

Student-Athlete Academics and the Office of Academic Support

University of Wyoming Athletics

3/24/2016

**WYOMING
ATHLETICS**



TEAM OF THE WEST

A Day in the Life of a Student-Athlete

Mr. Jonathan Barnes is a sophomore Communications major and current men's basketball student-athlete. On a typical Monday, his current out of season schedule is as follows:

8:15 – 9:15 am: Mandatory team breakfast

10:00 -10:50 am: Class

11:00 – 11:50 am: Class

12:00 – 12:50 pm: Class

1:00 – 2:00 pm: Lunch

2:00 – 2:30 pm: Tutoring in the Office of Academic Support

3:30 – 4:30 pm: Weightlifting

4:30 – 5:00 pm: Individual Workouts

5:00 – 6:00 pm: Dinner

6:00 - ??? pm: Homework, class preparation, personal time



Student-Athlete Requirements

Student-athletes have unique requirements; different from most of the general student body.

- NCAA surveys show that student-athletes spend around 20-30 hours per week in sport related activity.
- Sport participation is year round, including summers and holiday breaks (in and out of season activities).
- Student-athletes miss classes to participate in their sport (last year over 400 UW student-athletes across 17 sports missed over of 3,900 classes – which equates to 5 classes per semester per student-athlete).
- Most importantly, the NCAA requires student-athletes to demonstrate they have met academic success benchmarks, which must be certified by institutional personnel annually.
 - Explained in more detail on the next slide.



NCAA Academic Standards

The NCAA has several academic benchmarks that must be met by student-athletes annually.

Percentage Towards Degree

- ✓ After 2 semesters (including summer): 24 credits
- ✓ After 4 semesters (including summer): 40% of their degree
- ✓ After 6 semesters (including summer): 60% of their degree
- ✓ After 8 semesters (including summer): 80% of their degree
- ✓ After 10 semesters (including summer): Graduation

6/18/9-27 Credit Hour Rules

- ✓ Need to pass a minimum of 6 credits in the fall, and a minimum of 6 credits in spring.
- ✓ Need to pass a minimum 18 credits between fall and spring combined (not including summer).
- ✓ Additionally, football student-athletes are required to pass 9 credits during the fall term. If they do not, they must instead pass 27 hours during the full academic year (including summer).

GPA Minimum Requirements

- ✓ After 2 semesters (including summer): 1.8
- ✓ After 4 semesters (including summer): 1.9
- ✓ After 6 semesters (including summer): 2.0
- ✓ After 8 semesters (including summer): 2.0



The Office of Academic Support (OAS)

NCAA rules allow institutions to provide academic assistance to student-athletes. At the University of Wyoming, this assistance is provided by the Athletic Office of Academic Support (OAS).

The OAS is comprised of 6 (six) full time staff and two (2) graduate assistant staff, tasked with ensuring student-athletes are set up with the right tools to be academically successful.

OAS staff work under the title of “Academic Coordinators” and are assigned specific sports/student-athletes to serve.



OAS Services and Student-Athlete Support

Support services offered by the OAS include (but are not limited to):

- Rochelle Athletic Center, Student-Athlete Computer Lab/Study Center
 - 42 computers, 2 individual study rooms, and main group study area.
 - Houses the OAS staff offices as well.
- Scheduling Assistance
 - Student-athletes must balance class schedules with sport activity. The OAS staff works with the coaches and academic departments to assist the student-athlete in building the perfect schedule!
- Degree Progress Coordination
 - As noted previously, student-athletes must demonstrate efforts to timely graduation.
- Tutoring and Mentoring
 - OAS employs a part time staff of tutors and mentors to assist. Last year, the OAS spent over \$96,000 dollars in part time work for academic support.



OAS Services and Support, Continued...

