

Student-Athlete Academic Services

In Pursuit of Academic Excellence * Personal Development * Community Service * Career Development

27 First Team Academic
All-Americans

51 NCAA Post Graduate
Scholarship Recipients

8 Winners of the NCAA Today's
Top Six Scholar Award

12 National Football Foundation
Scholar-Athletes

8 Recipients of the NCAA
Silver Anniversary Award

3 Rhodes Scholars

2 USC Valedictorians

**...WHO'S
NEXT?**



www.usc.edu/saas

Mission Statement

The USC Student-Athlete Academic Services (SAAS) Program is committed to providing the necessary support to assist all student-athletes in reaching their full potential academically, personally, and professionally. The SAAS Program is fully integrated with the University. Our program includes academic advising, career development, community service, tutorial programs, and learning specialists, which are all aimed at promoting a philosophy of individual responsibility so as to encourage each student-athlete to value their educational experience. In providing such services, student-athletes will be afforded the opportunity to develop the skills needed to persist towards graduation, become leaders within the community, and lead successful and productive lives.

Personal Development and Welfare

Personal Development and Welfare is committed to the growth of the total student-athlete. We appreciate the commitment student-athletes make to their academic and athletic goals and the time they invest in these pursuits. Personal Development and Welfare aims to support student-athletes in these endeavors and encourage them to pursue a well rounded college experience. Through targeted programming Personal Development and Welfare helps student-athletes maximize their personal potential. We aid student-athletes in their transition into higher education, equip them with the skills necessary to meet challenges faced in college, and help them prepare for life after graduation.

Commitment to Academic Excellence

- A.) **Degree Progress & Graduation Monitoring** – SAAS Academic Counselors are responsible for monitoring the academic progress of each student-athlete to promote effective communication between the student, academic counselor, coaches, and faculty members. Through a proactive system of intervention, the counselors are able to highlight potential academic challenges and celebrate academic successes. All information gathered encourages the student-athletes to take ownership of their academic program and make appropriate decisions regarding their future. Academic progress updates are also provided to the coaches on a daily basis to ensure that the coaching staff is fully aware of how their students are progressing in their courses and how their progress may affect their eligibility status.
- B.) **Priority Scheduling** – All student-athletes are given priority scheduling to allow them the opportunity to register for the courses they need at the times requested and enable them to stay on a steady graduation plan.
- C.) **Academic Progress Reports** – Several times throughout the semester, letters are sent out to all instructors seeking academic progress information on each student-athlete. Instructors provide the counselors with information on each student's current grade, attitude, attendance, and participation in the course.
- D.) **Study Hall** – Study hall is a proctored, quiet study space available to student-athletes Sundays from 12:00-9:00pm and Monday-Friday from 8:00am-9:30pm in the McAlister Academic Center. While at study hall, students can work independently on their coursework in the reading room, work in cooperative learning groups monitored by a learning assistant, or take advantage of the walk-in tutoring available in a variety of subject areas. Required study hall attendance is strongly recommended for all freshmen and a selective group of upperclassmen. Schedules are individually designed around each student's daily class schedule and team practice times.
- E.) **Tutorial Services** – All student-athletes have access to free tutorial services provided by qualified undergraduate and graduate students in a variety of subject areas. Tutoring is offered either on a one-to-one basis or in a group setting. Upon the completion of each tutorial, the tutor fills out a feedback form that evaluates the student's comprehension of the course material, provides suggestions for learning strategies, and outlines new grade information.
- F.) **Learning Specialists/Assistants** – These individuals work one-on-one with student-athletes to expand their academic skills and further develop essential college level learning modalities. Some areas of focus include time management, reading, writing, note taking, test taking, and critical thinking strategies. In addition, special attention is paid to transitioning freshmen and student-athletes with learning disabilities. During each session, the student's progress is evaluated and modifications are made to his/her academic support program with key contacts made with subject area tutors, academic counselors, and any necessary coaching staff. In this way, each student working with a Learning Specialist/Assistant has a tailor-made program shaped throughout the semester as each goal is accomplished and any special needs arise.
- G.) **SAAS Computer Lab** – Located in the McAlister Academic Center, the SAAS Computer Lab is open exclusively to student-athletes. Each computer in the lab is connected to the internet and contains a host of software programs. The lab is open on Sundays from 5:30-9:30pm and Monday-Friday from 8:00am-9:30pm.
- H.) **Travel Laptop Program** – While away from campus for competition, student-athletes can check out a laptop computer to take with them to complete assignments or papers on the road.
- I.) **Academic Awards and Student Recognition** – In celebration of academic successes, academic achievement honors are awarded to those student-athletes who excel in the classroom. These honors include Student-Athlete of the Month, Academic All-Pac 12, Academic All-American, NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships, and many more.

