

# Tulane Student Services

The athletic department of Tulane University is committed to serve the academic and athletic needs of all our student-athletes. To support this commitment, Tulane's Athletics Department has created an academic support unit to assist student-athletes with their transition from high school to college. The primary objective of the Office of Athletic Student Services is to assist student-athletes in their efforts to complete their degree requirements and to develop the skills necessary to be productive citizens.

The staff of the Office of Athletic Student Services will provide the student-athlete with accurate and timely information about Tulane University requirements and procedures, and about NCAA rules and regulations. The academic advisors within the Office of Athletic Student Services will assist student-athletes in their pursuit of an undergraduate degree through the development and evaluation of their academic plans based upon educational and career objectives. Furthermore, this office will assist student-athletes in the clarification of their life / career goals. The academic staff will extend a caring, committed effort in helping our students' intellectual, cultural, physical and social development. The Office of Athletic Student Services will encourage student-athletes to take advantage of and participate in the total life of Tulane University.

The staff members of the Office of Athletic Student Services will be aware of and honor the students' legal rights to privacy of their academic record. The athletic academic counselors at Tulane University will always represent the students' academic interest when communicating with coaches, administrators, and faculty. Finally, the Office of Athletic Student Services will support the mission of Tulane University.

## Academic Advising Center

The Academic Advising Center is located on the first floor of the James W. Wilson Jr. Center. The Academic Advising Center houses a modern computer lab, the offices of the athletic academic counselors, and a quiet study area. The computer lab consists of 18 fully equipped computers with several software programs, Internet access, and e-mail capabilities.

In addition to the computer lab and staff offices, a general study area is also located in the Advising Center. This study area has individual study cubicles to allow student-athletes the privacy to study in a quiet and controlled environment. The Wilson Center also houses five individual tutor and group study rooms for Tulane student-athletes. These rooms are used during the evenings for group and individual tutoring sessions for all student-athletes.

## Academic Advising

Advising Tulane student-athletes during their pursuit of an undergraduate degree is the single most important functions of the Office of Athletic Student Services. The approach that the Office of Athletic Student Services uses to advise student-athletes involves the collaborative efforts of student-athletes, department and college advisors, and

the Athletic Student Services Staff to develop a plan of action for every Tulane student-athlete. This plan of action is tailored to the unique needs of each student-athlete, to allow them to succeed in college and in life.

Each varsity sport at Tulane is assigned an academic advisor. Each counselor understands the mission of Tulane University and the academic policies and philosophies that govern the University. Furthermore, the academic counselors are able to provide accurate knowledge of university and college degree requirements, as well as NCAA degree requirements. This knowledge includes an understanding of university and department academic courses, professor assignments, course content, and prerequisites needed for academic degrees.

Tulane's athletic academic counselors also possess skills that allow for one-on-one counseling. student-athletes should feel free to discuss their academic interests, personal needs, and crisis situations with their academic counselors. If referrals to specialists are needed, Tulane's athletics department works closely with various on-campus counseling organizations that provide specialized, professional counseling on a confidential basis.

## Tutorial Program

The tutorial program for student-athletes at Tulane University is one of the most complete and comprehensive in Conference USA. The tutoring program is designed to supplement the knowledge that students gain in the classroom, with direct one on one interaction with a tutor. The tutoring program utilizes undergraduate and graduate students, to supplement what is taught in the classroom.

Each tutor that is hired by the athletic department, is screened by the tutor coordinator to ensure that the athletic department hires only the most qualified tutors. Any scholarship athlete can request a tutor for any course. The athletic department's tutorial program is responsible for one of the largest expenses in the Office of Athletic Student Services annual budget. However, this money is wisely spent. This past year, Tulane University had 63 student-athletes named to the Conference USA Commissioners Academic Honor Roll. Furthermore, nine of Tulane University's 14 intercollegiate athletic teams have a team GPA of B- or higher.

## CHAMPS/Life Skills Program

Student-athletes are often presented with many unparalleled challenges while to balance academics and athletics at the Division I level. To meet these challenges the National Collegiate Athletic Association has developed the CHAMPS / Life Skills program to assist universities with the preparation of their student-athletes for life beyond collegiate athletics. The CHAMPS / Life Skills program is designed to help bridge the gap between participating in intercollegiate athletics and experiencing the culture

of campus life.

## Student-Athlete Advisory Board

The Student-Athlete Advisory Board (SAAB) is a program designed to help student-athletes face the unparalleled challenge of being a student-athlete at Tulane University. The Student-Athlete Advisory Board is directed by Jessica Hammond and it consists of one-two representatives from each varsity sport offered at Tulane University. These representatives serve as liaisons to the athletic department and the teams that they represent.

The board generally meets once a month, to discuss issues such as community service, campus outreach programs, and issues faced by Tulane University student-athletes on a daily basis. The Student-Athlete Advisory Board encourages all varsity athletes to become involved in programs that are developed throughout the year. Examples of these programs are coordinating the National Student-Athlete Celebration, planning the Student-Athlete Fall Picnic, working with the Special Olympics.

Student-athletes at Tulane University recognize that they are role models for youths in the surrounding New Orleans Metropolitan area. Serving as role models allow student-athletes the opportunity to give back to the greater New Orleans community. Student-athletes visit children in local hospitals on a yearly basis, while they also speak at various elementary and middle schools. Recently, student-athletes at Tulane were shadowed for a day by local elementary students, to show these students what it is like to be a student-athlete at Tulane University.

**Junior Sam Cramer has been on the Conference USA Academic Honor Roll each of the last two seasons.**

