STUDENT-ATHLETES: ACADEMIC POLICY

Academic standards and requirements for student-athletes at Louisiana State University are no less stringent than for the general student population. Both the University and the Department of Athletics are aware that participation in varsity athletics makes exceptional demands upon a student-athlete's time and energy. Therefore, the Department maintains the Academic Center for Student-Athletes (ACSA) to provide an academic support program to help student-athletes achieve their full academic potential.

Student-athletes, however, must assume ultimate responsibility for their academic endeavors while attending the University. Each student-athlete receives a copy of the LSU Department of Athletics Student-Athlete Handbook, which includes detailed information on academic requirements, as well as academic support services, which are available to all student-athletes.

The Executive Director of the Academic Center for Student-Athletes is responsible for overall administration of the academic support program, including management of academic counseling. The ACSA staff monitors the academic progress and eligibility status of each student-athlete. The primary goal of the academic support program is to help each student-athlete take full advantage of the educational opportunities that are made available, and thereby, not only maintain athletic eligibility but also earn a degree from the University.

To accomplish this goal, the ACSA supports the academic growth of each student-athlete by providing:

- A thorough orientation to University, Southeastern Conference and NCAA rules and procedures;
- Appropriate counseling for academic advising, community service, and career planning;
- Assistance in scheduling classes and with registration;
- Workshops on such issues as study skills, computers, media relations, interview techniques, and others as needed
- Careful assessment of the student-athlete's academic skills;
- Academic tutoring and mentoring;
- Supervised study sessions.

The Cox Communications Academic Center for Student-Athletes

The Academic Center for Student-Athletes (ACSA) is located in 100 Gym Armory at the top of the hill on North Stadium Drive. The Center houses the E.R. “Bo” Campbell Auditorium, a tutorial center, a computer lab, the Deumite Resource Library, the Hall of Champions, the Academic Hall of Fame, a Directed Studies Center, the CHAMPS/Life Skills Program, the Shaquille O’Neal Career Center, the Eric Hill Communications Studio, a technology classroom, and administrative offices.
Pre-Admission Counseling

Prospective freshman and transfer students are provided with information on admissions procedures, registration, degree selection and course availability. Prior to the official campus visit, the ACSA, in conjunction with the Recruiting Coordinator, arranges a meeting with the recruit to explore the prospect's area of interest.

The ACSA provides general information on available University resources. After signing a National Letter of Intent, student-athletes are sent information regarding orientation and registration procedures.

Orientation

Prior to initial enrollment, freshman and transfer student-athletes are encouraged to attend the general registration and orientation sessions for all students. Additionally, the ACSA conducts orientation sessions for new student-athletes.

The primary purpose of the orientation session is to familiarize student-athletes with the academic demands of the University. Student-athletes are also made aware of changes and updates in Southeastern Conference and NCAA rules regarding eligibility.

Academic Planning, Counseling, and Registration

The ACSA, in conjunction with the various college counselors, informs student-athletes of requirements for prospective degrees. ACSA assists in the planning of class schedules with regard to academic standing, practice, travel and competition schedules.

To comply with the NCAA's satisfactory progress rule, each student-athlete must designate a program of study leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree at LSU by the beginning of the third year of enrollment (i.e., the fifth semester). The ACSA counselors ensure that each student-athlete meets this requirement, and then works with the student-athlete to ensure that he/she makes satisfactory progress toward the specified degree.

ACSA advisors coordinate the scheduling of classes and registration for each semester.

Class Attendance

There is a direct correlation between classroom attendance and academic success. Therefore, all coaches and Departmental administrators are expected to reinforce the necessity of regular class attendance to the student-athletes.

Class attendance is monitored by the ACSA. Professors are asked to provide progress reports on the student-athletes. The Head Coach of the designated sport is notified when a student-athlete misses classes. The student-athlete is responsible for explaining his/her actions and is instructed to contact the professor in an attempt to resolve the attendance problem.
Student-athletes should provide a copy of their sports' schedule and class excuses for team travel to their instructors at the beginning of each semester. Arrangements for taking any examinations or completing work assignments affected by team travel are the responsibility of each student-athlete. Excuse letters are provided to student-athletes by the ACSA. Excuses are based on travel approved by the Faculty Athletic Council.

