

**To:** Dr. Carl Brucker, English Department  
**From:** Bridget Pyles  
**Date:** November 12, 2000  
**Subject:** **Discrimination of Athletes' Excused Attendance in Class For Athletic Competitions**

## **PURPOSE**

A survey was designed of five questions to be administered to eighty different individuals. With athletes missing many class days because of athletic competitions, this survey was conducted to find out the feelings of students toward athletes' excused attendance in class.

## **PROCEDURE**

The following questions were asked on the survey:

1. Are you male or female?
2. What is your major?
3. Are you, or have you ever, participated in collegiate athletics?
4. Should athletes' attendance in class be excused for athletic competitions?
5. Do you feel athletes are discriminated against when it comes to absence policies?

The surveys were administered to all classifications of students, males and females, attending Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Arkansas. The surveys were separated by male and female, and by majors. Not all majors at Arkansas Tech University are included in this survey.

The number of **yes** responses to questions three, four, and five were counted. After the yes responses were counted, the totals were converted to percentages. Table 1 shows the percentages broken down by male and female, and then by majors. The table also shows the percentages with male and female combined, but broken down by majors.

Although question number three does not necessarily have to do with the opinions of the surveyed students, it was asked for comparison of athletes to non-athletes and their feelings.

**Table 1: Survey of Feelings Toward Athletes' Excused Attendance In Class For Athletic Competitions**

<b>Sex and Major</b>	<b>Are you, or have you ever, participated in collegiate athletics?</b>	<b>Should athletes' attendance in class be excused for athletic competitions?</b>	<b>Do you feel athletes are discriminated against when it comes to absence policies?</b>
<b>Health and Physical Education Male</b>	75%	100%	100%
<b>Female</b>	100%	100%	100%
<b>Total</b>	86%	100%	100%
<b>Music Male</b>	0%	50%	0%
<b>Female</b>	---	---	---
<b>Total</b>	0%	50%	0%
<b>Psychology Male</b>	40%	20%	20%
<b>Female</b>	0%	80%	40%
<b>Total</b>	20%	50%	30%
<b>Business Male</b>	---	---	---
<b>Female</b>	75%	25%	50%
<b>Total</b>	75%	25%	50%
<b>Elementary Education Male</b>	0%	57%	29%
<b>Female</b>	100%	100%	100%
<b>Total</b>	30%	70%	50
<b>Science Male</b>	66%	33%	33%
<b>Female</b>	---	---	---
<b>Total</b>	66%	33%	33%
<b>Art Male</b>	0%	50%	75%
<b>Female</b>	20%	40%	20%
<b>Total</b>	11%	44%	44%
<b>Accounting Male</b>	25%	25%	0%
<b>Female</b>	17%	25%	17%
<b>Total</b>	20%	50%	10%
<b>Spanish Male</b>	0%	100%	40%
<b>Female</b>	---	---	---
<b>Total</b>	0%	100%	40%
<b>Rehabilitation Science Male</b>	29%	86%	57%
<b>Female</b>	0%	100%	40%
<b>Total</b>	17%	92%	50%

## RESULTS

In the Business major group, no males were surveyed, and in the Music, Science, and Spanish major groups, no females were surveyed.

The survey showed the highest total percentages of males and females answering yes to the three questions asked in the Health and Physical Education majors. The survey also showed the following order of majors from highest to lowest total percentages in answering yes to the three questions asked: Rehabilitation Science, Business and Elementary Education (tie), Spanish, Science, Psychology, Art, Accounting, and Music.

When the results were broken down according to sex, the males had lower percentages to all three of the questions asked. For question number three, the males had 24% answer yes, and the females had 35% answer yes. In question number four, 61% of the males answered yes while 71% of the females answered yes. For question number five, 41% of the males answered yes, and 45% of the females answered yes.

## **CONCLUSION**

Only around 30% of the students surveyed are, or had ever, participated in collegiate athletics. Therefore, athletes' opinions are not the majority of the survey answers.

The survey results show that a majority of the students feel athletes' attendance in class should be excused for athletic competitions. Almost half of the students surveyed felt that athletes are discriminated against when it comes to absence policies. The results of the questionnaire did not ask the students if they would voice their opinions if opportunities were given. So, as it appears, attendance policies in class for athletes and any discriminations against them will probably continue unless students decide to voice their opinions and ask for a change, or the administration feels there is a need for change