Commitment to Personal Development

- A.) **Trojan P.O.W.E.R. Program: “Promoting Overall Wellness, Excellence & Responsibility”** – The P.O.W.E.R. program is a mandatory lecture series that all student-athletes must attend each year. These lectures feature keynote speakers who discuss common student-athlete issues, such as academic achievement, emotional health, substance abuse, sexual responsibility, diversity, decision making, and leadership. These lectures are intended to be educational, interactive, and thought-provoking and are intended to inspire self-reflection and be a catalyst for conscious decision making, positive action or change.
- B.) **Trojan Athletic Senate (TAS)** – TAS is a student-athlete organization whose purpose is to serve as a line of communication between the student-athletes and athletics administration, design programs that encourage academic achievement, social responsibility, health promotion and general awareness, encourage student-athletes to become more involved in campus and community projects, and promote better communication and cohesion between teams.
- C.) **Health & Wellness Committee** - The goal of the Health and Wellness Committee is to establish a more holistic approach to working with student-athletes and to collaborate in departmental efforts to meet student-athlete needs. Health and Wellness Committee meetings are held monthly to discuss issues and concerns facing student-athletes from all areas (i.e., academics, athletics, emotional health and physical health, etc.) The committee consists of staff members from the various Athletics Department offices, including SAAS, Personal Development and Welfare, Administration, Athletic Medicine, Counseling, Strength and Conditioning, two Head Coaches, and a TAS representative.
- D.) **Mentor Program** - The Mentor Program partners current student-athletes with seasoned college graduates in an attempt to offer mentees emotional support as they navigate through the test and trials of life as a student-athlete at USC. The goal of the program is to couple students with a "neutral" person who has a wealth of life experiences and an objective perspective with hopes that they will develop a long-lasting relationship that inspires personal and professional growth.

Commitment to Career Development

- A.) **PHED 165a** – The purpose of this seminar is to facilitate the successful academic and personal transition from high school to college of each student. This seminar will provide an introduction to and exploration of specific topics important to academic and personal success.
- B.) **PHED 165b** – This seminar is designed to assist sophomore and junior student-athletes prepare for a career after athletics. As part of the class students will create a resume, conduct an informational interview, and attend university career events.
- C.) **Career Month** – Each spring the athletic department hosts a series of career development events including graduate school workshops, an alumni panel, and a career fair.
- D.) **Career Planning & Placement Center (CPPC)** – The CPPC is the one-stop resource for career services on the USC campus. Whether students need assistance with selecting a major, looking for an internship, resume development, mock interviews, or pursuing a professional position, the CPPC is an excellent resource. Each semester, the CPPC hosts a variety of career fairs for students in all majors and disciplines. The CCPC also maintains the “Trojan Network”, an alumni database connecting students with alumni to gain information about career fields, companies, and organizational cultures, and the “ConnectSC”, a job database containing listings for full-time, part-time as well as internship, summer, and work study positions.

USC SAAS Staff

- Dr. Magdi El Shahawy* Senior Associate Athletics Director, Director of SAAS
- John Mosbach* Associate Director
Academic Counselor for Men's Football
- Dr. Denise Kwok* Assistant Director, Director of Directed Studies Program
Learning Specialist
- Toni VanEck* Assistant Director, Personal Development and Welfare
Academic Counselor M/W Volleyball
- Monica Morita* Director of Student Services
- Jennifer Amran* Assistant Director of Student Services
- Heather Bell* Academic Counselor for Men's Football (offense), Women's Track, Women's Basketball
- Cory Buckner* Academic Counselor for Men's Basketball
- Kam Klauer* Academic Counselor for M/W Swimming & Diving, and Men's Track
- Whitney Rotrock* Academic Counselor for M/W Golf, M/W Tennis, and Women's Crew
- Kyle Ross* Academic Counselor M/W Water polo, Men's Football (offensive line) and Baseball
- Mimi Butler* Learning Specialist
- Dr. Jennifer Castro* Learning Specialist
- Susie Coquette* Learning Specialist, Academic Counselor for Women's Soccer
- Alan Hong* Computer Systems Administrator
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