



United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT FORM

You do not have to use this form to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). You may send OCR a letter or email instead of this form, but the letter or email must include the information in items 1-15 of this form. If you decide to use this form, please type or print all information and use additional pages if more space is needed. An online, fillable version of this form, which can be submitted electronically, can be found at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html>.

Before completing this form, please read all information contained in the enclosed packet including: Information About OCR's Complaint Resolution Procedures, Notice of Uses of Personal Information and the Consent Form.

If you have questions about civil rights or how to file a complaint, you may contact OCR at 800-421-3481, 800-877-8339 (TTY), OCR@ed.gov, or by calling the enforcement office that serves your state or territory. Contact information for enforcement offices can be found at: <https://ocrcas.ed.gov/contact-ocr>.

If you have difficulty understanding English, you may, free of charge, request language assistance services for this Department information by calling 1-800- USA-LEARN (1- 800-872-5327) (TTY: 1-800-877-8339), or email us at: Ed.Language.Assistance@ed.gov. If you are a person with a disability, you may request disability-related assistance by contacting OCR at 800-421-3481, 800-877-8339 (TTY), OCR@ed.gov, or by calling the enforcement office that serves your state or territory. Contact information for enforcement offices can be found at:

<https://ocrcas.ed.gov/contact-ocr>. To request this document in an alternate format such as Braille or large print please contact the Department at 202-260-0852 or om_eeos@ed.gov.

1. Name of person filing this complaint:

Last Name: Hogshead, J.D., OLY **First Name:** Nancy **Address:** 3116 St. Johns Avenue

Champion Women, a non-profit providing legal advocacy for girls and women in sports.

City: Jacksonville **State:** Florida **Zip Code:** 32205

Primary number: (904) 384-8484 **Alternate number:** _____

Email Address: hogshead@championwomen.org

2. Name of person discriminated against (if **other** than person filing). If the person discriminated against is age 18 or older, we will need that person's signature on this complaint form and the consent/release form before we can proceed with this complaint. If the person is a minor, and you do not have the legal authority to file a complaint on the student's behalf, the signature of the child's parent, guardian, or other authorized legal representative is required.

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Primary Phone: _____ **Alternative Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

3. OCR investigates discrimination complaints against schools, colleges and universities, institutions, and agencies which receive funds or other forms of financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education and against public educational entities and libraries that are subject to the provisions of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please identify the institution or agency that engaged in the alleged discrimination. If we cannot accept your complaint, we will attempt to refer it to the appropriate agency and will notify you of that fact.

Name of Institution: Florida State University – OCR # 11-23-2380

Address: 600 W College Ave.

City: Tallahassee **State:** FL **Zip Code:** 32306

Department/School: Athletics Department

4. The regulations OCR enforces prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. The regulations also ban retaliation against persons who assert the right to be free from discrimination. Please note the following:

- Discrimination based on race, color, and national origin includes failure to provide meaningful access to English learners and limited English proficient parents and guardians, as well as discrimination based on shared ancestry or

ethnic characteristics or based on citizenship in a country with a dominant religion.

- Discrimination based on sex includes discrimination based on sex stereotypes, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity, as well as rules about parental, family, or marital status that treat people differently based on sex.
- Discrimination based on disability includes discrimination against individuals who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, as well as individuals who have a record of or are regarded as having a disability.
- Discrimination based on age does not limit protection against discrimination to a certain age group (e.g., people over 40); however, there are a variety of exceptions to the relevant Federal law that may permit age to be taken into account.
- Retaliation refers to actions taken for the purpose of interfering with any rights under the laws enforced by OCR, or because you made a complaint, testified, or participated in any manner in an OCR proceeding.

Please indicate the basis of your complaint:

Discrimination **based on race (specify)**

Discrimination **based on color (specify)**

Discrimination **based on national origin (specify)**

Discrimination **based on sex (specify)**

Florida State University is discriminating on the basis of sex by providing women with unequal athletic participation opportunities, unequal athletic scholarship dollars, and unequal treatment and benefits, including athletic recruitment funding.

Discrimination **based on disability (specify)**

Discrimination **based on age (specify)**

Retaliation because you filed a complaint or otherwise asserted rights under laws enforced by OCR (specify)

Violation of the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act (specify)

5. Please describe each alleged discriminatory act. For each action, please include the date(s) the discriminatory act occurred, the name(s) of each person(s) involved and, why you believe the discrimination was because of race, disability, age, sex, etc. Also please provide the names of any person(s) who was present and witnessed the act(s) of discrimination.

Women at Florida State University are 57.88% of the student body, but they are provided just 46% of the student-athlete opportunities. To provide athletic opportunities that are substantially proportionate to men's and women's enrolment, or Prong 1, or the "Proportionality Test," Florida State University must add 195 additional athletic opportunities for women.

Florida State University sponsors:

- 7 men's varsity sports (Baseball, Basketball, Football, Golf, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track and Field) providing this educational opportunity to 309 men, using the single count.

- 9 women’s varsity sports (Basketball, Track and Field, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, and Volleyball and Beach Volleyball), providing this educational opportunity to 221 women, using the single count.

In *Champion Women’s* attached letter, we provide detailed facts that Florida State University cannot meet Prong 2 or Prong 3 either.

Champion Women’s materials include a chart with 19 years of EADA data showing that the school does not have “a continuing practice of program expansion which is demonstrably responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the members of that sex”, the requirement for Prong 2.