Exams

When a student-athlete learns that an exam is scheduled during the time he/she will be participating in the intercollegiate athletics program, the student-athlete is responsible for notifying the instructor and making arrangements to make up the exam. The instructor should be contacted at the earliest possible date.

Dropping a Class

In order to remain academically eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics, a student-athlete's course load must not drop below 12 hours. A student-athlete who needs to drop or add a class must consult with his/her ACSA counselor, and have a form signed by their coach. The ACSA counselor explains all applicable eligibility legislation to the student-athlete. If the dropping of a class results in a student-athlete being registered for less than 12 hours, the ACSA counselor informs the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance. (See Policy 502C, Student-Athletes: Eligibility, for more information.)

Incomplete Grades

Academic work that is of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control (i.e., illness or some other emergency) is not complete, may be marked "I" (i.e., incomplete). "I" grades are given only if the instructor receives authorization from the Dean of that student's college. If the work is not completed during the next regular semester in which the student is in residence in the LSU system, prior to the deadline for adding courses for credit, the grade automatically becomes "F."

Supervised Study Sessions

Study hall is held in the Academic Center for Student-Athletes Sunday through Friday. Study hall provides a well-organized environment that is conducive to studying and tutoring. All freshmen and transfer student-athletes, as well as any others who are experiencing academic difficulties, are required to attend study hall.
Tutorial

The primary goal of the tutorial program is to provide student-athletes with academic assistance beyond what they receive in the classroom. Tutor appointments must be scheduled during CCACSA hours. There are more than 100 tutors and mentors on staff. The Tutorial Center received national certification for their tutoring and mentor program. All student-athletes have access to tutors on any subject matter. Each tutorial session follows the “Constructivist Teaching Model” which outlines objectives, work accomplished and future work to be completed. Following the tutoring session, each tutor submits a report to the Academic Advisor on the student-athlete’s preparedness, comprehension, notes, and success meeting objectives during the session.

Academic Mentors

The purpose of an Academic Mentor is to provide individualized and/or small group academic support and assistance for student-athletes, assisting them in their transition to the University, developing their study skills and habits, fostering an understanding of learning and motivation, and helping them to develop academic literacy skills. These duties include:

- Working with student-athletes on a regular basis to provide guidance in their coursework
- Help students develop good study skills and habits
- Foster an understanding of the principles of learning and motivation
- Facilitate the application of these principles to the student-athletes course work
- Provide relevant guidance, support and instruction in reading and writing for students with deficits in those areas

Study Hall

Study Hall is open to student-athletes Monday thru Thursday from 8:00 am – 10:00 pm; Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm; and Sundays from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm. There is a unique blend of study environments including a computer lab, tutorial center, private study rooms, private tutorial rooms, and a library for quiet study. An Academic Advisor or other staff member in addition to student staff, are on duty at all times to answer questions and help where needed. Students are checked for attendance and are monitored for productivity.

Textbooks

As allowed by the NCAA, the Department of Athletics furnishes required course-related textbooks to designated scholarship student-athletes for the courses in which they are enrolled. If a student-athlete is to receive textbooks as part of his/her scholarship aid, then his/her name appears on the LSU Scholarship List.
Each student-athlete is required to bring his/her class schedule and syllabi to the LSU Union Bookstore, which is located in the Union. The books are on loan and must be returned to the Union Bookstore at the end of each semester or when a student-athlete withdraws from school.

Books are to be used only by the individual to whom they are issued. Failure to return the textbooks results in a student-athlete being charged for the current value of the textbooks. In the event that a textbook is lost or stolen, student-athletes are not provided with replacement books. Student-athletes who have not cleared their textbook account will be billed the cost of unreturned books.

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