



Grambling State University Athletics
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT
March 2012

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

- Provide daily Study Hall/Tutorial Sessions through the Athletic Academic Center and through other academic facilities conducive to learning.
- Assist in providing academic guidance counseling to all student-athletes
- Provide Challenging Athletes Minds for Success (CHAMPS) Life Skills Seminars which focus on five different areas: Academics, Athletics, Personal Development, Career Development and Community Service.
- Coordinate Mandatory Student-Athlete General Assemblies that promote athletic-related informational purposes only. Also, we meet with every student-athlete for progress towards degree (to keep them abreast of how they stand academically in receiving their degree).
- Provide official classroom university excuses for all teams in-season. Via our Gradesfirst Software, we provide travel excuses to the professors of record and notifications to the student-athletes.
- Create various enhancement tools (progress performance reports, tutorial request forms, etc.) to enhance the academic success of our student-athletes.
- Mobile Study-Hall was implemented 2011 Fall Semester. This Study Hall is provided during team travel. When a team is away from the campus two or more days, study hall is

mandatory and must be shown as being held on the team's itinerary.

- Our Academic Enhancement Staff has grown from one (1) to three (3). We have added a Coordinator of Academic Enhancement and a Learning Specialist. The Coordinator of Academic Enhancement focuses on advising the student-athletes on progress towards degree (monitoring and tracking), educating on Academic Progress Rate (APR), and the day to day operations of the Office of Academic Enhancement. The Learning Specialist focuses on working with our "At-Risk" student-athletes and the coordination of individual tutoring for our student-athletes.

ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT SERVICES PROVIDED TO COACHING STAFFS AND STUDENT-ATHLETES:

- Compilation of periodic academic reports depicting the academic standing of all student-athletes to review his/her eligibility status throughout the academic year (beginning of each semester, mid-semester and final-grade reports disseminated to all head coaches). Progress reports may be viewed via the Gradesfirst Software by our coaching staffs and our student-athletes. In the 2011 Fall Semester, one hundred forty-two student-athletes made either the President's List, Dean's List or Honor Roll.

*The Athletic Academic Center

Originated in January 2009, The Athletic Academic Center was created to enhance and promote the potential for each student-athlete to meet and exceed high academic standards and be successful throughout their matriculation at Grambling State University. The academic realm includes progress towards degree completion while continuing to increase graduation and retention rates. The Athletic Academic Center is a viable part of the Athletics Departments and is located in an environment conducive to learning (Men's Gymnasium - West Wing/Main Suite).

The Academic Center is comprised of academic support services to include a computer lab and the Gradesfirst software initiative to support the Academic

Enhancement Study Hall/Tutorial Enrichment Policy. This software encompasses technological advancements to allow a “state-of-the-art” tracking system beneficial to the entire university.

Gradesfirst was incorporated in August 2009 and was re-implemented during the Fall 2011. We have verified increased academic performance and higher student-athlete grade point averages since the incorporation of this software. The featured enhancement benefits include the following:

1. Electronic progress reports
2. Real-time study hall management (monitor daily study hall attendance)
3. **Mobile Study Hall**
4. Text messaging
5. Tutor management
6. Appointment scheduling
7. Assignment tracking
8. Student class schedules

The Study Hall/Tutorial Enrichment Policy was revised 2011 Fall and requires the mandatory attendance of all student-athletes regardless of grade point average. All incoming student-athletes are required to schedule eight (8) hours of supervised study hall sessions per week. Continuing student-athletes' requirements are as follow:

Academic Tier

Gold Tiger

- 3.0 and above
- Must meet with Athletic Enhancement staff twice a year
- Must attend one Life skills seminar
- Must complete 2 hours of study hall per week

Black Tiger

- 2.9-2.5
- Must meet with Athletic Enhancement staff once a month
- Must attend one Life skills seminar
- Must complete 4 hours of study hall per week

White Tiger

- 2.4-2.1
- Must meet with Athletic Enhancement staff twice a month
- Must attend two Life Skills seminars
- Must complete 6 hours of study hall per week

Cubs

- ALL INCOMING FRESHMEN & TRANSFERS, and 2.0 and below
- Must meet with Athletic Enhancement staff weekly
- Must attend four Life skills seminars
- Must complete 8 hours of study hall per week

ACADEMIC PLANNING & RECORD KEEPING

SAs will be encouraged to meet with their academic advisors in their department of major regularly. The Office of Academic Enhancement will also keep records to monitor progress towards degree.

Our main focus is to assist all student-athletes in reaching their academic potential and their ultimate goal of graduating. Our target group is the student-athletes with a GPA of 2.00 or below.

NOTE: Items in red were implemented 2011 Fall Semester