Champion Women recognizes that, under threat of litigation, FSU added women’s Lacrosse. See <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/florida-state-university-agrees-to-add-womens-lacrosse-team-develop-gender-equity-plan-and-comply-with-title-ix-301946359.html#:~:text=OAKLAND%2C%20Calif.%2C%20Oct.,by%20members%20of%20its%20women's>

The addition of Lacrosse will not satisfy Prong 1, Prong 2 (see page 3 of *Champion Women’s* complaint) or Prong 3; see below.

Champion Women demonstrates that Florida State University cannot meet Prong 3 of meeting women’s interest and athletic ability, and their competitive geographical region, with the following facts, better detailed in our letter, from:

- The school’s athletic conference and its normal competitive geographic area. Florida State University is a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Conference members cover an enormous geographic area. The current full members of the conference are in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. Florida State University will have the luxury of having many choices of women’s sports in this competitive geographic area.
- Women’s sports that the conference sponsors a championship, as compared with the school’s offered women’s sports. The Atlantic Coast Conference sponsors women’s championship sports, Fencing, Field Hockey, Field Hockey, Gymnastics, Lacrosse, and Rowing. Florida State University does not sponsor any of these six sports.
- Conference members schools’ sport sponsorship, as compared with the school’s women’s sports. Members of the ACC sponsor Ice Hockey, Sailing, Rifle, Skiing, and Squash. Florida State University does not sponsor any of these five sports for women. These teams demonstrate women’s interest and abilities in these sports and that

competition for these women’s sports exists in Florida State University’s competitive geographic area.

- The state high school athletic association sport sponsorship, compared with the school’s sponsorship. The Florida High School Athletic Association sponsors high school sports of Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Water Polo, Weight Lifting and Wrestling; Florida State University does not sponsor any of these sports, despite having a steady supply of qualified athletes. <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/states/FL>
- Champion Women will not list the many other states and the sports they provide to high school athletes; the point is to demonstrate girls’ and women’s interest and ability to play sports.
- Non-school sports girls in the school’s geographic recruiting area. Florida girls also compete in sports not associated with schools, such as club sports, travel teams, the AAU, or sports that are part of the Olympic and Paralympic system. Sports like Basketball, Golf, Tennis, Equestrian, Wrestling, Badminton, Table Tennis, Team Handball, Sailing, Field Hockey, Fencing, Swimming & Diving, Skateboarding, Water Polo, Archery, Field Hockey, Rifle, Triathlon, Ice Hockey, Sport Climbing, Artistic Swimming, Skiing, Snowboarding, Surfing, Gymnastics, Rowing, Rugby, and all sorts of combat sports, like Judo, Karate, and Taekwondo.
- College sports opportunities are rare, while the supply is enormous. According to the NCAA,¹ in 2020, only 1.3% of high school girls basketball players were provided the opportunity to play in Division I. Just 2.9% of high school Field Hockey players, 2.8% of Golfers, 8.9% of Ice Hockey players, 3.7% of Lacrosse players, 2.4% of Soccer players, 1.8% of Softball players, 3.3% of Swimmers, 1.5% of Tennis players, 2.8% of Track & Field athletes, 1.2% of Volleyball players in high school are provided opportunities to play their sport in Division I.
- The percentage of those high school athletes who are provided with a college athletic scholarship is even smaller. Sadly, most of these women think they cannot play a sport in college or earn a college scholarship because they aren’t as skilled and athletically accomplished, rather than the fact that schools offer girls and women so many fewer opportunities and athletic scholarship dollars.
- Women at Florida State University participate in several club sports, including equestrian, bowling, fencing, gymnastics, lacrosse, rowing, rugby, and water polo.

¹ NCAA: Estimated Probability of Competing in College Athletics: <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2015/3/2/estimated-probability-of-competing-in-college-athletics.aspx>

- Champion Women provided FSU with the NCAA “emerging sport” list of sports, with women’s sports that Florida State University does not offer; Rugby, Equestrian, Wrestling, and Triathlon.
- Champion Women provided links to sport governing bodies, which makes it easy to see where women’s teams and potential competitors are located.
- These metrics demonstrate that girls and women are expressing enormous interest and ability to play sports; and that women’s demand to compete in college sports is unmet. It cannot be said that there are not women interested and athletically able to compete in many additional sports at Florida State University.

Champion Women also checked the school’s website and found Florida State University does not provide avenues to add more women’s sports, it does not assess the interests and athletic abilities of its students to determine which new sports to add, and its Title IX page is devoted to sexual harassment and violence, ignoring sex discrimination in the athletic department. In FSU’s Title IX page, it does not give students information about assessing sex discrimination in athletics.

<https://knowmore.fsu.edu/title-ix/title-ix-signed-statement> and

<https://regulations.fsu.edu/sites/g/files/upcbnu486/files/policies/president/FSU%20Policy%202-2.pdf>

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FSU’s failure to provide women with equal opportunities to play impacts the availability of athletic scholarship dollars for women. These are important sources of funding for educational attainment that women are being denied because of their sex.

If Florida State University provided its male and female students with equal opportunities to participate, Florida State University would need to add **\$4,592,986 additional** athletic scholarship dollars, to balance out the amount Florida State University provides to its male students. If, for some reason, the OCR determines that FSU is, in fact, not discriminating against women in providing opportunities in sport, and the student-athlete ratio was used rather than the student-body ratio, then FSU would still need to provide its women students participating in sports with **\$400,959** more in athletic scholarship aid, to match the amount FSU provides its male athletes.

