

# **Most Frequently Asked Questions About Athletic Academic Support Services At GW**

## **STUDY HALL**

### **Q. Who has to attend study hall?**

A. All freshmen student-athletes and generally any student-athlete with a GPA below 2.5 are required to go to study hall. Coaches are responsible for monitoring and organizing study hall times and locations for their teams. All student-athletes are welcome to use the Athletic Academic Support Services, including the study rooms and computer rooms during regular office hours (generally 9 am to 9 pm Mon.-Thur., 9-5 Fri., with additional hours available during exam periods).

## **ADVISING**

### **Q. When I schedule my classes will someone help me select my classes?**

A. The Academic Support Staff is always willing to help, but you should always first meet with your academic advisor in your school or academic department. They have the most up-to-date information regarding your major and your graduation plan. They are your official advisor who oversees your graduation plan, and the person you must meet with to have your registration advising hold lifted. The Athletic Academic Support Office will be happy to assist you in developing a schedule that will help you find the time to fulfill classroom responsibilities and athletic obligations.

## **OTHER SERVICES**

### **Q. What should I do if I am having difficulty in a course?**

A. First see your professor or your teaching assistant for the course. Then make an appointment with your Athletic Academic Advisor to discuss what strategies you should take to improve your academic situation. This might include developing new study skills, time management techniques, or joining a tutored study group.

### **Q. What should I do if I am having difficulty in several of my courses, or if I'm simply feeling overwhelmed with all of my academic and athletic responsibilities?**

A. Make an appointment with your Athletic Academic Advisor to discuss the difficulties you are having and to develop new strategies for achieving your goals.

### **Q. Can student-athletes have their papers typed for them for free?**

A. NO! Absolutely not. Under NCAA policies, the Athletic Academic Support Office cannot provide free typing, copying or other services that are not available to all GWU students.

### **Q. Are all of the services that you offer academic?**

A. Our office is a resource for all types of services, including an extensive career development component through the Athletic Career Track (ACT). If we do not provide a service that you need, we can help you get it from the other resources on campus.

## **ACADEMICS**

### **Q. How many years will it take me to graduate?**

A. This is dependent upon you as a student and the academic program you choose to pursue. Because of the intensive practice and competition schedules they face, some student-athletes decide to take fewer classes when their sport is in season. As a result, some students do not graduate in four years, completing their

degrees in four and a half, or five years. Summer school, although not covered by athletic scholarship, is another option for students who wish to complete their degrees in four years. All students should consult their official school academic advisor and their athletic academic advisor to design their academic semester schedules and their graduation plans so they are most compatible with practice and competition times.

**Q. Will I be notified if I am having academic difficulty?**

A. You should keep close track of your assignments and exam scores. In addition, our office will check on your performance during the semester through mid-term progress reports. We will contact you if we become aware of any academic issues that need to be addressed. However, you are responsible for knowing your academic status in each of your classes.

**Q. What if I must take a class during my scheduled practice time?**

A. As a student-athlete, it will sometimes be necessary for you to be flexible in arranging your class schedule. For example, you might have to delay taking a course until a later semester when you are not in season, or you might have to take an alternative course to fill an elective or a requirement due to athletics-related time constraints. If you must schedule a class during a practice time you must first talk with your coach to make other practice arrangements.

**CREDITS—GRADUATION PLANS**

**Q. How many credits do I have to take each semester?**

A. You must take a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester to maintain NCAA eligibility. To complete your degree requirements within four years, you must average 15 credits per semester in most academic programs.

**Q. How many credits do I need to complete (pass) each year to maintain eligibility?**

A. A minimum of 18 credit hours must be completed during the academic school year (fall and spring semesters). Also, at least 6 credit hours must be passed in each individual semester in the academic year. Summer school courses can count towards eligibility and both percentage and GPA requirements are determined by your initial semester of enrollment.

**Q. How many credit hours do I need to graduate?**

A. Most degree programs require 120 credit hours. Consult your advisor for specific major information.

**Q. What if I compete during my freshman year and I do not graduate at the end of four years?**

A. Under NCAA policies you can only compete 4 years and can only receive a scholarship for 5 years. Students should plan their graduation schedule with their advisor AND their coach. Scholarships are renewed on a year-to-year basis and not all scholarship plans include a 5 year plan.

**MAJORS**

**Q. I am not sure of my major, are there services available to assist me in making this decision?**

A. Yes. Any of the Athletic Academic Support staff members are available to meet with you to discuss various majors, their requirements, and potential career paths. Additionally, the Career Center has a variety of programs, information, and staff available to discuss majors as they relate to career choices. They also offer a "Choosing a Major" workshop that assists students in making informed decisions about their majors.

**Q. When do I have to declare my major?**

A. To maintain eligibility, all student-athletes must declare their major before the beginning of their junior year,

so it is important to complete the process by the end of your sophomore year.

**Q. Can I change my major?**

A. Yes. Many GWU students change their majors at least once, but students are recommended to make any changes early in their academic career so they graduate on time. If a student-athlete decides to change their major, they **MUST** consult their athletic academic advisor to make sure they will not be placing their NCAA eligibility in jeopardy, since NCAA rules regarding percentages required in degree programs have recently changed.

**BEFORE ARRIVING AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

**Q. What is the best way to prepare myself before becoming a student-athlete at GWU?**

A. Time is your most precious commodity. College work is much faster paced than high school, and the demands in the classroom and on the field are significant. Learning to manage your time will help ease the transition to college life. Keeping a daily planner and a monthly calendar is a great way to stay organized and to successfully manage the demands of academics and athletics.

**Q. What computer skills do I need to have?**

A. Typing or keyboarding are important, time-saving skills. Basic word processing and Internet skills are also extremely useful in many of your courses.

**Q. Do I have to attend Colonial Inauguration (Freshman Orientation) during the summer?**

A. Definitely. CI is an important step in becoming acclimated to GW. During CI you will receive your GWorld ID card, take placement exams, and meet with the advisors in your college.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID**

**Q. How does an athletic scholarship work?**

A. Scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the athletic department. See your coach with any questions regarding athletic scholarships.

**Q. Where can I find more information about other types of financial aid I am eligible for?**

A. The Student Financial Assistance Office is located in Rice Hall, 310. Their phone number is 202-994-6620. They can answer your financial aid questions and they can help you with the application process. We encourage all student-athletes and families to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This form is available from your high school counselor, or the Student Financial Assistance Office at GWU. While many people do not qualify for financial aid, it is important to have this information on file. Should your financial status change, the information on this form will greatly expedite your aid request.

Also, it is important for students receiving need or merit based financial assistance to be aware of the GPA requirements for their financial aid packages. Requirements vary but usually dictate GPA needed and minimum credits to be carried. Consult the Student Financial Assistance Office for more information.

**The Athletic Academic Support Office is located at 613 22nd St., 2nd floor.**