



2021 NHL DRAFT GUIDE

THE NHL'S GROWING NCAA INFLUENCE

The impact of former NCAA players and executives in the NHL continues to grow; the 2021 NHL Draft is just the latest step in a developing trend.

Consider:

- One-third of all NHL players played NCAA hockey, including:
 - Norris Trophy winner and runner-up Adam Fox and Cale Makar
 - NHL All-Rookie Team selections K'Andre Miller and Josh Norris
 - Back-to-back Stanley Cup champion alternate captains Alex Killorn and Ryan McDonagh
- Seven of the first 16 selections in the 2019 NHL Draft were college players, the most ever
- Fourteen NHL general managers played NCAA hockey

The 2021 NHL Draft projects to be a historic one for NCAA hockey. We could see:

- An NCAA player selected No. 1 overall for just the fourth time
- NCAA players going 1-2 for just the second time
- As many as five NCAA players and recruits taken among the top 10 picks for the first time
- One team with three current players taken in the first round for the first time
- One team with five players *or* recruits taken in the first round for the first time
- Three Canadian NCAA players and recruits selected in the first round for the second time (also 2016)
- A Canadian NCAA player or recruit taken in the first round for the sixth straight draft



NHL DRAFT BY THE NUMBERS

- 189 – NCAA players selected by the Montreal Canadiens in NHL Amateur/Entry Drafts, the most of any franchise
- 173 – NCAA players drafted in the first round since 1964 (St. Lawrence’s Alex Campbell was the first)
- 125 – NCAA players taken in the 1987 Entry Draft, the most in any one draft
- 102 – NCAA players and recruits in NHL Central Scouting’s Final Rankings
- 87.5 – Percentage of Americans taken in the last three drafts (2018, ’19, ’20) that played NCAA hockey
- 70 – NCAA players and recruits selected in the 2019 NHL Draft, the most in 12 years
- 31 – Schools represented (of the 60 in Division I) in the Central Scouting rankings
- 27 – Schools that have produced a first-round pick all-time (18 in the last 13 drafts)
- 25 – Consecutive years with a draft pick for Boston College and Michigan (starting in 1996), tied for the second-longest such streak for any school in history (Minnesota had picks in 27 straight drafts, 1974-2000)
- 25 – First-round picks to play for Michigan, the most of any school
 - First-Round Picks by School
 - 25 – Michigan
 - 21 – Boston College, Minnesota
 - 20 – Boston University, North Dakota
- 17 – Age of Vermont’s Dovar Tinling for all but one game this year; the youngest player in Division I, he turned 18 on March 3
- 17 – The most NCAA selections in any one round of a draft (fourth round in 2018, sixth round in 2015, ninth round in 2004)
- 12 – First rounders who played NCAA hockey in 2020-21
- 11 – College players taken in the first round in 2016 and 2007, the most first-rounders in any draft
- 10 – First round picks from Boston University in the last six NHL Drafts
- 9 – The most picks from one school in one draft (Minnesota, 2007)
- 7 – NCAA picks among the first 16 selections of the 2019 NHL Draft, the most ever
- 6 – The most first-round picks to play for one NCAA team (North Dakota, 2005-06; Joe Finley, Brian Lee, T.J. Oshie, Drew Stafford, Jonathan Toews, Travis Zajac)
- 4 – The most top-10 picks in one draft to play NCAA hockey (2006: Erik Johnson, Jonathan Toews, Phil Kessel and Kyle Okposo)
- 1 – Joe Murphy (1986), Rick DiPietro (2000) and Erik Johnson (2006) are the three NCAA players to be selected first overall in the NHL Draft

NCAA Draft Picks by Year

Year	1st Rd.	NCAA	Total Picks
2020	3	64	216
2019	9	70	217
2018	7	65	217
2017	6	60	217
2016	11	60	211
2015	7	56	211
2014	3	61	210
2013	-	58	211
2012	5	65	211
2011	2	55	211
2010	8	61	210
2009	6	63	210
2008	4	62	211
2007	11	75	211
2006	7	70	213
2005	8	69	230
2004	7	90	291
2003	9	72	292
2002	6	77	291
2001	4	56	289
2000	7	65	293
1999	3	60	272
1998	1	44	258
1997	-	43	246
1996	3	41	241
1995	-	12	234
1994	2	63	286
1993	3	70	286
1992	3	55	264
1991	3	97	264
1990	3	109	250
1989	3	112	252
1988	2	112	252
1987	1	125	252
1986	5	92	252
1985	3	89	252
1984	2	98	250
1983	1	75	242
1982	1	71	252
1981	1	48	211
1980	1	55	210
1979	1	16	126
1978	-	79	234
1977	-	52	185
1976	1	31	135
1975	-	65	217
1974	-	48	246
1973	-	26	168
1972	-	21	152
1971	1	24	117
1970	-	17	115
1969	-	8	85
1968	1	3	24
1967	-	1	18
1966	-	1	24
1965	-	1	11
1964	1	6	25
1963	-	2	21

