



# Intercollegiate Athletics News

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: James Allan • (816) 235-1034**

**E-mail: [allanjc@umkc.edu](mailto:allanjc@umkc.edu)**

## **UMKC Achieves NCAA Division I Certification**

**Kansas City, Mo.** -- The University of Missouri-Kansas City received a full NCAA Division I athletics certification for the next decade, the NCAA announced on Thursday.

The certification shows that UMKC is operating its athletics program in substantial conformity with operating principles adopted by the NCAA Division I membership.

The NCAA certified UMKC without any special conditions. This second round of athletics certification by the NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification will last 10 years.

All 326 active Division I members participate in the certification process, which includes review of a university's academic and fiscal integrity, governance, rules compliance, commitment to equity, student-athlete welfare and sportsmanship.

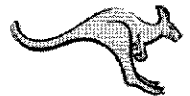
"The announcement of full NCAA Certification, awarded without any conditions or qualifications, is truly a momentous day for our University and our Athletics Department," said UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton. "This success confirms the exemplary work done to ensure that outstanding programs and policies are in place to provide our student-athletes the best opportunity to compete at high levels both on the playing fields and in the classrooms."

"On behalf of the university, I want to thank Mel Tyler, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management and Chair of the NCAA Certification Committee, the certification committee chairs, and everyone associated with the NCAA Certification process. I also want to thank Tim Hall and his dedicated staff for their passion and dedication to our student-athletes. All of the University and community members involved in the NCAA certification represented UMKC in an excellent manner."

Starting in August 2007, the University conducted an 18-month campus wide review of the athletics program as a part of the certification process, culminating in a self-study document that was submitted to the NCAA reviewers.

The self-study set three objectives: 1) to engage the entire campus community and educate the larger community about the athletics programs and its values; 2) to reveal the areas in which the Athletics Department has made a positive contribution to the institution and surrounding community; and 3) to identify areas of improvement in the Athletics Department as the program continues to develop a long-range plan.

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## UMKC Achieves NCAA Division I Certification - Continued

Before certification is achieved, the NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification reviews the self-study and provides a list of issues identified during the evaluation. After this review, a peer-review committee visits the university to ensure any issues or concerns are resolved.

The NCAA does not divulge specific information related to an institution's self-study, peer-review visit or the conditions set forth for certification.

"UMKC took the NCAA certification process very seriously," said Tyler. "Our faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters worked diligently to prepare the self-study. I am thrilled that their effort has helped the university receive this certification without condition."

Since its previous review in 2000, UMKC Athletics has improved several facets of its operation. Among the primary focuses, improvements occurred in the areas of gender equity, compliance, academic support, facilities, staffing and overall student-athlete well-being.

Currently under construction, UMKC's Stanley H. Durwood Soccer Stadium and Recreational Field for its men's and women's soccer programs is scheduled for completion in August 2009. Recently completed projects include the renovation of locker rooms for men's and women's basketball and volleyball, as well as the Student-Athlete Support Services Office.

"Our being certified without condition is a tribute to the quality of the University of Missouri-Kansas City and to the student-athletes, coaches, and staff members within the Department of Athletics," said Hall. "The peer review report and the NCAA certification have affirmed the integrity of intercollegiate athletics at UMKC."

"I'm proud of the leadership that Mel Tyler provided during the NCAA Certification Process. Mel, the committee chairs, and everyone associated with this accomplishment are to be commended."

"The NCAA certification process was both lengthy and in-depth, involving nearly 200 students, student-athletes, faculty, staff, and community members. The above mentioned constituencies worked unfailingly throughout the entire certification period in order to achieve this tremendous result."

A total of 35 Division I institutions were certified, while a pair of universities were certified with conditions. For a complete list, visit [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org).

For more information on UMKC's NCAA Athletics Certification, visit [www.umkckangaroos.com](http://www.umkckangaroos.com).

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