

Division of Academic Affairs

Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) Assessment Plan

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1. History and Context

Student Athlete Academic Support Services was first established in 1984 as the Academic Counseling Program for Student Athletes. The offices were originally in the Jensen Building, but relocated to Williston Hall in 1992. The office moved again in 1994 to the Campus Life Building. The original purpose of the office was to help student athletes maintain their eligibility by taking classes that would keep them on track to graduate, and maintain the progress toward degree and credit hours required by the NCAA to compete in collegiate athletics. The office started with a three fulltime staff, and reported to the Office of Counseling and Student Development.

In 1999, the office changed its name to Student Athlete Support Services and began reporting to Athletics. The office also expanded its roll to include academic support in addition to tracking NCAA eligibility. They began holding study tables in the Holmes Student Center's Blackhawk Cafeteria and in Founders Memorial Library. The office grew to include five full time staff members. When the Convocation Center opened in 2002, Student Athlete Support Services moved their offices there, and began holding study tables in the Waldeland study room across the hall from their offices.

By August 2007, the office had changed its name to Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS), and moved into its current home, the Francis and George Wilkins Academic Support Center, located in the Yordon Center. In the Yordon Center SAASS gained access to two classrooms and a computer lab to hold study tables. Once the Chessick Practice Center was completed, SAASS began holding tutoring sessions in the Barsema Hall of Champions. During the initial move to the Yordon Center, the staff increased to six full time staff members and three graduate assistants. In 2008, SAASS transitioned from reporting to athletics to being a division under The Office of the Provost.

SAASS currently has six fulltime staff members, three graduate assistants, twenty-one tutors, and twelve study table monitors. SAASS works to not only to maintain the eligibility of the student athletes at NIU, but also to enhance their academic and personal development, while maintaining the integrity and welfare of the student athletes. SAASS provides support to 400 student athletes competing in sixteen different NCAA sports.

2. Mission, Goals and Objectives

Mission Statement

The mission of SAASS is to promote academic achievement through self-discipline, responsibility and civic leadership.

Unit Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. Provide high impact, individualized Athletic Academic Coordinating that promotes academic success, persistence, and graduation.

Objective 1.1. Maintain compliance with all NCAA DI policies and procedures (ie: APR – Athlete retention, GSR – athlete graduation, PTD, GPA, major selection, etc).

Objective 1.2. Graduate student athletes in the area of study they want to pursue while maintain a student athlete 4-year graduation rate that is greater than the rate for all NIU students

Objective 1.3. Achieve a student satisfaction rate of a 4 or 5 on a 5 point scale (Agree or Strongly Agree).

Objective 1.4. Achieve an athletic department average term GPA and cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher each semester

Objective 1.5. Have 85% of all teams achieve a 3.0 or greater term GPA and cumulative GPA each semester

Objective 1.6. Maintain 75% of all student athletes achieving a 3.0 or greater term GPA and cumulative GPA each semester

Objective 1.7. Provide resources necessary for student athletes to balance academics and athletics.

Goal 2. SAASS will manage and coordinate a quality Huskie Experience Program that helps develop student athletes, personally and professionally, while engaging in the community and on campus.

Objective 2.1. Collaborate with various university departments, community members, and alumni to create, implement, and evaluate programs and events

Objective 2.2. Provide opportunities for students to form meaningful relationships with other students, faculty/staff, alumni, and community partners.

Objective 2.3. Promote and market existing university and community events that can support the development of student-athletes.

Objective 2.4. Provide student-athletes with quality opportunities to participate in leadership not only at NIU, but in the community, Mid-American Conference (MAC) and NCAA.

Goal 3. SAASS will provide tutoring and mentoring programs that maintain NCAA compliance while supporting students who need assistance in developing study skills and mastering course content.

Objective 3.1. Tutors will demonstrate meaningful and effective interactions with students they tutor.

Objective 3.2. Tutors will have adequate training and will be knowledgeable in academic integrity as well as SAASS, University, and NCAA policies.

Objective 3.3. Academic coordinators will monitor tutoring and mentoring programs to ensure policies and procedures are being followed.