THE LAST TIME:

An NCAA player went #1 overall	2006, Erik Johnson (Minnesota/St. Louis Blues) 2000, Rick DiPietro (Boston University/New York Islanders) 1986, Joe Murphy (Michigan State/Detroit Red Wings)
NCAA players went #1-2 overall	2000, Rick DiPietro - Dany Heatley (Wisconsin/Atlanta Thrashers)
Four of the top 10 picks were NCAA players/recruits	2006, Erik Johnson, Jonathan Toews, Phil Kessel, Kyle Okposo
One school had the first two NCAA players selected	1988, Michigan State (Rod Brind'Amour, Jason Muzzatti) 1981, North Dakota (James Patrick, Dave Donnelly) 1975, Wisconsin (Peter Scamurra, Brian Engblom) 1974, Denver (Bruce Affleck, Pete LoPresti) 1972, Denver (Bob Krieger, Tom Peluso)
One school had two <i>current</i> players taken in 1st rd.....	2001, Ohio State (R.J. Umberger, Dave Steckel) 2000, Boston College (Brooks Orpik, Krys Kolanos) 1990, Michigan State (Michael Stewart, Bryan Smolinski)
One school had four players <i>or</i> recruits taken in 1st rd ...	2006, Minnesota (Erik Johnson, Phil Kessel, Kyle Okposo, David Fischer) 2016, Boston University (Clayton Keller, Charlie McAvoy, Dante Fabbro, Kieffer Bellows)

2021 COULD BE THE FIRST TIME:

Three of the top four picks are NCAA players/recruits
Five of the top 10 picks are NCAA players/recruits
One school has three current players selected in the first round
One school has five players/recruits selected in the first round
One school has more than the first two NCAA players selected

SUPERLATIVES BY SCHOOL:**Most players/recruits selected, all-time**

208 – Minnesota
173 – Boston University
170 – North Dakota
163 – Wisconsin
161 – Michigan

Most players/recruits selected in the first round, all-time

25 – Michigan
21 – Boston College
21 – Minnesota
20 – Boston University
20 – North Dakota

ARE NCAA PLAYERS UNDERVALUED IN THE NHL DRAFT?

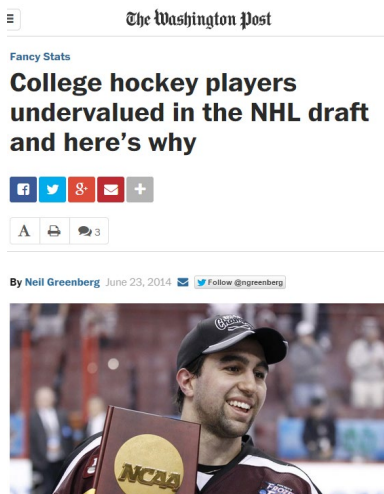
An average of 60 current/future NCAA players have been selected in the last 13 NHL Drafts. Nevertheless, evidence from recent years suggests that NCAA players are undervalued in the draft.

Drafts in Hindsight

A popular pastime among hockey news organizations is to look back at drafts five, 10 or 15 years ago and “re-draft” them – see where the selections should have fallen, given how the players’ careers have played out.

Invariably – no matter the year or the news organization – NCAA players were under-represented in the original draft.

Source	Original Draft	Re-Evaluated
1994 Draft, NHL.com	2 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	5 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
1997 Draft, NHL.com	0 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	3 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2000 Draft, NHL.com	7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	8 NCAA players in top 23 picks
2001 Draft, NHL.com	4 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	4 NCAA players in top 19 picks
2003 Draft, NHL.com	9 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	10 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2003 Draft, Sportsnet	2 NCAA players in top 11 picks; 9 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	4 NCAA players in top 9 picks; 11 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2004 Draft, NHL.com	5 NCAA players in top 23 picks	6 NCAA players in top 23 picks
2005 Draft, NHL.com	8 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	11 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2006 Draft, NHL.com	5 NCAA players in top 19 picks	5 NCAA players in top 13 picks
2007 Draft, NHL.com	11 NCAA players in top 29 picks	11 NCAA players in top 24 picks
2008 Draft, ESPN.com	4 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	6 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2008 Draft, NHL.com	4 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2009 Draft, NHL.com	6 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2009 Draft, ESPN.com	0 NCAA players in top 15 picks	4 NCAA players in top 15 picks
2010 Draft, NHL.com	8 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	9 NCAA players in top 26 picks
2010 Draft, ESPN.com	8 NCAA players in top 30 picks	9 NCAA players in top 23 picks
2011 Draft, NHL.com	2 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	4 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2012 Draft, NHL.com	5 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	6 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2013 Draft, The Athletic	0 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	5 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2013 Draft, NHL.com	0 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	5 NCAA players in top 26 picks
2014 Draft, NHL.com	3 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2014 Draft, The Athletic	3 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	6 NCAA players in 1st Rd.
2015 Draft, The Athletic	3 NCAA players in top 10 picks; 7 NCAA players in 1st Rd.	5 NCAA players in top 10 picks; 8 NCAA players in top 26 picks