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Florida State University needs to give women’s teams an additional **\$1,277,007** in recruiting funds, based on enrollment. If, for some reason, the OCR determined that Florida State University is, in fact, not discriminating against women in providing opportunities in sport, the OCR used the student-athlete ratio, instead of the student-body ratio, Florida State University would still need to provide its women’s sports teams – and women’s coaches – with **\$275,734** more recruiting dollars



to be consistent with the school’s investment in men’s sports.

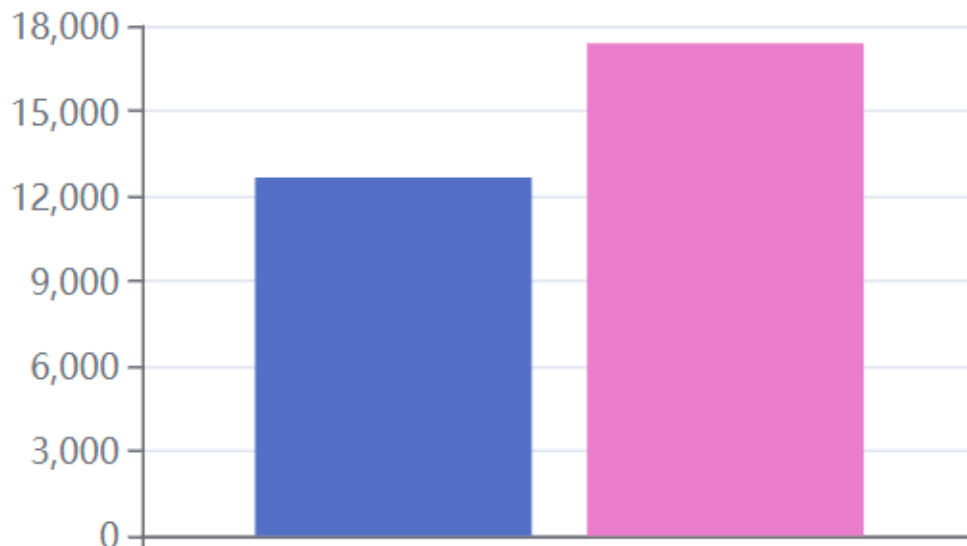
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To address these disparities, *Champion Women* requests that the Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) investigate Florida State University to determine whether it is discriminating against women in its athletic department. Additional Title IX violations are expected to be found, including equipment and supplies; game and practice times; travel and per diem allowances; coaching and academic tutoring; assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors; locker rooms, practice, and competitive facilities; medical and training facilities and services; housing and dining facilities and services; and publicity. 34 C.F.R. §106.41(a), 1979 Policy Interpretation. When violations are found, secure assurances of compliance with Title IX that include full remedies.

