

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The success of Nebraska student-athletes reaches far beyond athletic competition. More Husker student-athletes have been selected to CoSIDA Academic All-America teams (299) than any other school in the nation, and Nebraska has produced more NCAA Top Eight Award winners (16) than any other school. As it enters its second season of Big Ten Conference competition in 2012-13, 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 102 all-time CoSIDA Academic All-America awards. The Penn State football program ranks second among all sports nationally with 60 all-time academic All-Americans. In fact, Nebraska's 102 football academic All-Americans would rank among the top 25 schools (all sports, all divisions) in the nation in the number of CoSIDA Academic All-Americans. The NU volleyball program has captured more academic All-America awards (36) 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.

Huskers Build on Academic Tradition in 2011-12

Husker student-athletes produced another stellar year at the University of Nebraska, continuing NU's tradition of academic success. Nebraska increased its nation-leading total of CoSIDA Academic All-Americans across all sports to 299 with a Big Ten Conference-leading eight honorees in 2011-12. A total of 190 Husker student-athletes

Academic All-Americans

All Sports as of August 2012

	299
	223
	183
	175

captured academic All-Big Ten honors, while Huskers earned 667 spots on the Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll during the fall and spring semesters.

The Nebraska football team led an impressive showing in the classroom for the Huskers, as Austin Cassidy, Rex Burkhead and Sean Fisher all claimed CoSIDA Academic All-America honors. Cassidy, who became the 24th Husker football player in history to be a two-time academic All-American, earned first-team honors as a senior safety. Cassidy was joined on the first team by Burkhead, who rolled to 1,357 rushing yards as a junior I-back in 2011. Fisher, a junior linebacker, added second-team

CoSIDA Academic All-America accolades. A total of 47 Husker football players earned bachelor's degrees in 2011-12, while 27 Huskers earned academic All-Big Ten awards.

Track and field All-Americans Tyler Hitchler and Ashley Miller led an impressive season for Coach Gary Pepin's program. Hitchler, an All-American on and off the track during his career, claimed Nebraska's Male Student-Athlete-of-the-Year award. A first-team All-American in the discus in 2012, Hitchler was also NU's male recipient of the Big Ten Medal of Honor. A two-time Nebraska Student-Athlete HERO Leadership Award winner and a four-time member of the Nebraska Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Hitchler was accepted into medical school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Miller, a three-time All-American on the track, was a co-captain of both the NU women's cross country and track and field teams in 2011-12. The 2011 CoSIDA Academic All-American was NU's female recipient of the Big Ten Medal of Honor and the women's track and field team's Big Ten Sportsmanship Award winner. The track and field program added a trio of 2012 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, led by senior Bjorn Barrefors who became just the 13th Husker in history across all sports to be a three-time academic All-American. The multi-eventer from Stockholm, Sweden, was joined on the 2012 first team by senior Nate Polacek, who earned a spot on the academic All-America team for the second straight season. Junior distance runner Brett Grieb added a third-team CoSIDA Academic All-America award.

Top left: Nebraska Student-Athletes of the Year Ashley Miller (left) and Tyler Hitchler (right) earned multiple All-America awards for the Husker track and field program.

Middle: Catheryn Redmon, a two-year starter for the Huskers, earned her bachelor's degree from Nebraska in May of 2012.

Bottom: Harleen Sidhu was one of five Husker women's basketball players to receive their diplomas at the Devaney Center in May of 2012. Sidhu was a three-time academic all-conference selection for the Huskers.





The Nebraska wrestling team also produced a pair of CoSIDA Academic All-Americans for the first time in program history. Heavyweight Tucker Lane claimed first-team honors to close his career as a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American. Lane, who also earned a prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship worth \$7,500, was joined by second-team academic All-American Josh Ihnen. The junior added All-America honors on the mat as well for the Huskers in 2012.

Lane was also joined by softball's Nikki Haget, Hitchler and Miller in earning NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships for the Huskers in 2011-12.

Across all sports, Nebraska student-athletes claimed 190 academic All-Big Ten selections, just two shy of its Big 12-record-setting total of 192 in 2010-11. The Husker baseball (17), women's tennis (7), bowling (4) and women's rifle (4) teams all led the Big Ten in academic All-Big Ten selections, while the NU football (27), softball (10) and men's golf teams (6) all ranked second among conference schools.

Over the past four years, Nebraska has claimed nearly 750 academic all-conference certificates across all sports. Huskers also earned 667 spots on the first Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll, which recognizes student-athletes who produce 3.0 or better grade-point averages in the fall or spring semesters. Husker student-athletes also produced 92 perfect 4.0 GPA semesters during the 2011-12 academic year.

The hard work, dedication and commitment of Nebraska's student-athletes in the classroom resulted in a record-setting 155 current or former student-athletes earning degrees from August of 2011 through May of 2012.

Each spring Nebraska hosts its annual Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet to honor Huskers who have earned either a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA or have earned a 3.0 or higher GPA in the previous calendar year. In the spring of 2012, Husker student-athletes earned 321 academic honors medallions.

Nebraska's 2011-12 Academic Highlights

- 299 All-Time CoSIDA Academic All-Americans across all sports (leads nation)
 - 102 Football Academic All-Americans (leads all sports, all time)
 - 36 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)
- Eight CoSIDA Academic All-Americans (5 first-team, 2 second-team, 1 third-team)
 - First-Team: Rex Burkhead (Football), Austin Cassidy (Football), Tucker Lane (Wrestling), Bjorn Barrefors (Men's Track & Field), Nate Polacek (Men's Track & Field)
 - Second-Team: Sean Fisher (Football), Josh Ihnen (Wrestling)
 - Third-Team: Brett Grieb (Men's Track & Field)
- Four NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Winners (\$7,500)
 - Tucker Lane (Wrestling); Nikki Haget (Softball); Tyler Hitchler (Track & Field); Ashley Miller (Track & Field/Cross Country)
- 190 Academic All-Big Ten Selections Across All Sports (3.0 GPA)
- 667 Student-Athletes Honored on the Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Fall and Spring Honor Rolls (3.0 GPA or above)
- 92 Student-Athletes Earned Perfect 4.0 GPAs in either the Fall or Spring Semester
- School-Record 155 Student-Athletes Earned Degrees from August 2011 through May 2012 (August 2011--16; December 2011--57; May 2012--82)
- Male Student-Athlete of the Year - Tyler Hitchler, Men's Track & Field (Nutrition Science)
- Female Student-Athlete of the Year - Ashley Miller, Women's Track & Field/ Cross Country (Dietetics)
- Men's Herman Award Winner - Men's Golf (3.509 GPA in 2011)
- Women's Herman Award Winner - Women's Tennis (3.644 GPA in 2011)
- Life Skills Team Award Winners - Football, Women's Swimming & Diving

Top: First-team All-Big 12 selection and 2010 Big 12 Co-Defensive Player-of-the-Year Yvonne Turner earned her bachelor's degree from Nebraska in May of 2010, before continuing her basketball career professionally overseas. Turner was one of seven Huskers to graduate in 2009-10.

Bottom: Three-time academic all-conference selection and three-year starter Kaitlyn Burke was one of five Huskers to graduate in May of 2012. Burke was a leader for the Huskers on the court, in the classroom and in the community during her NU career. As a senior in 2011-12, Burke was the President of the Nebraska Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and Nebraska's female Big Ten Sportsmanship Award winner across all sports.