Why you should hope your favorite team drafts an NCAA hockey player

by Justin Bourne Jun 24, 12:44 PM

DRAFT RESEARCH

First-Round Draft Picks

A study of the 480 first-round draft picks from 2000-15 shows that 80% of those players who developed in the NCAA went on to have a significant NHL career (200+ games played). By contrast, 66% of all other players in that time met the same standard.

[NCAA First-Round Picks](#)

Of those 480 first-round picks from 2000-15, 88 (or 18%) were on the NCAA path, fewer than the CHL (55%) or Europe (23%).

College players enjoyed that success despite, on average, being taken later in the first round:

Average Draft Position, 2000-15 First Rounders

CHL	14.8
European	15.3
NCAA	17.3

Current College Players

A small subset of the NCAA players taken in the draft – likely between five and 10 – will be players who spent 2020-21 playing college hockey, a group that could include three top-10 selections.

Recent history suggests that those selections may be the best values in the draft.

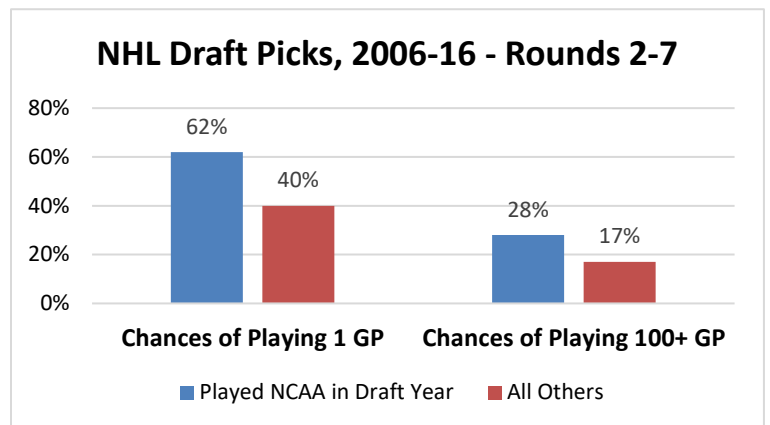
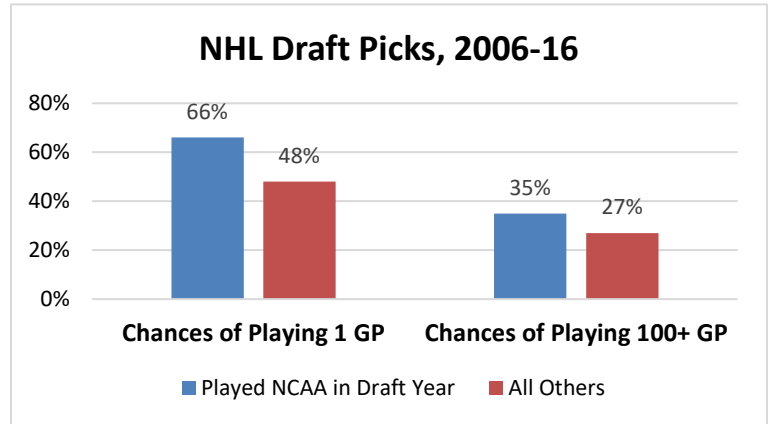
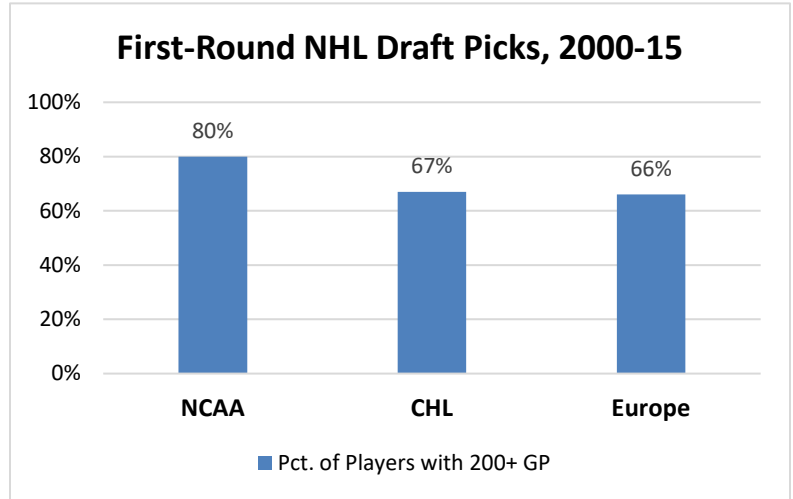
College Hockey Inc. studied the 11 drafts from 2006-16. In that period 100 players were taken after spending their draft season in the NCAA.