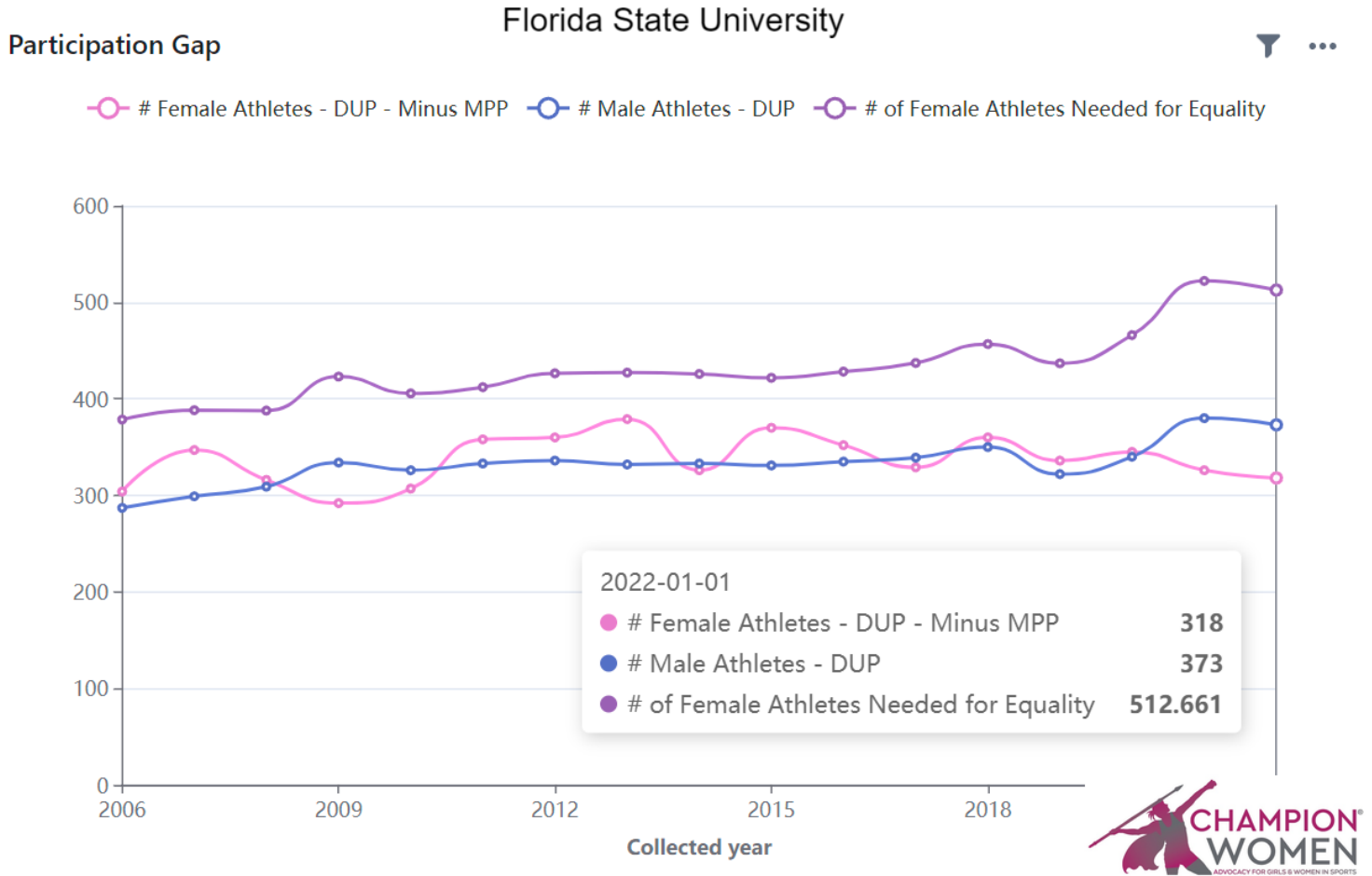
Florida State University

2022 Enrollment

 # of Male Undergraduates
 # of Female Undergraduates



For the following graphs, note the difference between the pink line – what women are currently provided – and the purple line – which is the number of opportunities women would have if the school provided women with proportional athletic opportunities to the school’s student-body ratio.



