

**Yeah, they got bachelor degrees from USM,
but can they read and write?**

“Early in her career as a learning specialist, Mary Willingham was in her office when a basketball player at the University of North Carolina walked in looking for help with his classwork.

He couldn't read or write.

"And I kind of panicked. What do you do with that?" she said, recalling the meeting”

[CNN analysis: Some college athletes play like adults, read like 5th-graders](#)

USM boasts about the [graduation rate](#) of its [basketball and football](#) student athletes. Caution should be the watchword, however. Why should USM football and basketball players be any different than those discussed in the following reports.

[CNN analysis: Some college athletes play like adults, read like 5th-graders](#)

[Academic Fraud for College Jocks Reaches Across the Country](#)

It's quite likely just a matter of time before it becomes obvious at USM, too.