



NBA UNDERGRADUATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

2025

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The Mission

The NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee (“UAC”) is established annually to provide current NCAA players with remaining NCAA eligibility an independent evaluation of prospects in the upcoming NBA Draft.

The UAC’s evaluation is an educated assessment and is not binding in any way or a commitment or guarantee that a player will or will not be drafted in a certain slot, range, or at all. The UAC’s evaluation should not be viewed as an effort to encourage the player to leave school; the UAC is simply responding to a request for information.

Please note that the UAC’s evaluation is confidential and will not be made public.

Overview

The NBA Basketball Operations Department (“NBA Basketball Operations”) invites NBA teams to submit confidential evaluations on each player who applied for feedback from the UAC.

NBA Basketball Operations collects and compiles the evaluations provided by NBA teams and synthesizes that information to each UAC applicant. Each UAC applicant will be provided with NBA teams’ evaluation of him on an aggregated and deidentified basis. No team’s evaluation of a particular applicant will be provided.

The UAC is chaired by the Head of NBA Basketball Operations, Joe Dumars. Dumars played four seasons at McNeese State University before being selected by the Detroit Pistons with the 18th pick in the 1985 NBA Draft. Dumars, a six-time All-Star, spent his entire 14-year career playing for the Pistons, winning two NBA championships and was named the 1989 NBA Finals MVP. After retiring as a player, Dumars became the Pistons’ President of Basketball Operations, was voted the NBA’s Executive of the Year for the 2002-03 season, and built the Pistons team that won the 2004 NBA Championship. In 2006, Dumars was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Feedback

Prior to the NBA’s early entry deadline, each UAC applicant will receive a written evaluation that provides his most likely Draft range, or indicates that he is likely not to be drafted at all, in the 2025 NBA Draft.

UAC applicants who remain in the 2025 NBA Draft through the NBA Draft Combine

will receive updated written feedback from the UAC prior to the NCAA’s deadline to withdraw from the NBA Draft.

In certain cases, NBA Basketball Operations personnel will communicate with a UAC applicant and his head college coach (and other individuals designated by the applicant) to provide additional context regarding the feedback that the player received from the UAC.

Participation Level

The number of UAC applicants was **212** in 2024, down for a second straight year (**239** in 2023) after setting a record of **282** in 2022. An increased volume of UAC applicants in recent years was in part driven by the NCAA’s October 2020 eligibility ruling, which granted all men’s college basketball players an additional year of eligibility due to COVID-19 and thus expanded the pool of potential UAC applicants.

On an annual basis over the past three years, the UAC has received applications from **139** different colleges and **29** of the **32** Division I conferences.

NCAA Compliance

Any college player who is contemplating entering the 2025 NBA Draft as an early entrant and simultaneously wishes to preserve the possibility of returning to play college basketball should consult directly with his school’s compliance office to ensure a full and accurate understanding of all applicable NCAA rules.

Please direct all UAC-related correspondence to UAC@nba.com

Key Dates

Any NCAA underclassman who would like an evaluation from the UAC in advance of the NBA's early entry deadline must apply in writing after the conclusion of his team's college season (including all tournament games) but no later than **April 17, 2025** at 11:59 p.m. ET.

- **IMPORTANT:** Under NBA rules, requesting an evaluation from the UAC does **not** enter a player in the NBA Draft, nor is a player required to apply for feedback from the UAC to enter the NBA Draft. However, the NCAA requires that players who wish to retain their college eligibility apply for UAC feedback.
- Declaring for the NBA Draft requires submitting separate paperwork to the NBA. Any college player with remaining NCAA eligibility who wishes to apply for the 2025 NBA Draft must email a letter to the NBA at DraftMailbox@nba.com that states his desire to enter the 2025 NBA Draft as an early entrant. The letter must be signed, dated, and include the player's current school, year in school, date of birth, phone number, home address, and email address (See Page 15: "Sample Letter to Enter Draft").
- A player who exhausted his NCAA eligibility during the 2024-25 season will be automatically eligible for the 2025 NBA Draft and does not need to submit any paperwork to the NBA.

An early entry player must declare for the 2025 NBA Draft by **April 26, 2025** at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Beginning on or around **April 28, 2025** (after the NBA distributes the early entry list to NBA teams), a college player who declared for the NBA Draft may, under NBA rules, communicate with NBA team personnel and participate in workouts in front of NBA teams.

