14
Football	130		
<b>Men's total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>Women's total</b>	<b>14</b>

#### Sports with increased travel impact

Men's sports	Roster	Women's sports	Roster
Baseball	37	Soccer	37
Soccer	28	Softball	25
Tennis	17	Gymnastics	20
		Volleyball	20
		Tennis	11
<b>Men's total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>Women's total</b>	<b>113</b>

### UC Berkeley Athletic Teams by Travel Impact

#### Sports with no travel impact (sports not in Big Ten)

Men's sports	Roster	Women's sports	Roster
Rugby	57	Beach Volleyball	16
Water Polo	28	Water Polo	24
<b>Men's total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>Women's total</b>	<b>40</b>

#### Sports with minimal impact (sports in Big Ten, not conference scheduling)

Men's sports	Roster	Women's sports	Roster
Cross Country/Track & Field	92	Cross Country/Track & Field	99
Rowing	49	Rowing	65
Swimming	37	Swim & Diving	29
Gymnastics	16	Field Hockey	26
Golf	12	Golf	10
<b>Men's total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>Women's total</b>	<b>229</b>

#### Sports with charter flights, marginal travel impact

Men's sports	Roster	Women's sports	Roster
Football	116		
Basketball	16	Basketball	17
<b>Men's total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>Women's total</b>	<b>17</b>

#### Sports with increased travel impact

Men's sports	Roster	Women's sports	Roster
Baseball	41	Lacrosse	35
Soccer	25	Soccer	31
Tennis	10	Softball	26
		Gymnastics	19
		Volleyball	16
		Tennis	10
<b>Men's total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>Women's total</b>	<b>137</b>



## Appendix II: Graduation Rates by Sport

Graduation Success Rate (GSR) accounts for all transfer in and out and graduation over six years. Sports teams are organized based on potential travel impacts in moving to the Big Ten (i.e., no, minimal, marginal and increased travel impact).

### 2011-2014 Cohorts - NCAA Graduation Rate Reports

#### UCLA (sorted by no, minimal, marginal, and increased travel impacts for Big Ten)

	Men's Sports		Women's Sports	
<u>No Travel Impact</u>	GSR		GSR	
Volleyball	94%			
Water Polo	87%	Water Polo	95%	
<u>Minimal Travel Impact</u>				
CC/Track	88%	CC/Track	93%	
Golf	92%	Crew	100%	
		Golf	100%	
		Swimming	100%	
<u>Marginal Travel Impact</u>				
Football	71%			
Basketball	55%	Basketball	100%	
<u>Increased Travel Impact</u>				
Baseball	91%	Gymnastics	100%	
Soccer	88%	Soccer	96%	
Tennis	100%	Softball	85%	
		Tennis	100%	
		Volleyball	92%	

#### Cal (sorted by no, minimal, marginal, and increased travel impacts for Big Ten)

	Men's Sports		Women's Sports	
<u>No Travel Impact</u>	GSR		GSR	
Water Polo	80%		Water Polo	81%
<u>Minimal Travel Impact</u>				
CC/Track	85%	CC/Track	86%	
Golf	83%	Crew	94%	
Gymnastics	67%	Golf	100%	
		Field Hockey	90%	
		Swimming	96%	
<u>Marginal Travel Impact</u>				
Football	84%			
Basketball	100%		Basketball	86%
<u>Increased Travel Impact</u>				
Baseball	71%	Gymnastics	100%	
Soccer	83%	Lacrosse	94%	
Swimming	90%	Soccer	96%	
Tennis	100%	Softball	100%	
		Tennis	100%	
		Volleyball	100%	

Source: 2020-21 NCAA reporting for the 2011-14 cohorts

([https://web3.ncaa.org/aprsearch/public\\_reports/gsr2021/110.pdf?v=1659368415836](https://web3.ncaa.org/aprsearch/public_reports/gsr2021/110.pdf?v=1659368415836) and [https://web3.ncaa.org/aprsearch/public\\_reports/gsr2021/107.pdf?v=1659368415836](https://web3.ncaa.org/aprsearch/public_reports/gsr2021/107.pdf?v=1659368415836))