3. Assessment Methods

EXPLANATION OF ASSESSMENT METHODS TABLE

Assessment Method	Explanation			
	Description	Assessment-Level Target ^a	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible
ATHLETIC ACADEMIC COODINATING				
Eligibility Data	Evaluated and reviewed at multiple points in a semester (pre-enrollment, post-enrollment, end of semester, end of academic year, etc.)	In line with NCAA targets		Academic Coordinators,
End of year graduation data	Looking at graduation rates for Student-Athletes and comparing those rates from IR data.	4 year rate that is greater than the NIU student population rate	At the end of each academic year	Director
Student Athlete End of Season Assessment	Student-Athletes are sent a survey at the end of their competition season. Included is an evaluation of SAASS and the programs offered. This evaluates satisfaction with the department as well as programs and resources being provided to students.	4 or 5 on a 5 points scale (Agree or Strongly Agree)	At the end of each competition season	Sport AD provides the data to the Director
Semester and Cumulative GPA	GPA information is collected, evaluated, and reviewed at the end of the fall and spring semesters.	A combined Semester and Cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or higher achieved each semester 85% of teams achieving a combined term GPA and Cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or higher. 75% of all student-athletes achieving a term GPA and Cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or higher.	End of Fall and Spring Semester	Director

Assessment Method	Explanation			
	Description	Assessment-Level Target ^a	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible
HUSKIE EXPERIENCE				
Huskie Experience Programming Database	A database with organizations to partner with, events on campus and in the community to promote, and	Each year the number of programs and opportunities bring provided and promoted to students should increase.	Collected and updated as information becomes available. Will be evaluated before each semester.	Huskie Experience Coordinator
Helper Helper Application	A software program that calculates Community Service hours for the department and for individual teams. Also organizes and provides opportunities in one, organized platform for students, coaches, and support staff.	5,000 – 10,000 community service hours for the year	Throughout the semester hours are evaluated. Final numbers are finalized the week before finals week.	Huskie Experience Coordinator
Student Athlete End of Season Assessment	Student-Athletes are sent a survey at the end of their competition season. Included is an evaluation of the Huskie Experience program and events, opportunities, and resources offered.	4 or 5 on a 5 points scale (Agree or Strongly Agree)	At the end of each competition season	Sport AD provides the data to the Director
TUTORING AND PEER MENTORING				
Tutoring Observations - Formal	Formal observations are completed for each tutor, mentor, and monitor once a semester.	4 or 5 on a 5 points scale (Agree or Strongly Agree) for each item on the observations	Once a semester for each tutor, mentor, and monitor employed by SAASS	Tutorial Coordinator
Tutoring Report Reviews	Each morning academic coordinators pull tutoring reports from the evening before. They review the notes to make sure policies are being followed and tutoring sessions are meaningful and productive.	That each session is meaningful and productive. In addition, each session is adhering to SAASS, University, and NCAA policies.	Collected and reviewed daily	Academic Coordinators

Assessment Method	Explanation			
	Description	Assessment-Level Target ^a	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible
Tutoring Observations – Informal	Informal observations are completed daily for tutors, monitors, and mentors.	All tutors, mentors, and monitors are adhering to SAASS, University, and NCAA policies.	Daily for each tutor, mentor, and monitor.	Tutorial Coordinator/Academic Coordinators
Tutoring Post-Training Assessment	After tutors, mentors, and monitors go through the official training with SAASS and the NIU Intercollegiate Athletic Compliance Department, they are given a post training assessment to demonstrate their knowledge on Academic Integrity, SAASS, University, and NCAA policies.	All tutors, mentors, and monitors must obtain 100% on the post training assessment to be able to start work.	Training takes place at the beginning of each semester, or as new tutors, mentors, and monitors are brought on to the staff.	Tutorial Coordinator
<i>Note.</i> ^a Assessment-level target is the level of performance the unit hopes to see on the assessment (e.g., 85% percent of participants demonstrate X, Y, and Z).				

ASSESSMENT METHODS-BY-OUTCOMES MATRIX

Assessment Method	Goal		
	1. Athletic Academic Coordinating promoting academic success, persistence, and graduation	2. Huskie Experience Program that helps develop student athletes, personally and professionally, while engaging in the community and on campus	3. Tutoring and mentoring programs that maintain NCAA compliance while supporting students who need assistance in developing study skills and mastering course content.
Eligibility Data	F, S, D		
End of year graduation data	S, D		
Student Athlete End of Season Assessment	S, I	S, I	
Semester and Cumulative GPA	F, S, D		
Huskie Experience Programming Database		F, D	
Helper Helper Application		F, S, D	
Tutoring Observations - Formal			F, I
Tutoring Observations – Informal			F, I

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Tutoring Post-Training Assessment			S, D
Tutoring Report Reviews			F, I