

## **Academic Advisement Plan for Athletes at East Georgia State College**

Adopted by President's Cabinet May 23, 2017

Adopted by Academic Policies and Curriculum Committee: June 5, 2017

Adopted by Faculty Senate: June 16, 2017

Approved by President: June 17, 2017

### **Academic Advisement of Athletes**

NACADA publishes advising tips for special-interest groups including student athletes. NACADA has a [Advising Student Athletes Commission](#) to share ideas and best practices for advising student-athletes. Since East Georgia State College (EGSC) student athletes are first and second-year students, the [15 Tips on the Basics of Advising Student Athletes](#) may be of value to all advisors of student athletes.

The following Academic Advisement Plan for Athletes will be effective upon adoption by President's Cabinet. The Plan will be implemented for the academic advisement of athletes no later than Fall 2017. The Academic Advisement Plan for Athletes is a component of the East Georgia State College Academic Advisement Plan

At East Georgia State College (EGSC) student athletes are assigned a specific faculty advisor depending on their declared major. All athletes declaring a general studies or core curriculum major are assigned specific faculty members who have core curriculum advisees. All students, including student athletes, will follow the general policies and procedures for academic advisement at EGSC. The Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) is responsible for assigning advisors to those athletes who declare a major supported with a program at EGSC. If a major is declared which is not supported by an EGSC program, the VPAA may assign the athlete to an academic advisor in a discipline closely related to the declared major. The student may also be designated as a core curriculum student and be advised by selected faculty members who advise core curriculum students. The Registrar is responsible for making the official advisor assignment in Banner based on the decision of the VPAA.

Students who wish to change majors and advisors should go to the Record's Office dynamics forms page to complete the online [Change of Transfer Pathway and/or Advisor Assignment Form](#). Because of the nature of advising a specialized group of students like student athletes, the VPAA or their designee must approve such a change of advisor.

The success of athlete academic advising is critical for the academic integrity of campus sports programs. Faculty who have been assigned athletes for advisement have a responsibility to understand the role of the academic advisor and the coaches and athletic director in advising of the student athlete. Academic advisors are the front line for preserving the integrity of the advising process. Special training will be made available at the beginning of the fall term to assist the academic advisors to provide the best possible academic advisement for athletes and maintain integrity. To facilitate the training of these special academic advisors and coordination of academic advising for athletes, a member of the faculty will be appointed by the President to be the Coordinator of Athletic Academic Advisement.

The academic advisor must maintain a focus on maximizing the academic accomplishments of athletes, given their athletics commitments, rather than on maintaining their athletic eligibility. A

focus on eligibility will lead athletes towards unchallenging courses and majors. Eligibility standards are usually different than those academic standards set by EGSC for the academic success of students. Academic advisors may encounter pressures to minimize the academic challenges athletes face in order to ensure continuing eligibility and meet graduation-rate expectations. The academic advisor should be familiar with the eligibility standards, and much like financial-aid standards, not use this familiarity to make judgments and recommendations which might impact the success of the student. Certification of eligibility will be made by the Registrar. The academic advisement process must be structured in ways that will focus on motivating athletes to use their academic opportunities to maximize personal growth, intellectual skills, and career success.

The athletic academic advisement program should strive for academic integrity, a core mission of all academic support services; integration of the student athlete into the student body, culture, and community; scrutiny of the athletic advising process to assure the interests of the student athlete are followed; effective transition of the student athlete to the college environment; accountability for the quality and impact of the athletic advising based on regular assessment of the program; and consistency of the athletic advising program in comparison to the colleges' overall academic advisement program.

### **Guidelines for the Academic Advising Centers and Faculty Advisors for Advisement of Athletes:**

1. All advisors who advise athletes will report directly or indirectly to the office of academic affairs. Faculty advisors should report to the Dean of the School which houses the particular major. The primary control over academic advising must rest with the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
2. Advising is an academic function, and it belongs primarily to the academic side. The campus academic affairs office must be accountable for the quality and integrity of the advising provided all its students. For this reason, all Deans and the Coordinator of Athletic Academic Advisement will report to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
3. Academic affairs should be responsible for and involved with personnel decisions, supervise policies and procedures for academic advising of athletes, and have authority in budget decisions concerning academic advising.
4. Academic advising should operate with the strong support of the Director of Athletics, in order to combat potential pressures to consider eligibility before academic accomplishment, and to motivate athletes to make the most of academic opportunities. The Director of Athletics and all head coaches will meet periodically with the Coordinator of Athletic Academic Advisement to discuss and evaluate athletic academic advising.
5. A single advisor shall not serve as the sole advisor assigned to work with a specific team. Multiple advisors should share team advising duties to eliminate the potential for the authority and independence of academic advisors to be undermined. Multiple academic advisors improve the conditions for retention of academic integrity.
6. The influence of coaches over academic advising should be strictly limited and academic advisors should have the primary responsibility in the athlete's selection of an academic plan of specific courses.

7. The advising structure that will best ensure support of the colleges' academic mission and best guard against efforts to focus on eligibility over accomplishment will represent the best practice for each campus. In all cases, ultimate accountability for the integrity of academic advising must lie with the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
8. Advisors of athletes need to become familiar with progress-toward-degree requirements for athletes they are advising. While no priority in class choices is given, the advisor should be made aware of scheduling conflicts with practice and games.