- Declaring for the NBA Draft does not guarantee that a player will get the opportunity to participate in pre-Draft workouts with NBA teams. NBA teams may schedule pre-Draft workouts with Draft-eligible players at their discretion as permitted by NBA rules.

The NBA Draft Combine is scheduled to take place from **May 11-18, 2025** in Chicago. Under the NBA/NBPA Collective Bargaining Agreement, all players invited to attend the NBA Draft Combine are required to attend and participate in the Combine in order to be eligible for selection in the 2025 NBA Draft.

- On **May 9-11, 2025**, the NBA G League Combine is scheduled to occur and will feature approximately 40 of the best Draft-eligible players (as voted on by NBA teams) who did not initially receive an invitation to the Combine.

The NCAA's deadline to withdraw from the 2025 NBA Draft while retaining NCAA eligibility is **May 28, 2025** by 11:59 p.m. ET.

- To withdraw from the NBA Draft, an early entry candidate must email a signed and dated letter to DraftMailbox@nba.com notifying the NBA of his intention to be removed from consideration for the Draft (See Page 16: "Sample Letter to Withdraw from Draft").

The NBA's deadline to withdraw from the 2025 NBA Draft is **June 15, 2025** by 5:00 p.m. ET.

The NBA Draft will take place on **June 25-26, 2025**.

Timeline for 2025

APRIL 17

(BY 11:59 P.M. ET)

- **UAC Application Deadline**

APRIL 26

(BY 11:59 P.M. ET)

- **NBA Early Entry Application Deadline**

APRIL 28

(ON OR AROUND)

- **NBA teams may contact early entry prospects (after distribution of the early entry list)**

MAY 9-11

- **NBA G League Combine (Chicago, IL)**

MAY 12

- **NBA Draft Lottery (Chicago, IL)**

MAY 11-18

- **NBA Draft Combine (Chicago, IL)**

MAY 28

(BY 11:59 P.M. ET)

- **NCAA Early Entry Withdrawal Deadline**

JUNE 15

(BY 5:00 P.M. ET)

- **NBA Early Entry Withdrawal Deadline**

JUNE 25-26

- **2025 NBA Draft (Brooklyn, NY)**
-

Sample Evaluation

Each UAC applicant will receive an evaluation like the sample provided below.

Evaluation

NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee

▶ **PLAYER** **Jonathan Jackson**

▶ **SCHOOL** **University/College Name**

▶ **DRAFT YEAR** **2025**

MOST LIKELY DRAFT RANGE

Second Round

VOTE BREAKDOWN

LOTTERY <small>(Pick No. 1-14)</small> 0%	FIRST ROUND NON-LOTTERY <small>(Pick No. 15-30)</small> 30%	FIRST HALF OF SECOND ROUND <small>(Pick No. 31-45)</small> 40%	SECOND HALF OF SECOND ROUND <small>(Pick No. 46-60)</small> 20%	UNDRAFTED 10%
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Understanding Your Evaluation

The pre-Draft process is fluid. Between the time when an applicant receives his feedback from the UAC and the NBA Draft, the player's most likely Draft range could move up or down based on a variety of factors, including: the player's performance during the pre-Draft process; certain other players either remaining in, or withdrawing from, the NBA Draft; teams' evaluation of the player relative to other Draft prospects; and specific team preferences.

The UAC typically has been accurate when projecting a player will be drafted in the First Round. In the last five years, **51 of 67 (76%)** players who received an evaluation indicating that they were likely to be selected in the First Round of the NBA Draft ultimately were selected in the First Round. All **67** were selected in the NBA Draft in their respective Draft year.

The UAC has been highly accurate when projecting a player will go undrafted. In the last five years, **194 of 198 (98%)** players who received an evaluation indicating that they were likely to go undrafted, yet decided to remain in the NBA Draft, ultimately went undrafted in their respective Draft year.

Historically, the Second Round has presented more uncertainty. A player who receives feedback from the UAC indicating that his most likely Draft range is in the Second Round should prepare for the possibility that he could go undrafted if he remains in the NBA Draft.

- It is more difficult to accurately predict how the Second Round may unfold, particularly late in the round, because certain teams at times take a wide variety of considerations into account when deciding whom to select in the Second Round and may not simply select the best player available.
- For example, based on a team's view of a player or for other basketball reasons, a team may use its Second Round pick to select a player regarded as more of a "risk" or "developmental" prospect, or select a player viewed as a better fit with the team's current roster or long-term goals.