- Missed Class Coordination
 - OAS staff work hand in hand with the Dean of Students Office to notify faculty of student-athlete missed class.
 - The OAS staff also work with faculty to ensure student-athletes have the opportunity to complete missed work due to team travel.
- General Academic Support
 - OAS develops and maintains strong relationships with campus advisors and various departments to foster student-athlete learning and advise towards timely graduation.
- Life skills training (Excellence at 7220 program)
 - Student-athletes receive “real world” trainings related to career exploration, resume building, money management, personal conduct, and community service.
- Academic tracking and reporting to involved coaches
 - Weekly and in some instances, daily, reports are provided to coaches detailing student-athlete academic progress.



Summer School and Winter Session

The Athletic Department also provides funding for scholarship student-athletes to attend Summer and Winter session courses. The use of these courses has greatly increased the rate at which student-athletes graduate and has been a key element to the student-athletes' continued success.

- All scholarship student-athletes are provided the opportunity to apply their scholarship to two classes taken in either the Summer or Winter sessions or both (the percent scholarship they are on during the regular academic year would be applied to their Summer/Winter term expenses).
- Student-athletes that require more credit to ensure NCAA eligibility rules are met, may take more than the baseline two courses. For example, an Engineering major who needs more annual credits to ensure they have met their percentage of degree requirements will be approved to take additional Summer coursework as needed.
- The Athletic Department spent \$554,612.84 on 2015 Summer term and Winter term courses combined last year.



University of Wyoming Commitment to Student-Athlete Academics

It is also important to recognize the numerous other campus groups and entities that are supportive of student-athlete academics.

- Faculty and staff work with student-athletes to accommodate missed class.
- The Office of the Registrar works with the OAS to ensure student-athletes are allowed priority registration for classes.
- The various departments and programs work with the OAS to verify student-athletes are meeting NCAA degree progress requirements.
- Student support groups such as the University Disability Support Services office, Multicultural Affairs, the Dean of Students, and the Center for Advising and Career Services are instrumental in the student-athlete academic experience.



Student-Athlete Success at Wyoming

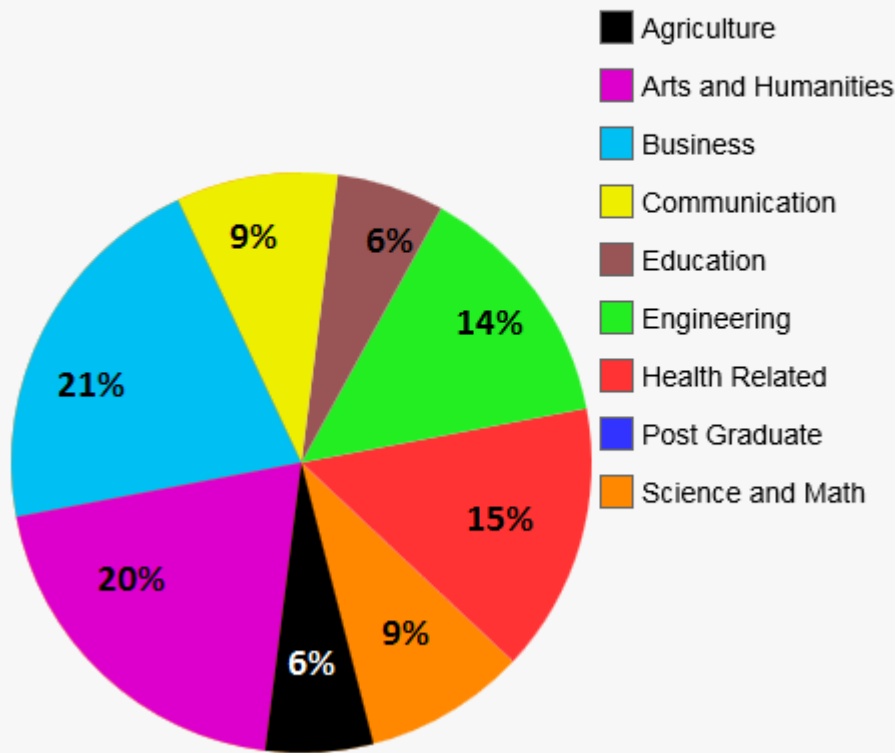
University of Wyoming student-athletes are experiencing great academic success! Current trends in academics show the results.

