

What is the NCAA Settlement?

- What is commonly referred to as the “NCAA Settlement” is the result of a series of 3 legal cases that were filed against the NCAA and Power 4 Conferences – House v. NCAA, Hubbard v. NCAA and Carter v. NCAA
 - In the lawsuits, college athletes argued they were denied the chance to earn money from endorsements and media appearances, which they alleged was a violation of antitrust laws
- In October, 2024 the NCAA and the Power 4 Conferences entered into proposed settlements with the plaintiffs in the above cases
 - The key terms of the agreement include
 - Damages of ~\$2.5 billion for former student-athletes
 - An opt-in revenue sharing model allowing schools to directly share revenues with their student-athletes
 - Updates to the NCAA’s rules governing NIL
 - An overhaul to the NCAA’s Rules governing roster size and scholarships limits



How Does this Impact VMI?

VMI can expect to lose ~\$250,000 in NCAA Revenue Share for the next 10 years beginning in FY26

Important Dates

- **January 31st** : Deadline for athlete to opt in, opt out, or submit objections to settlement parameters
 - **March 1st**: Schools must notify their intent to opt in or opt out
- **April 7th** : The final approval hearing is scheduled. It will take place on the same day as the NCAA MBB Nat'l championship.

If VMI Opts In

- VMI could choose to revenue share with athletes
- VMI would be subject to the amended roster limits
- VMI would no longer be subject to the current scholarship equivalency limits

If VMI Opts Out

- VMI could not participate in revenue sharing but could continue to provide Alston/Academic achievement funds to athletes
- VMI would not be subject to the amended roster limits
- VMI would be subject to the current scholarship equivalency limits



Settlement Scholarship and Roster Limits

Sport	Current Equivlancy Limit	Current Roster Limit	Current VMI Roster	Settlement Scholarship/Roster Limit	Difference Between Current VMI Roster and Settlement Limit
Baseball	11.7	40	35	34	-1
Basketball	13	-	20	15	-5
Football	63	-	125	105	-20
Men's Track and Field	12.6	-	48	45	-3
Women's Track and Field	18	-	30	45	15
Lacrosse	12.6	-	51	48	-3
Men's Soccer	9.9	-	33	28	-5
Women's Soccer	14	-	34	28	-6
Men's Swim and Dive	9.9	-	31	30	-1
Women's Swim and Dive	14	-	20	30	10
Water Polo	8	-	14	24	10
Wrestling	10	-	30	30	0
Mixed Rifle	3.6	-	8	12	4
Women's Rifle	3.6	-	8	12	4
Total	203.9		487	486	-1



Revenue Share v. NIL v. Alston/Academic Achievement Funds

- Revenue sharing allows institutions to directly share a portion of athletic department revenues with student athletes
- NIL allows athletes to receive financial compensation for the use of Name, Image and Likeness
- Alston or Academic Achievement funding is a type of financial award given to athletes to recognize academic achievement this is capped at \$5,980 per year



Alston/Academic Achievement Funds

- Alston Awards are academic achievement awards that college athletes can receive as a result of the NCAA v. Alston case. Alston are educational and financial awards provided to college athletes directly from their school. College athletes may receive up to \$5,980 annually in Alston Awards.
- Each institution can determine if, and how, it provides Alston awards.
- Current VMI programs receiving Alston awards: Football (5th Qtr Program) and Men's Basketball



NCAA Academic-Based Revenue Distribution

- Three ways to earn distribution
 - Earn an overall, single year, all sport Academic Progress Rate of 985 or higher
 - Earn an overall all-sport Graduation Success Rate of 90%
 - Earn a federal graduation rate that is at least 13 percentage points higher than the federal graduation rate of the student body of the school.
 - Only need to meet one of the benchmarks to earn distribution.
- The Academic-Based revenue distribution are “unrestricted” meaning institutions/conferences may use funds from their academic distributions in the manner they deem most appropriate.
 - Academic Distributions (if 87% of DI schools qualify)
 - 2025: \$274,000
 - 2026: \$290,000
 - 2027: \$290,000
 - 2028: \$307,000
 - 2029: \$316,000



VMI vs Academic-Based Revenue Distribution

VMI
vs. Revenue Distribution Benchmarks

Year	Overall APR (year lag) (need 985)	Graduation Success Rate (need 90%)	Fed Grad Rate Difference (need +13%)
2023-24	972	87%	-8%
2022-23	963	93%	-5%
2021-22	972	96%	-4%
2020-21	970	78%	-2%
2019-20	964	83%	-7%