Florida State University

2022 Need to Add

204

Female Athletic Opportunities Missing



+1  More Needed Since 2021

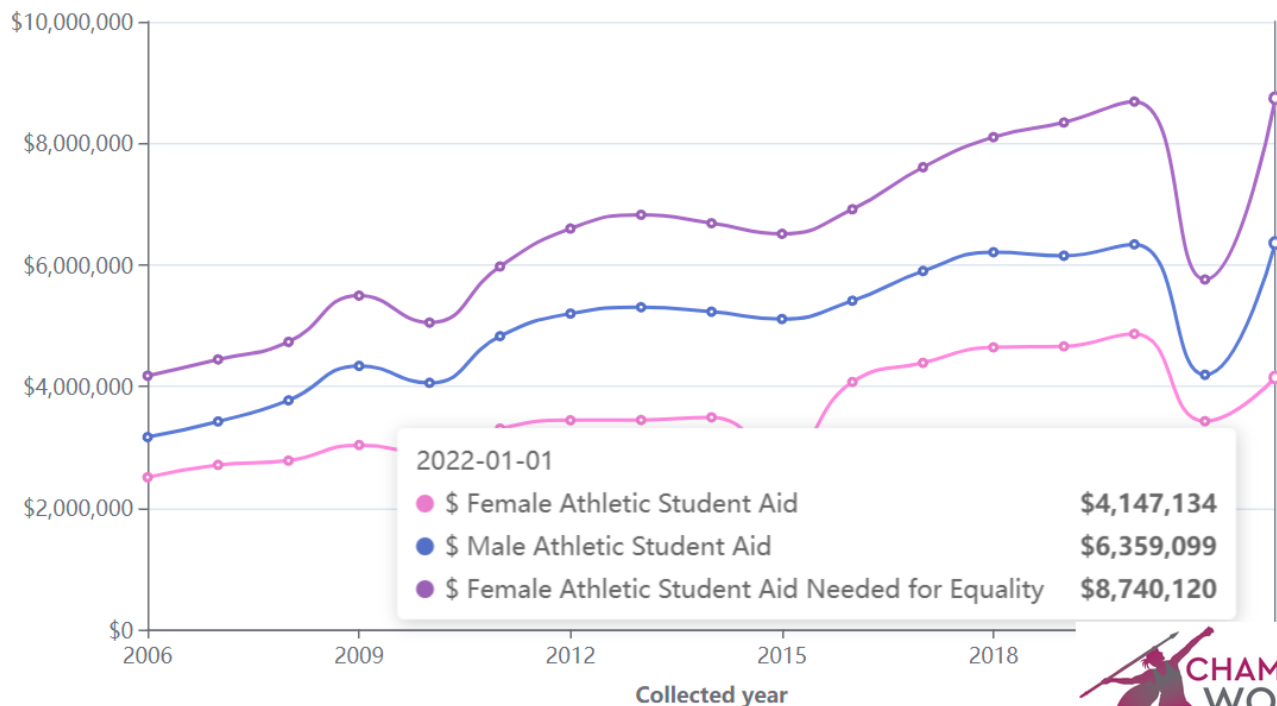


Scholarships

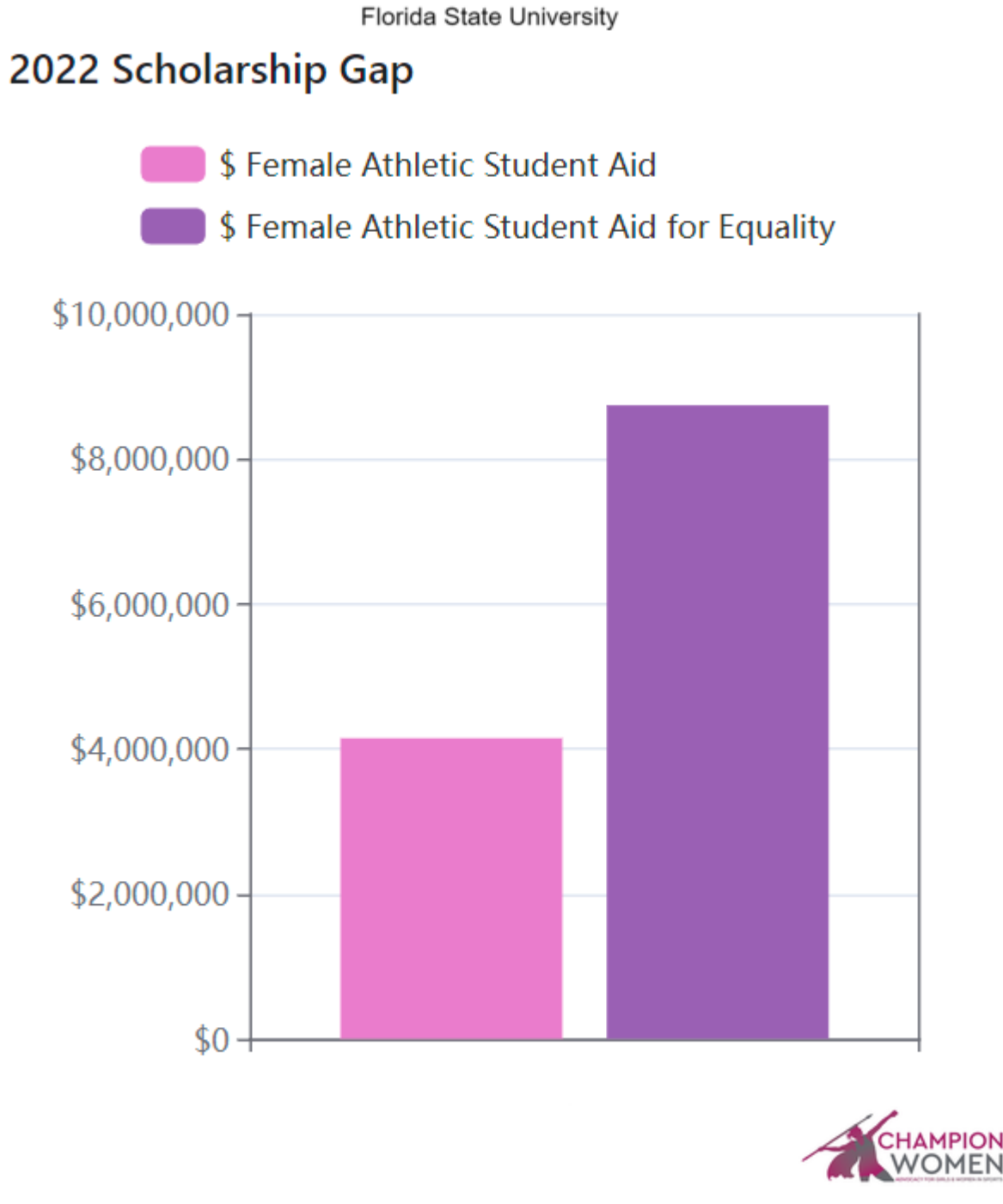
Florida State University



 \$ Female Athletic Student Aid  \$ Male Athletic Student Aid  \$ Female Athletic Student Aid Needed for Equality



- Currently have, (pink) versus what women should have with equality (purple):



