

# **STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC SERVICES**

## **Executive Summary**

The Office of Student-Athlete Academic Services offers academic and personal support for student-athletes. The following is a summary of the support services, resources and personnel within Academic Services.

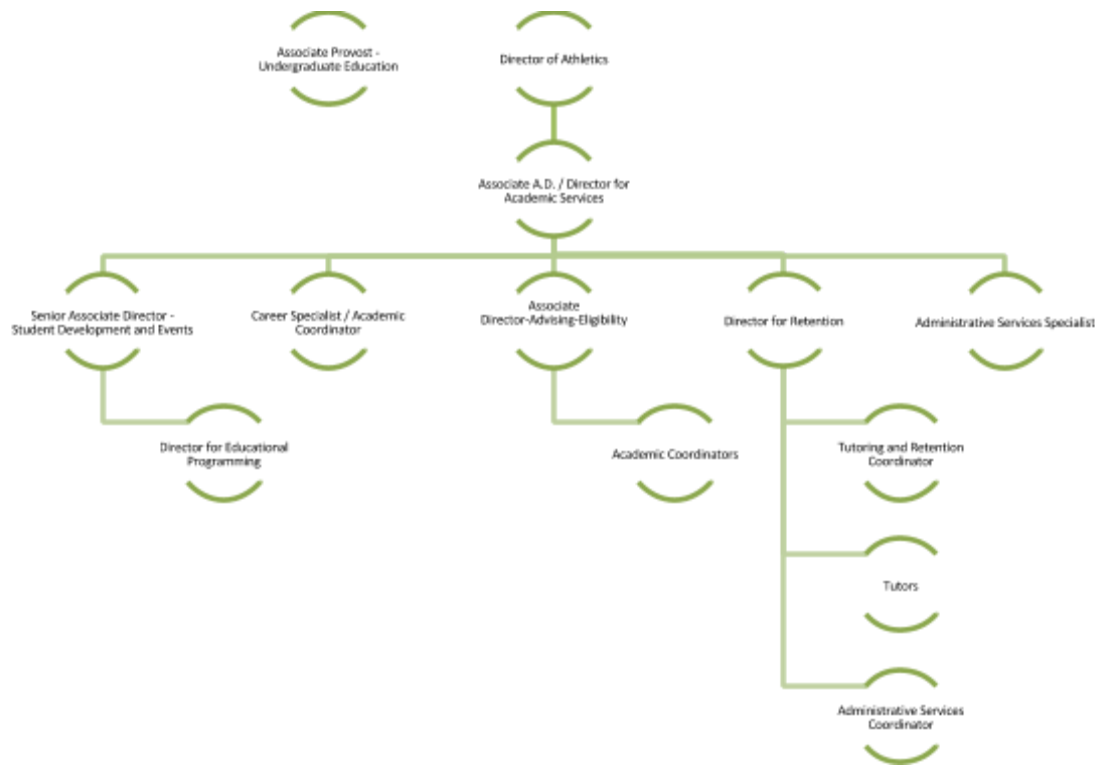
### **I. Mission and Philosophy**

The Academic Services staff assists student-athletes with making timely and satisfactory progress toward their degrees. This can include, but is not limited to academic advisement, tutorial and instructional support as well as educational programming. The office works in consultation with coaches, university staff and various athletic personnel regarding student-athlete academic matters and ensures compliance with all institutional, National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) and Big Ten Conference rules and regulations. The staff is dedicated to the success and development of Iowa student-athletes and encourages students to be active contributors to the campus community.

### **II. Facts & Highlights 2015-2016**

- UI Athletics Department NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) – 89%
- UI Athletics Department Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) - 71%
- 11 UI sports teams earned a GSR score that placed them in the top half of the Big Ten Conference within their sport
- 3 sports teams earned a perfect single year NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) score of 1000
- All sports teams have met or exceeded the NCAA standard for academic progress (i.e., Academic Progress Rate)
- Over 160 Academic All-Big Ten winners
- Collectively student-athletes complete nearly 2500 hours of required structured study hours per week
- Student-athletes participated in over 10,000 hours of community service and programming events
- 3 student-athletes received post graduate NCAA and Big Ten Scholarships
- 3.0 Overall Departmental GPA