Of those players, a remarkable 66% reached the NHL for at least one game and 35% have appeared in more than 100 games. Those figures are 18 and 8 percentage points higher, respectively, than all other players in the draft.

For picks beyond the first round – where roughly 40% of all selections ever make the NHL – 62% of players who spent their draft year in the NCAA reached the NHL for at least a game (28% for 100+ GP).

Picks who Played NCAA in their Draft Year

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
5	4	9	8	13	9	5	6	8	10	9	7	9	8	16



CURRENT & FUTURE NCAA PLAYERS IN NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING'S RANKINGS

- 31 schools represented (of 61 in Division I) • 10 uncommitted players
- Sortable rankings: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/2021-nhl-central-scouting-final-rankings.php>

North American Skaters

Rank	Name	NCAA Team			
			119	Owen McLaughlin	Penn State
1	Owen Power	Michigan	121	Bennett Schimek	Providence
3	Kent Johnson	Michigan	123	Charles Legault	Boston University
4	Luke Hughes	Michigan	124	Ryan Gillespie	Clarkson
6	Matty Beniers	Michigan	125	Ryan St. Louis	Northeastern
9	Matthew Coronato	Harvard	128	Justin Janicke	Notre Dame
12	Chaz Lucius	Minnesota	134	Alexander Teleguine	Connecticut
14	Corson Ceulemans	Wisconsin	139	Josh Lopina	Massachusetts
18	Sasha Pastujov	Notre Dame	140	Cameron Berg	Omaha
20	Shai Buium	Denver	144	Ellis Rickwood	Clarkson
24	Sean Behrens	Denver	147	Daniel Laatsch	Wisconsin
25	Tyler Boucher	Boston University	150	Justin Ertel	Cornell
26	Mackie Samoskevich	Michigan	152	Caden Brown	Wisconsin
27	Jack Peart	St. Cloud State	173	Matthew Argentina	Boston College
28	Tristan Broz	Minnesota	176	Cade Ahrenholz	Colorado College
29	Dylan Duke	Michigan	177	Quinn Hutson	Boston University
32	Guillaume Richard	Providence	178	Brody Lamb	Minnesota
37	Matthew Knies	Minnesota	179	Nate Benoit	North Dakota
38	Brent Johnson	North Dakota	184	Nick Roukounakis	Boston University
39	Scott Morrow	Massachusetts	185	Paul Davey	Boston College
41	Jack Bar	Harvard	186	Lukas Gustafsson	Boston College
42	Aidan Hreschuk	Boston College	187	Tim Delay	Boston College
43	Ryan Ufko	Massachusetts	189	Matt Copponi	Merrimack
46	Ayrton Martino	Clarkson	194	Jeremy Wilmer	Boston University
52	Jackson Blake	North Dakota	195	Jacob Napier	Western Michigan
53	Ty Gallagher	Boston University	196	Tyler Rubin	Princeton
54	Redmond Savage	Miami	199	Carter Batchelder	Colorado College
55	Hunter Strand	Notre Dame	201	Declan Ride	Miami
56	Jacob Guevin	Omaha	203	Connor Kurth	Minnesota
67	Carter Mazur	Denver	205	Matthew McGroarty	Quinnipiac
69	David Gucciardi	Michigan State	207	Billy Norcross	Boston College
72	Ty Murchison	Arizona State	208	Noah Serdachny	Colorado College
78	Kyle Kukkonen	Michigan Tech	209	Will Staring	Uncommitted
81	Charlie Lurie	Omaha	210	Owen Murray	Massachusetts
84	Dovar Tinling	Vermont	211	Jacob Martin	Wisconsin
87	Josh Doan	Arizona State	216	Andrew King	Uncommitted
91	Jack Harvey	Boston University	220	Evan Orloff	Uncommitted
95	Ethan Straky	Uncommitted	224	Joaquim Lemay	Omaha
96	Henry Nelson	Notre Dame	LV	Logan Morrell	Uncommitted
97	Matthew Fusco	Harvard	ITL-12	Samu Salminen	Denver
98	Luke Mittelstadt	Minnesota	ITL-73	Stiven Sardarian	New Hampshire
100	Austen May	Providence	ITLG-4	Aku Koskenvuo	Harvard
106	Andrei Buyalsky	Vermont			
109	Joe Palodichuk	Wisconsin			
110	Shane Lachance	Boston University			
112	Luke Levandowski	Wisconsin			
116	Andre Gasseau	Boston College			
118	Joey Pierce	Minnesota Duluth			