Florida State University
2022 Need To Add Athletic Scholarships

\$4,592,986

Missing for Female Athletes

+\$2,261,685 ↗ More Missing Since 2021

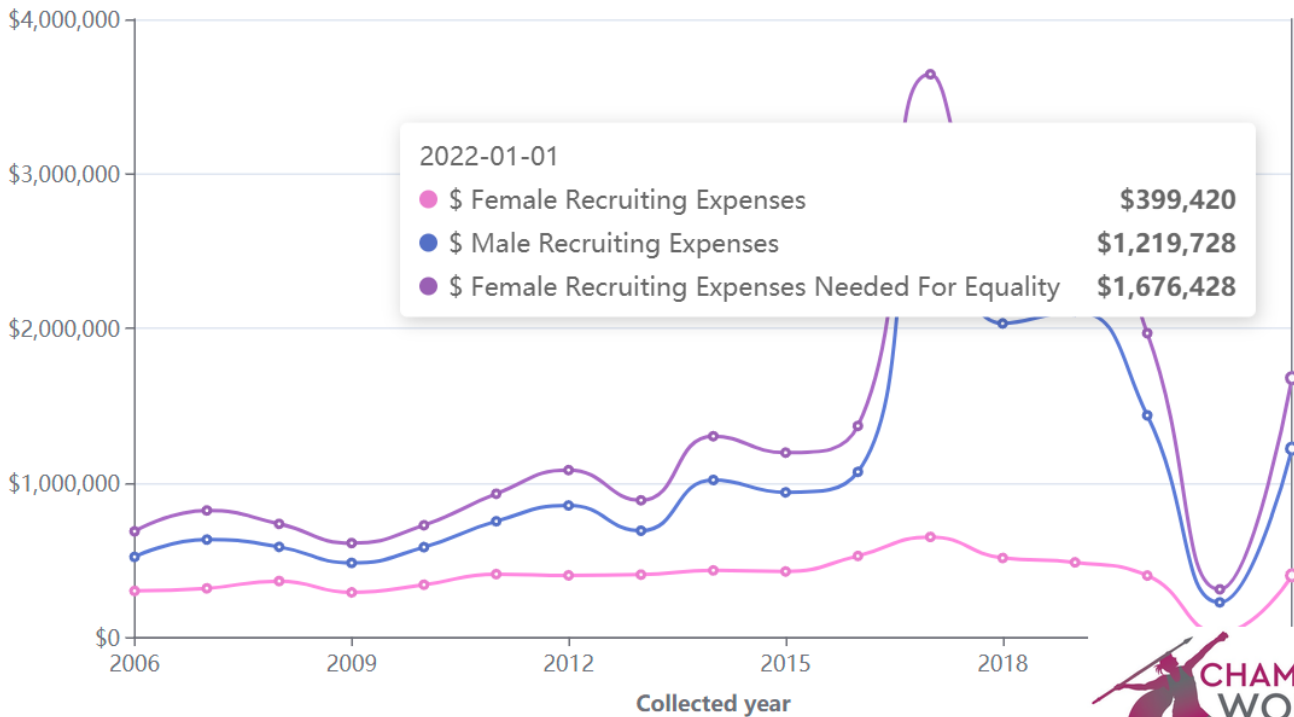


Recruiting Expenses Gap

Florida State University

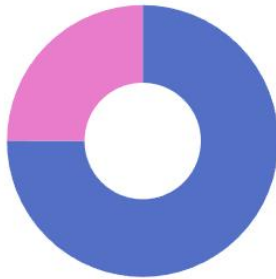


○ \$ Female Recruiting Expenses
 ○ \$ Male Recruiting Expenses
 ○ \$ Female Recruiting Expenses Needed For Equality