Making an Informed Decision

Numerous sources of information are available to a player considering entering the NBA Draft. During the pre-Draft process, a player can develop a better understanding of his most likely Draft range based on various sources of information, including:

- Feedback provided by the UAC.
- Whether the player received an invitation to the NBA Draft Combine or G League Combine and, if so, his performance at these events. Over the past three years, **77%** of NBA Draft Combine participants who remained in the Draft were selected, while **6%** of G League Elite Camp participants (who were not invited to the NBA Draft Combine) who remained in the Draft were selected.
- Interest among NBA teams in inviting the player to participate in a team-organized pre-Draft workout and, if applicable, the player's performance in pre-Draft workouts.
- Feedback directly from NBA teams and, if applicable, the player's agent.
- Mock drafts and rankings of Draft-eligible prospects published by respected national media outlets.

Most players who apply for UAC feedback opt not to enter the Draft. Among the **212** UAC applicants in 2024, only **36 (17%)** entered and stayed in the Draft that year. Similarly, among the **788** total players evaluated by the UAC between 2021 and 2023, **230 (29%)** entered and stayed in the Draft in those years.

College basketball players continue to make up the majority of Draft selections. **81%** of First Round selections (and **79%** of all Draft selections) in the last five NBA Drafts played college basketball. While pathways for elite college-aged players (outside of college basketball) have emerged in the United States, college basketball has remained the top producer of Draft picks, driven in part by the ability for players to receive compensation through Name, Image, and Likeness and fewer restrictions on NCAA transfer portal rules.

However, international players have increasingly been selected at the top of the Draft in recent years. In the 2024 NBA Draft, Zaccharie Risacher became the second straight international player selected first overall (Victor Wembanyama in 2023), and two international players (Risacher and Alexandre Sarr) were selected with the top two picks for the first time in NBA history. Further, it was the first time since 2011 that four international players were selected in the Draft Lottery.

The number of undrafted underclassmen has decreased significantly since 2019.

- Over the last three years, an average of **13** college underclassmen per year declared early for the NBA Draft yet ultimately went undrafted. As noted in Figure A, after the number of undrafted underclassmen peaked at **45** in 2019, this figure has declined by **87%** to **6** in 2024.

Most Lottery picks are college underclassmen, particularly freshmen and sophomores.

- In the last five years, **67%** of all players selected in the NBA Draft Lottery (No. 1-14 overall) were college underclassmen. Among all Lottery selections during this time, freshmen accounted for the most at **43%**, followed by sophomores (**20%**).

However, there has been a recent trend towards more older college players being selected in the Draft.

- More college players aged 22 or older (**7**) were selected in the First Round of the 2024 NBA Draft than players aged 18 or 19 (**6**) for the first time since 2013. Over the entire 2024 Draft, more 22+ year-old college players (**18**) were selected than 18-19 year-old college players (**9**) for the first time since 2020.

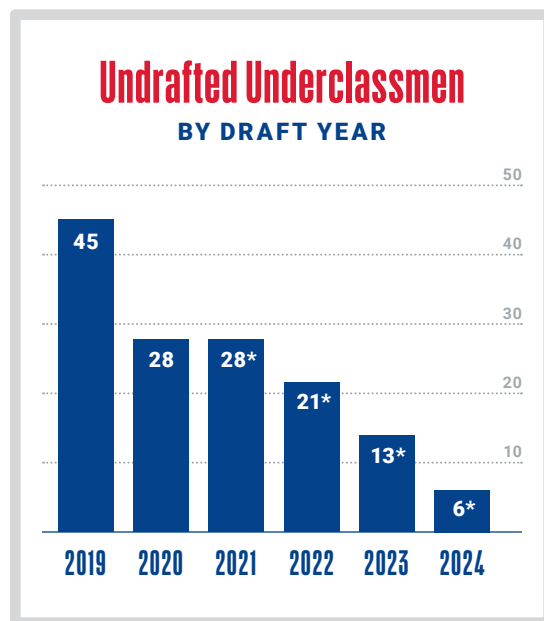


FIGURE A

* Excludes players who would have exhausted their college eligibility if the NCAA had not granted all men's basketball players an extra year of eligibility due to COVID-19.

