

If UNC's big money athletes can't read, what are the odds that USM's athletes can't read?

Regardless of USM administrators bragging about the graduation rate of its athletes, can they read? What are USM big money sport athletes doing after "graduation." Those that don't graduate, what are they doing? USM is silent on these very real measures of education success.

The Chronicle of Higher Education published an article well worth reading: "[U of North Carolina Suspends Researcher's Work on Athletics' Literacy](#)" and "[Chapel Hill Researcher's Findings Literacy Brings Backlash.](#)"

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has suspended the work of a researcher who has studied the literacy levels of college athletes, the [News & Observer](#) reported.

A CNN investigation this month cited work by the researcher, Mary Willingham, indicating that more than half of 183 Tar Heel athletes screened for their reading skills over an eight-year period could not read beyond an eighth-grade level.

UNC and USM get their big money athletes from the same pool of "student" athletes. UNC, a Tier 1 school, gets the pick of the litter with regard to basketball and football players. Schools like USM, Tier 4 schools, get what's left. So, what's going on at USM? Is USM an exception and in some way manages to entice the academically qualified "student" athletes to its programs?