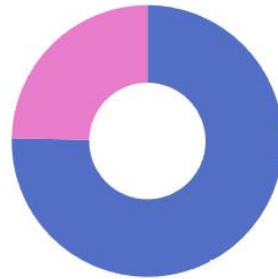


Florida State University

2022 Coach Salaries

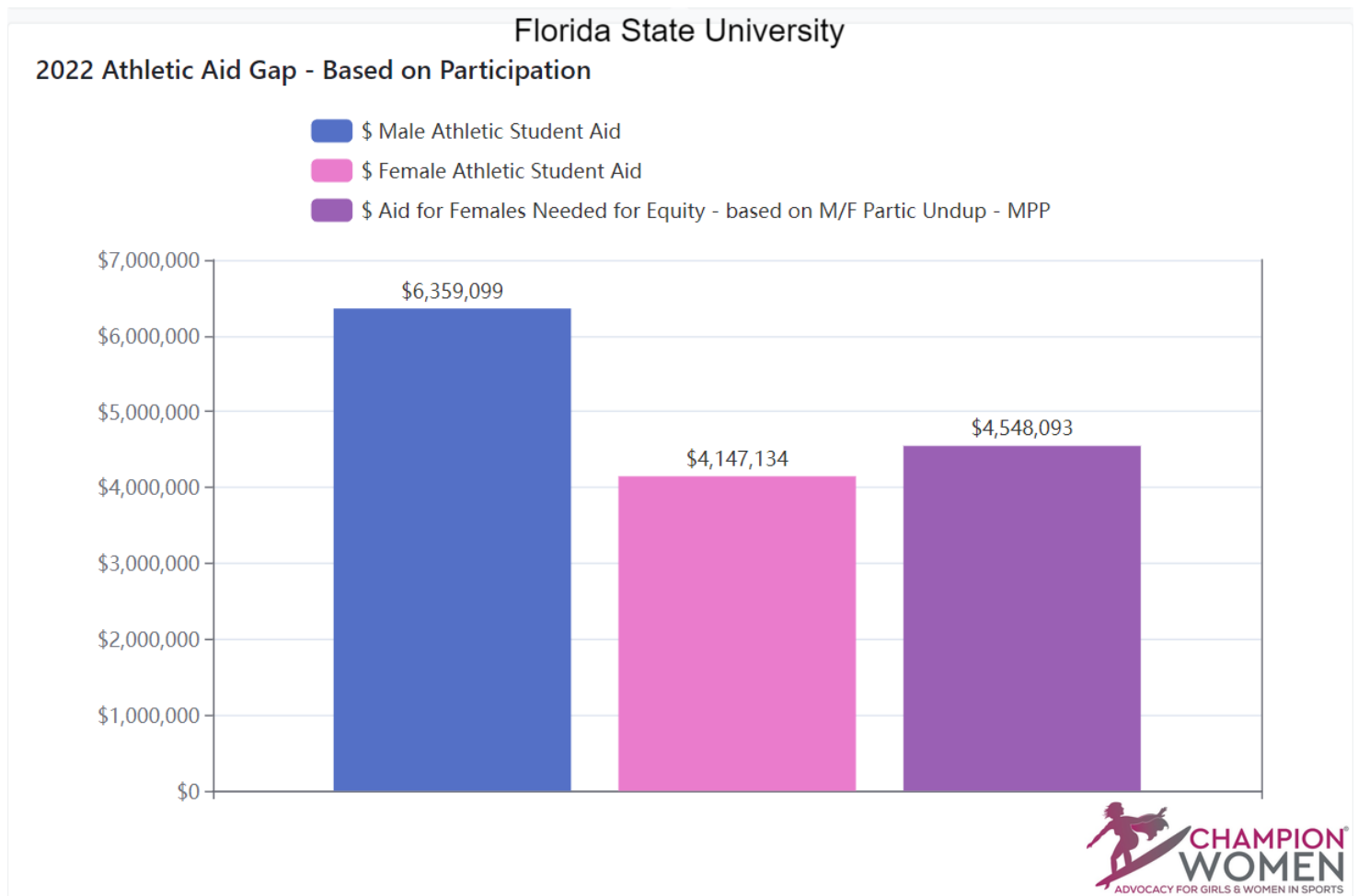


Recruiting Expenses 2022



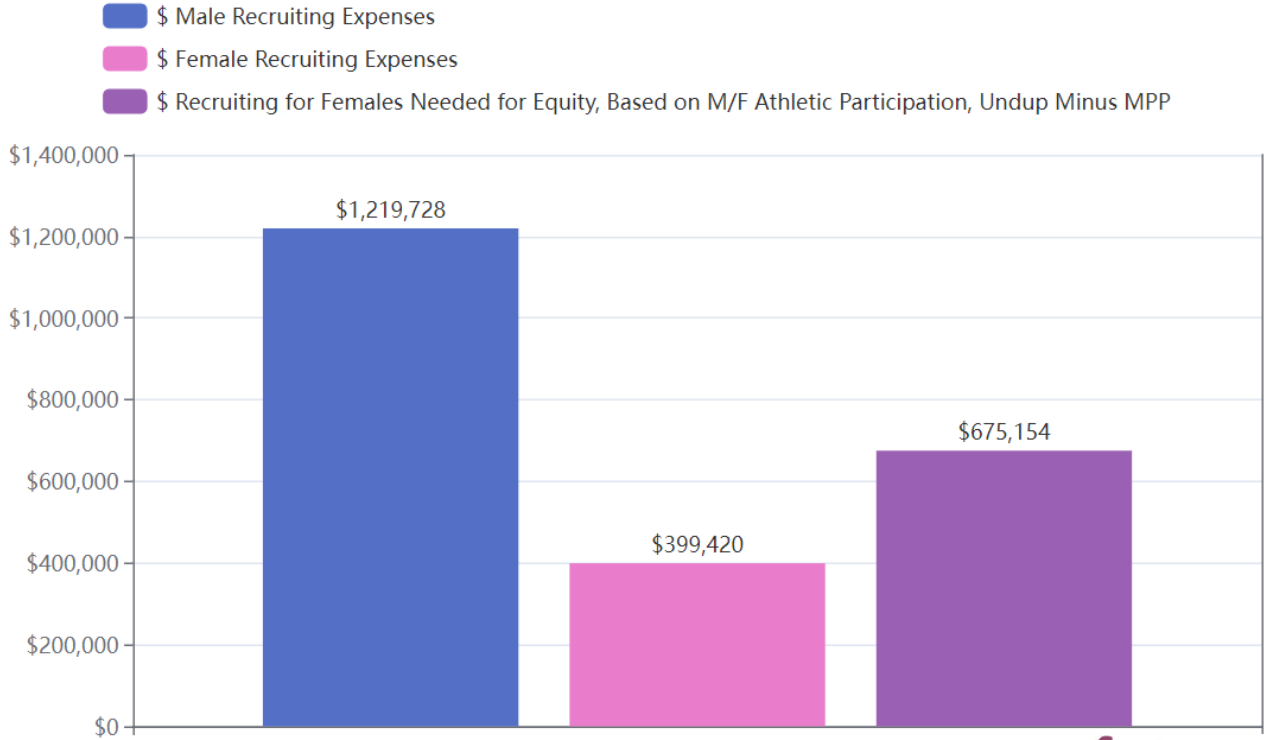
In the next two graphs below, notice how women are entitled to much less in athletic scholarship aid and recruiting budgets than the school provides men, if the OCR allows a school to count women multiple times, but not require the same for men, or the OCR does not require Prong 1 or Proportionality.

Florida State University would need to **add \$4,592,986** additional athletic scholarship dollars for women, to balance out the amount it provides to its male students. But if the student-athlete ratio is used, then Florida State University would need to provide women with **\$400,959** additional athletic scholarship aid. That's quite a loss!



Florida State University

2022 Recruiting Expenses Gaps - Based on Participation



6. Do you have documents or written information that you think will help us to understand your complaint?
- No
 - Yes

If yes, please describe the documents or written information you have.

Please see the attached file - "Champion Women OCR Complaint Florida State University"

If OCR investigates your complaint, we may ask you to provide us with the items you describe above.

7. What is the most **recent date** you were discriminated against?

Date: The discrimination against women on the basis of sex is ongoing at Florida State University.

8. If this date is **more than 180 days ago**, you may request a waiver of the filing requirement.

I am requesting a waiver of the 180-day time frame for filing this complaint.

Please explain why did not file your complaint within 180 days.

9. Have you complained about the allegations that you raise in this complaint to your school, institution, or another organization or agency?

YES NO

If yes, have you complained about the allegations that you raise in this complaint by:

filing an internal complaint or appeal with your school or institution?

participating in your school or institution's grievance procedures?

participating in a due process hearing either at your school or institution, or through another organization or government agency?