Setting Expectations

A player's Draft position is often predictive of his NBA career. The total number of regular season games played in a player's career generally decreases the later a player is selected in the NBA Draft. (FIGURE B)

Most Second Round picks do not have lengthy NBA careers. Among Second Round picks, 62% play fewer than 100 regular season NBA games in their career, and 29% never play in a single regular season NBA game.

A relatively small number of undrafted players make the NBA. At the beginning of the 2024-25 season, 54 of 435 players on Standard NBA Contracts (12% of the league) entered the NBA as undrafted players.



Avg. NBA Career Reg. Season Games Played BY DRAFT RANGE

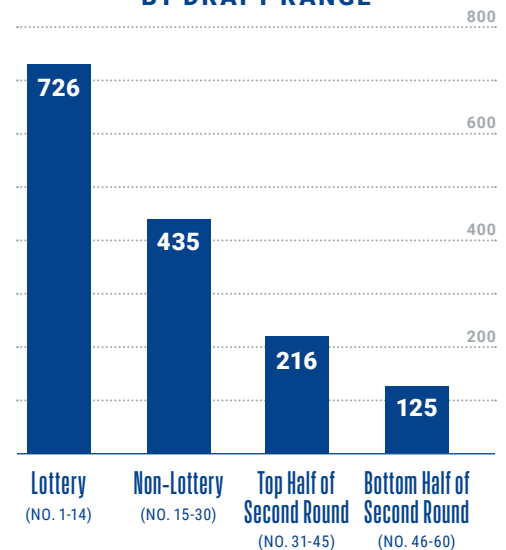


FIGURE B

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Earlier picks are more likely to become All-Stars. Among the players selected to an NBA All-Star team since 2004, **86%** were selected in the First Round compared to **13%** who were selected in the Second Round, and **1%** who were undrafted. (FIGURE C)

The most elite NBA players typically were early Draft picks. Each player who has won the regular season MVP award since it was first given out in 1955-56 was selected in the Top 15 of the NBA Draft except Nikola Jokić (selected 41st overall in the 2014 NBA Draft).

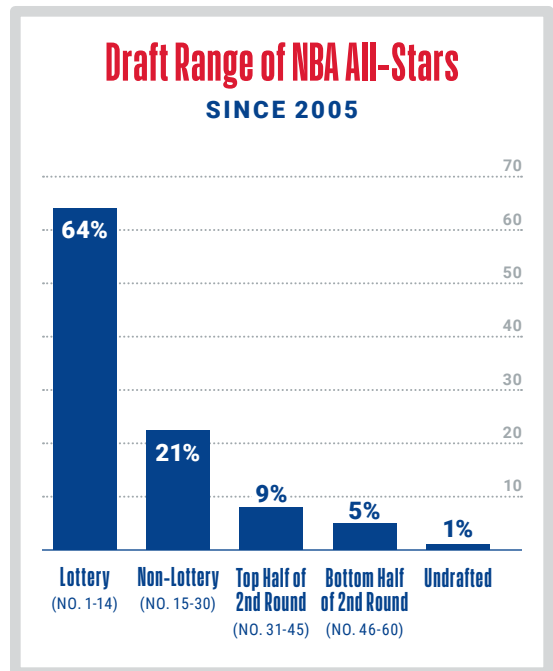


FIGURE C

NBA G League

The NBA G League is the NBA's official developmental league.

Overall, **65%** of players on end-of-season rosters for NBA teams for the 2023-24 season had at least some NBA G League experience.

A significant number of first- and second-year players, including players selected in the First Round of the NBA Draft, spend time in the NBA G League.

- During the 2024-25 NBA G League season, **53%** of First Round picks and **86%** of Second Round picks (excluding players who were selected in the 2024 NBA Draft but played on a professional team overseas during the 2024-25 season) played in the NBA G League during their rookie seasons.
- In their second seasons, **20%** of First Round picks and **73%** of Second Round picks played in the NBA G League.