### **III. Organizational Chart**



#### IV. Facility

The Gerdin Athletic Learning Center (GALC) is a multifaceted study environment where student-athletes work together with academic coordinators and support staff to pursue their studies in a structured learning environment. The GALC provides student-athletes with a place to study and utilize academic resources such as tutors and computing facilities. This past year, UI Athletics chose the GALC as one of several athletic facilities for a Refueling Station area. Student-athletes may select from various food items such as snacks, sandwiches and salads during regular business hours. The Refueling Stations are of no charge to student-athletes and are intended to accommodate their demanding sport and academic schedules. The 28,000 square foot building also includes office spaces, computer and study labs on the first and second floor. The third floor of the GALC, which was unfinished during initial construction of the building, is expected to be completed within the next 2-3 years and will likely include a student commons area as well as additional tutoring and study spaces.

## **V. Unit Goals for 2016-2017**

- a. Incorporate Strengths Finder into Athletic Transition Seminar
- b. Partner with Pomerantz Career Center on student-athlete Networking Fair
- c. Review and improve effective academic advisement protocols
- d. Implement task based tutoring for at-risk student-athletes
- e. Implement recommendations from the 2015-2016 PCA Academic Services review
- f. Continue to implement commitments of UI Athletics Diversity Plan
- g. Meet or exceed academic benchmarks outlined in the UI Athletics Strategic Plan
- h. Communicate changes in certification measures to coaches and student-athletes
- i. Continue to promote and brand the Hawkeye Life Program
- j. Expand individual and team academic recognition
- k. Incorporate Strengths based training into staff professional development

## **VI. Advising**

An Academic Coordinator is assigned to monitor the academic progress of student-athletes in each sport program. Academic Coordinators communicate regularly with students and sport team coaches, as well as assist with recruitment efforts of prospective student-athletes. Academic Coordinators meet weekly with all new student-athletes and designated upperclassmen. They are expected to meet once per month with every sports team to make general academic announcements.

In addition to Academic Coordinators student-athletes are assigned a university advisor in the student's designated degree program. Academic Coordinators consult with both students and university advisors to develop and maintain updated 4-Semester Plans of Study and help facilitate a student's progression toward a degree program. Students must meet with their university advisor once per semester. Coaches and athletics department staffs are not permitted to initiate contact with institutional staff members, including but not limited to the faculty, Offices of the Registrar, Admissions, or Student Financial Aid regarding a current or prospective student-athlete's academic progress. Contact is restricted to official liaisons in the Offices of Student-Athlete Academic Services and Athletics Compliance.

## **VII. Hawkeye Life Program**

Student-Athlete Academic Services provides opportunities for leadership development and growth, so that student-athletes may leave the university with self-awareness and engage as leaders in their careers and communities. These programs are offered as part of the Hawkeye Life Program

Programming opportunities are offered throughout the year. At the beginning of each academic year all student-athletes, coaches, and administrators attend the annual Student-Athlete Kickoff, which includes a presentation on a selected topic aimed at addressing student-athlete welfare. Past topics have included:

- Social Media Training
- Sexual Assault/ Misconduct Awareness
- Leadership and Character Development
- Alcohol Reduction
- Building Healthy Relationships
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Career Development

Below are six pillars of the Hawkeye Life Program:

- a. Leadership
  - i. ISAAC: Student-athlete leadership group serving as the voice of student-athletes within the department, campus, conference and NCAA. The group which meets monthly is comprised of two students from each sports team. During their monthly meetings students discuss student-athlete driven initiatives and programs as well as various topics that impact student-athlete welfare.
- b. Community Engagement
  - i. Day of Caring: In collaboration with the Johnson County United Way, student-athletes assist nearly 20 local organizations with projects and tasks. Each year nearly 200-300 student-athletes participate along with their team members in a day long service project to help the local community.
- c. Academic Success