If you answered **yes to any of the above questions**, please describe the allegations that you raised in an internal complaint or appeal, through your school or institution's grievance procedures, or in a due process hearing, identify the date you complained about the allegations and where you made the complaint, and tell us the status of the complaint, appeal, grievance procedures, or due process hearing. If possible, please provide us with a copy of your complaint or grievance or appeal or due process request and, if completed, the decision in the matter.

10. If the allegations contained in this complaint have been filed with any other Federal, state or local civil rights agency, or any Federal or state court, please give details and dates. We will determine whether it is appropriate to investigate your complaint based upon the specific allegations of your complaint and the actions taken by the other agency or court.

Agency or Court: _____

Date Filed: _____

Case Number or Reference: _____

Results of Investigation/Findings by Agency or Court:

11. You do not need to have a lawyer to file a complaint with OCR; however, if you do have a lawyer, OCR staff are required to communicate directly with your lawyer. If you have a lawyer representing you in this matter, please provide the lawyer's contact information.

Last Name: Hogshead, J.D. **First Name:** Nancy

Telephone: (904) 384-8484 **Email:** hogshead@championwomen.org

12. If we cannot reach you at your home or work, we would like to have the name and telephone number of another person (relative or friend) who knows where and when we can reach you. This information **is not required**, but it will be helpful to us.

Last Name: Casey **First Name:** Alistair

Telephone: (310) 562-4549 **Email:** alistaircasey@championwomen.org

13. **Option to Participate in OCR’s Early Mediation Process**

OCR provides an early mediation process as an opportunity for you and the recipient institution to voluntarily resolve your complaint soon after you file it with OCR.

Mediation is a form of complaint resolution that OCR offers as an alternative to its investigative process. Mediation is an informal process in which a staff member from OCR who is trained in mediation assists the parties to reach a negotiated resolution of the complaint. The mediator does not decide who is right or wrong and does not have the authority to impose a settlement on the parties. Instead, the mediator helps the parties to find a mutually acceptable resolution to your complaint. Mediation is a strictly voluntary process. If either party does not want to participate in mediation, OCR will address the complaint through its regular processes.

If you are interested in participating in the early mediation process, you must check the box below. If you indicate your interest in early mediation by checking the box below **and** OCR determines that your complaint is appropriate for this process, OCR will contact you and the recipient institution and offer this resolution option. If the recipient agrees to participate in early mediation, OCR will work with you and the recipient to achieve a mutually agreeable resolution of your complaint. If the recipient does not wish to participate in early mediation, OCR will proceed with its regular processing of your complaint. ***If you do not indicate your interest in early mediation by checking the box below, early mediation will not be offered to you and OCR will proceed with its regular processing of your complaint.***

I am interested in participating in early mediation (Please check box):

14. What would you like the institution to do as a result of your complaint
— what remedy are you seeking?

- Investigate Florida State University to determine whether it is discriminating against women; whether it is providing female students with equal participation opportunities in varsity athletics, equal and proportionate athletic scholarship dollars, equal treatment and benefits, including equal recruiting budgets.
- Take all necessary steps to remedy all unlawful conduct identified by Title IX and its implementing regulations.
- To add more athletic opportunities for women, and to accord women athletes and these additional teams the full range of benefits accorded to men's varsity teams and athletes, such as equipment and supplies; game and practice times; travel and per diem allowances; coaching and academic tutoring; assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors; locker rooms, practice, and competitive facilities; medical and training facilities and services; housing and dining facilities and services; and publicity. 34 C.F.R. §106.41(a), 1979 Policy Interpretation. Increase scholarship and recruiting budgets and opportunities, to be equal to the men's, and adopt and implement a plan to achieve full compliance with Title IX throughout the entire athletic department.

15. We cannot accept your complaint if it has not been signed. Please sign and date your complaint below.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Hoshed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

December 18, 2023
(Date)

CEO, *Champion Women*
(Signature)

Please mail or email the completed and signed Discrimination Complaint Form, your signed consent form and copies of any written material or other documents you believe will help OCR understand your complaint to the OCR Enforcement Office responsible for the state where the institution or entity about which you are complaining is located. You can locate the mailing information for the correct enforcement office on OCR's website at <https://ocrcas.ed.gov/contact-ocr>.

Excerpt from the Online Interactive Complaint Form

Race / Color / National Origin / Ethnicity / Shared Ancestry

Discrimination based on national origin includes discrimination based on the country, world region, or place where a person or their ancestors come from; a person's limited English proficiency or English learner status; and a person's actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, including membership in a religion that may be perceived to exhibit such characteristics (e.g., Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh students). For more information about race, color, and national origin discrimination, please visit www.ed.gov/ocr/frontpage/pro-students/race-origin-pr.html.

Sex

Discrimination based on sex includes discrimination based on sex stereotypes, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Discrimination based on sex also encompasses rules about parental, family, or marital status that treat people differently based on sex. For more information about sex discrimination, please visit <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/guid/ocr/sexoverview.html>.

Disability

A person with a disability is defined as any person who (i) has a physical or mental impairment, which substantially limits one or more major life activities, or (ii) has a record of such impairment, or (iii) is regarded as having such an impairment. Whether a person has a disability is determined without considering mitigating measures. For more information about disability discrimination, please visit www.ed.gov/policy/rights/guid/ocr/disability.html.