A player can take numerous routes to the NBA G League. (FIGURE D)

- A player on a **Standard NBA Contract** can be assigned to the NBA G League. An assigned player continues to be paid his regular NBA salary while playing in the NBA G League.
- Typically, a player on a **Two-Way Contract** splits his time between the NBA G League and his NBA team. Each NBA team is permitted to have up to three Two-Way players on its roster, and a player in the first year of a Two-Way Contract earns **\$578.5K** for the 2024-25 season. Of all players who have been on a Two-Way Contract during the 2024-25 regular season, **33%** of them are players who were selected (or were eligible for selection) in the 2024 NBA Draft.
- A player on a **Standard NBA G League Contract** earns **\$41.5K** per year and plays exclusively in the NBA G League.
- Many undrafted rookies spend time in training camp with an NBA team and are waived before the NBA regular season begins, but sign an NBA G League contract (for **\$43K**) to play for that NBA team's affiliate in the NBA G League. If such a player's NBA contract contains an "Exhibit 10", the player can earn a bonus from **\$5K to \$78K** (often referred to as an "**Exhibit 10 Bonus**") if he stays with the NBA team's G League affiliate for at least 60 days.

Rookies in the NBA G League

CONTRACT TYPE	NUMBER OF PLAYERS 2022-23	NUMBER OF PLAYERS 2023-24	NUMBER OF PLAYERS 2024-25
Standard NBA Contract (Assignment)	22	32	34
Two-Way Contract	21	36	42
NBA G League Contract + Exhibit 10 Bonus	50	55	45
NBA G League Contract	29	42	123
TOTAL	122	165	244

FIGURE D

Note: Beginning with the 2023-24 season, under the new NBA/NBPA Collective Bargaining Agreement, each NBA team is permitted to have up to three Two-Way players on its roster (up from two Two-Way player per team under the prior Collective Bargaining Agreement).



APPLICATION FOR EVALUATION

NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee

NOTE: This application for evaluation does **not** enter a player in the NBA Draft. See below for details.

Player's Name

University

Year Started College

The last season you would be eligible to participate in NCAA Men's Basketball (for example: the 2025-26 season)

Telephone No.

Player's Email Address

Coach's Name

Coach's Telephone Number

Coach's Email Address

We, the undersigned, wish to inquire as to the potential of the player listed above ("Player") to be drafted in the 2025 NBA Draft. We understand that, in response to this request, the NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee ("UAC") will evaluate the likelihood of Player being drafted in the 2025 NBA Draft and, if applicable, the player's most likely Draft range.

We further understand that the UAC's evaluation (and all information communicated to us by the NBA and/or the UAC concerning Player's possible draft status) is non-binding and in no way a commitment or guarantee that Player will or will not be drafted in a certain slot, range, or at all. By our signatures below, we forever waive any claim either of us (or any of our representatives, heirs, or assigns) may have against

the NBA, its member teams, the UAC, or any of their respective affiliates, representatives or employees concerning the UAC or its evaluation of Player. We acknowledge that the UAC's evaluation is confidential and will not be made available to the public.

IMPORTANT: Submission of this application is not a declaration of eligibility for the 2025 NBA Draft. A separate letter must be sent to the NBA at DraftMailbox@nba.com (received by no later than April 26, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. ET) declaring eligibility for the 2025 NBA Draft. An application form for the 2025 NBA Draft will be sent upon receipt of the letter of declaration. As provided in the NBA/NBPA Collective Bargaining Agreement, an early entry player will not be permitted to withdraw from more than two (2) NBA Drafts.

Signature of Player

Signature of Coach

Date Application Submitted to Address Listed Below

CONTACT PERSONS ► **Jason Bleznick** (303) 548-2699
Jack McGinley (201) 838-0343

UAC@nba.com

SAMPLE LETTER TO ENTER DRAFT

For an Early Entrant

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

National Basketball Association
Attn: DraftMailbox@nba.com

I, _____ of _____
hereby declare for the 2025 NBA Draft. My information is as follows:

College (school where you played during the 2024-25 season):

Current year/class (for example: freshman, sophomore, junior, senior):

The last season you would be eligible to participate in NCAA men's basketball
(for example: the 2025-26 season):

Date of birth:

Contact information (including cell number, email address, and home address):

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

X

Signature

Printed First and Last Name

SAMPLE LETTER TO WITHDRAW FROM DRAFT

For an Early Entrant who wishes to withdraw

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

National Basketball Association
Attn: DraftMailbox@nba.com

I, _____ of _____
officially notify the NBA of my request to withdraw my name from consideration in the
2025 NBA Draft.

Sincerely,

X

Signature

Printed First and Last Name