- i. PCA Recognition: Each year Academic Services in collaboration with the Presidential Committee on Athletics recognizes students who have achieved a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Students receive a medallion and are recognized at a sporting event for their accomplishments.
  - d. Career Development
    - i. Polk County I-Club Banquet: This yearly banquet, which is held in Des Moines, senior student-athletes are recognized and provided the opportunity to network with business and political leaders. Prior to the event students are required to prepare a resume which is provided to the business leaders at the banquet.
    - ii. Resume Building: Resume building training sessions are offered through Academic Services in both the fall and spring semesters. Student-athletes utilize the HireaHawk student employment portal through the Pomerantz Career Services Center. This student management program allows students to upload their resumes, log community involvement hours and register for internships. Senior athletes may submit their resumes for review through HireaHawk prior to the Polk County I-Club Banquet.
  - e. Health and Well-Being
    - i. Counseling and Sport Performance Psychology: The UI Athletics Department employs a full-time, licensed, psychologist who offers confidential counseling and performance psychology services to current student-athletes. Mental health programming opportunities are provided throughout the year which foster mental health, well-being and promote success in educational and athletic goals.
  - f. Diversity and Inclusion
    - i. Minority Focus Group: Each month minority and international student-athletes are encouraged to participate in meetings to discuss matters pertaining to diversity and hear speakers from campus and the community. Faculty, staff and community leaders serve as mentors for students who participate in minority focus group meetings.

## **VIII. Tutoring and Retention**

Academic Services employs tutors in most general education courses and select upper-level coursework. The majority of tutors are graduate students or teachers who have experience with instruction and learning. Tutoring is free of charge to all student-athletes, managers, student trainers and spirit group members. If a tutor is unavailable for the requested subject,

the student is referred to alternative tutoring resources provided on campus. All tutoring sessions are arranged by the Academic Services staff and are held in the GALC.

The Retention Program is an academic program intended to teach student-athletes a specific academic skillset, as well as provide them with the academic tools and structure necessary to succeed in a college environment. The goal of the program is to enhance student skills in the following areas:

- **Reading**
- **Writing**
- **Mathematics**
- **Time Management**
- **Organization**

Students traditionally have been selected for the program if any of the following apply: 1) admittance through the Iowa Link Program; 2) existing or suspected learning deficiencies; 3) continued underperformance in coursework; 4) inadequate preparedness for college.

**Grades First**

Grades First is a student management database system used by the Academic Services staff to monitor and communicate with student-athletes, their coaches and instructors. Grades First is utilized to schedule tutoring appointments. All tutoring sessions are logged and monitored by Academic Services staff through Grades First.

**Tutoring Facts**

<u>Total # Student-Athletes</u>	<u># Tutors Employed</u>	<u>Average Tutoring Appointments Per Semester</u>	<u>Average # Tutoring Appointments Per Week</u>	<u>Average # of students in the Retention Program</u>	<u>Average # Appointments Per Day</u>	<u>Average Tutor Salary per Hour</u>
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**IX. Support Staff**

Academic Services employs nearly 50 part-time support staff which includes student workers, tutors, and retention staff. They provide oversight for our structured study rooms and academic support and instruction for student-athletes.

**X. Cross-Campus Collaborations**

Student-Athlete Academic Services partners yearly with departments and units on campus. The nature of those partnerships varies from year to year, however they can include student programming or professional development for Academic Services staff. Below is a brief summary of those partnerships.

Office	Program	Description	Semester
Career Services	Networking Night	Student-athletes network with over 60 employees as part of the university wide Career Fair.	Fall
Office of Student Financial Aid	Financial Literacy Program	Budgeting and financial advice seminar for student-athletes	Fall
UI Hospitals and Clinics	UI Health CARE	Career and mentoring program for student-athletes interested in health related fields	Summer

Graduate College	Graduate and Professional School Fair for Student-Athletes	Informational session about various graduate programs. Topics include admission, financial aid and support services	Fall
Women's Resource and Action Center/ Rape Victims Advocacy Program	New Student-Athlete Orientation and Kickoff/ Individual Team Presentations	Staff from both offices provide student-athletes with information about support services on campus	Fall
Center for Diversity and Enrichment	CDE Banquet	A graduating, minority, student-athlete is recognized each year at the banquet	Spring
Student Success and Retention	Tutor Iowa	Student-athletes are encouraged to seek tutorial assistance from campus resources	Fall/Spring/Summer