North American Goaltenders

8	Arsenii Sergeev	Uncommitted
13	Cameron Rowe	Wisconsin
14	Anton Castro	Boston University
16	Luke Pavicich	Massachusetts
19	Remington Keopple	Cornell
20	Kaidan Mbereko	Colorado College
22	Owen Bartoszkiewicz	Uncommitted
23	Chase Clark	Uncommitted
24	Jed Baliotti	New Hampshire
25	Logan Terness	Connecticut
26	Colin Purcell	Massachusetts
29	Owen Millward	Uncommitted
30	Cameron Whitehead	Uncommitted

NCAA IN THE NHL**49 schools had an alum in the NHL in 2020-21. Colleges producing the most 2020-21 NHLers:**

Minnesota, North Dakota – 22

Michigan – 21

Boston College, Boston University – 19

Wisconsin – 17

Minnesota Duluth, Notre Dame – 13

NHL players by years in school**(65% played at least three years)**

Four years – 82

Three years – 123

Two years – 74

One year – 34

By position:

175 forwards ▪ 116 defensemen ▪ 22 goaltenders

By NHL Draft status:

69 – First round

41 – Second round

29 – Third round

26 – Fourth round

26 – Fifth round

21 – Sixth round

15 – Seventh round

1 – Ninth round

85 were undrafted free agents (49% of all undrafted NHL players)

IN THE NHL

39 schools had at least one NHL Draft pick on their roster in 2020-21. Colleges with the most draft picks:

Minnesota – 14
Boston University – 13
Boston College, North Dakota – 12
Wisconsin – 10
Denver – 9
Connecticut, Michigan, Minnesota Duluth, Northeastern, Notre Dame – 8

All 31 NHL teams had prospects in college in 2020-21. Those with the most:

Detroit, Tampa Bay – 11
Florida, Nashville – 10
Montreal, Ottawa – 9
Chicago, Colorado, Minnesota, Vegas – 8
Anaheim, Philadelphia – 7

Full list: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/nhl-draft-picks-playing-college-hockey.php>

14 NHL general managers played college hockey:

Don Sweeney, Boston (Harvard)
Kevyn Adams, Buffalo (Miami)
Don Waddell, Carolina (Northern Michigan)
Jarmo Kekalainen, Columbus (Clarkson)
Bill Zito, Florida (Yale)
Rob Blake, Los Angeles (Bowling Green)
Bill Guerin, Minnesota (Boston College)
David Poile, Nashville (Northeastern)
Tom Fitzgerald, New Jersey (Providence)
Lou Lamoriello, NY Islanders (Providence)
Chris Drury, NY Rangers (Boston University)
Chuck Fletcher, Philadelphia (Harvard)
Kelly McCrimmon, Vegas (Michigan)
Brian MacLellan, Washington (Bowling Green)

10 NHL head coaches played college hockey:

Don Granato, Buffalo (Wisconsin)
Rod Brind'Amour, Carolina (Michigan State)
Jeff Blashill, Detroit (Ferris State)
Dave Tippett, Edmonton (North Dakota)
Dominique Ducharme, Montreal (Vermont)
John Hynes, Nashville (Boston University)
Mike Sullivan, Pittsburgh (Boston University)
Dave Hakstol, Seattle (North Dakota)
Jon Cooper, Tampa Bay (Hofstra club hockey/varsity lax)
Peter Laviolette, Washington (Westfield State)

Many more former NCAA players play key roles on the draft floor. Full list of former NCAA players in NHL executive roles: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/former-collegians-nhl-front-offices.php>

OTHER RESOURCES

College Hockey, Inc. Media Center: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/media-center>

NHL Matchup Tool: <http://collegehockeyinc.com/nhlteams.php>

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