

Student-Athlete Academic Services

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

27 First Team Academic
All-Americans

50 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.

Trojan Life Skills Program

The mission of the Trojan Life Skills Program is to maintain intercollegiate athletics as an integral part of the campus educational program and the student-athlete as an integral part of the student body. With this in mind, SAAS has developed the life skills program to enhance the quality of the student-athlete experience within the university setting. Specifically, our life skills program is aimed at addressing the student-athlete as a "whole person", not just a student or an athlete. This is done through our Trojan P.O.W.E.R. Program, Take C.H.A.R.G.E. Workshops, Health & Wellness Committee and Mentor Program. All of these combined demonstrate our commitment to the personal development of all our student-athletes.

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 5:30-9:30pm and Monday-Friday from 8:00am-9:30pm in the McAllister 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 McAllister 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 10, 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 composed of four events 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.) **Take C.H.A.R.G.E. Workshops: “Challenging & Helping Athletes Reach Goals through Education”** - Take CHARGE workshops are voluntary workshops facilitated by SAAS staff, Counseling Center staff, University personnel or experts in that respective field. Similar to the P.O.W.E.R. lecture series, these workshops are opportunities for student-athletes to become further educated on topics and issues that facilitate personal development. Topics include health and nutrition, how to manage stress and anxiety, study skills, how to apply for a job, internship or graduate school, knowing the business of professional sports, and many more. These workshops typically occur one time per month.
- C.) **Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC)** – SAAC 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.
- D.) **Health & Wellness Committee** - The purpose of the Health and Wellness Committee is 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 the Life Skills Coordinator, Senior Women’s Administrator, Director of SAAS, Head Athletic Trainer, Head Strength and Conditioning Coach, two Head Coaches, and the SAAC President. Meetings are held one time per semester or as needed. The goal of the Health and Wellness Committee is to establish a more holistic approach to addressing student-athlete issues and to collaborate departmental efforts to meet student-athlete needs.
- E.) **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 165** – In conjunction with the USC Career Planning and Placement Center, this course is designed to provide student-athletes with the basic skills and resources needed to decide on a major and assist in the job search process. At the completion of the course, student-athletes will have a better understanding of how to succeed in an interview, develop a resume, and establish a networking contact.
- B.) **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 “USC monsterTRAK System”, a job database containing listings for full-time, part-time as well as internship, summer, and work study positions.

USC SAAS Staff

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<i>Jason Pappas</i>	Assistant Athletics Director, Senior Associate Director of SAAS and Academic Counselor for Men's Basketball and Football (Offense)
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<i>John Mosbach</i>	Academic Counselor M/W Track, Cross Country and Football (Defense)
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