- At the conclusion of the 2014-2015 academic year, student-athletes earned over a 3.000 *annual* grade point average (3.05).
 - The Spring 2015 term in particular showed 233 student-athletes across 63 majors achieving a 3.000 grade point average or better!
 - Student-athlete *cumulative* grade point averages at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 academic year were .035 points higher than the general study body (student-athlete – 2.995, general student body – 2.960).
- Federal and NCAA Graduation Rate data reported at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 year shows that student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.
 - NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) reports show that student-athletes graduate at 5% higher rate than their student body counter parts.
 - Federal Graduation Rates reports show that student-athletes graduate at 8% higher rate than their student body counter parts.



Student-Athlete Major Breakdown

University of Wyoming Student-Athlete Degree Programs



Over 400 University of Wyoming student-athletes are pursuing degrees in 63 different programs!



Student-Athlete Academic Accolades

Awards for academic success reached an all time high at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 academic year!

- 153 student-athletes attained “Academic All-Conference” honors (which required earning over a 3.000 cumulative grade point average as well as participation in 50% or more of sports competitions).
- 70 student-athletes attained Conference Scholar-Athlete honors (which required a 3.5 cumulative grade point average and participation in at least one sport competition).
- In addition to conference awards, 8 student-athletes received “All-District” Academic awards and one student-athlete achieved “NCAA Academic All-American” status.
- The combined total of 232 academic awards marked an all-time high since the Athletic Department began tracking total academic awards after the 2003-2004 academic year.



NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR)

The NCAA introduced the Academic Progress Rate (APR) for the 2005-2006 academic year. The APR is now the universal measuring stick for academic success across the NCAA membership.

- The APR assigns 2 points per academic term to every scholarship student-athlete.
- At the conclusion of each term, a student-athlete must have been academically eligible and retained by the institution to earn both points.
 - Note, student-athletes failing to graduate after 10 semesters will lose one or both points.
- An APR score is derived by dividing four years worth of *actual earned* points by the number of *total points available*.
- The resulting percentage is multiplied by 1000 to demonstrate a score from 0-1000 (with 1000 being a perfect score). Each sport is assigned a score.
- The NCAA requires a minimum score of 930 (or 93% of APR points over the previous 4 years) to participate in NCAA post-season.



University of Wyoming APR Trends

At the conclusion of the 2014-2015 academic year, University of Wyoming sports teams experienced great APR success. The scores not only demonstrate the student-athlete's hard work, but also show the overall commitment to academics by the sports coaches.

- Individual sports scores were well above the 930 minimum requirement, with scores ranging from 951 through 1000.
- Two sports (Men's Golf and Women's Tennis) achieved perfect scores (1000) and received national recognition from the NCAA.
- Four sports (Football, Men's Basketball, Men's Golf, and Women's Tennis) surpassed or tied their highest APR score since the introduction of the APR after the 2005-2006 academic year.
- Men's Basketball increased its APR score for the 8th consecutive year.
- Football increased its APR for the 6th consecutive year.



Looking to the Future

The proposed expansion of the Rochelle Athletics Center is of significant impact for the Office of Academic Support.

- With the proliferation of online technology and courses, the Office of Academic Support drastically needs more computers in the study center (currently only 42 are available). The proposed expansion will add a significant number of computers to the center.
- Individualized tutoring and mentoring for student-athletes has increased each year. With the addition of new individualized study rooms, student-athletes will be able to experience more “one-on-one” time with support staff. This will also allow for more accommodations for student-athletes with diagnosed learning disabilities.
- More tables and floor space will allow the OAS to better service the over 400 student-athletes that come through the facility.



Questions?

