How the scholarship odds stack up

NCAA statistics suggest that female athletes who compete in low-profile sports have the best chance of obtaining an athletic scholarship. While the majority of men's scholarships go to the big-ticket sports of football and basketball, women's scholarships are spread more evenly among a wider range of sports.

Athletes per scholarship

For the 2011-2012 school year

Women's team

Women's team			
Men's team	High school		
Sport	athletes	Athlete	es per scholarship
Equestrian, women's	1,430	3	
Rowing, women's	6,261	3	
Rifle, women's	985	14	
Fencing, women's	1,771	16	;
Gymnastics, men's	2,353	16	3
Ice hockey, women's	8,833	18	
Gymnastics, women's	19,119	24	
Golf, women's	71,086	2	26
Lacrosse, women's	74,993	2	26
Fencing, men's	1,925		29
Soccer, women's	370,975		33
Swimming, women's	160,456		34
Water polo, women's	18,749		36
Field hockey, women's	60,607		37
Football, men's	1,121,744		37
lce hockey, men's	35,732		38
Golf, men's	152,725		41
Softball, women's	367,023		41
Basketball, men's	535,289		43
Lacrosse, men's	100,641		45
Swimming, men's	133,823		48
Tennis, women's	180,870		49
Basketball, women's	435,885		53
Tennis, men's	159,800		54
X-country/track, women's	681,009		55
Volleyball, women's	418,903		58
Baseball, men's	474,219		61
Soccer, men's	411,757		61
Bowling, women's	25,348		71
Skiing, women's	9,314		74
Water polo, men's	20,721		80
X-country/track, men's	824,122		83
Skiing, men's	10,072		91
Volleyball, men's	49,467		123
Wrestling, men's	272,149		124
Rifle, men's	2,000		125

	Scholarhip distribution In 2011-2012, with percent of total scholarships issued for each gender Men's sports scholarships TOTAL 82,885 (100%) Football 29,947			Among popular sports Athletes per scholarship. 2011-2012 Women's team Men's team Cross-country and track		
			(36.1)		55	
		Basketball	12,526 (15.1)	Football		
		Cross-country, track	9,954 (12.0)	37		
		Baseball	7,829 (9.4)	Basketball		
		Soccer	6,727 (8.1)	Basketball	53	
		12 others NOTE: F do not ac due	15,902 (19.2) Percentages Id up to 100 to rounding	43		
Women's sports scholarships TOTAL co. co. co. Baseball and softball						
		TOTAL	68,832 (100%)	Baseball	SUILDan	
		Cross-country, track	1 2,301 (17.9)	61	Softball	
		Soccer	11,347 (16.5)			
		Softball	8,924 (13.0)	Soccer		
		Basketball	8,274 (12.0)		33	
		Volleyball	7,168 (10.4)			
		16 others	20,818 (30.2)	recipients do not	ome athletic schola compete on high s	

NOTE: Some athletic scholarship recipients do not compete on high school teams; women's rugby and sand volleyball not shown because they do not have high school participation numbers

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Source: NCAA, National Federation of State High School Associations Graphic: Chicago Tribune