

**ASSESSMENT REPORT 2005-06  
ATHLETIC ACADEMIC ADVISING OFFICE  
UNIVERSITY STUDIES  
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**Unit:** Athletic Academic Advising Office (AAAO) The Athletic Academic Advising Office is part of University Studies. The Athletic Academic Advising Office is the primary advising office for all new and continuing student-athletes. It also coordinates initial and continuing athletic eligibility for the Department of Athletics.

**Individual Completing Report:** Mark Gefert, Coordinator of Athletic Academic Advising.

### ***Assessment Overview***

The Athletic Academic Advising Office's established five goals for assessment. Since the AAAO is a pivotal office for retention and graduation of student athletes at all NCAA Division I collegiate institutions, the goals and objectives set help quantify success in the areas that the NCAA and Cleveland State view as critical for the retention and graduation of that population.

Athletic Academic Advising is perpetually collecting data for NCAA reports that deal specifically with retention and graduation. Based on input from the advising staff, several changes were made with regards to one of the assessment instruments and the criteria used to measure Assessment Goal #2.

### **Assessment Instruments:**

The Athletic Academic Advising a number of sources for data collection and comparison.

1. NCAA Eligibility Reports: This source provides all student-athlete data for satisfactory progress and retention
2. Cleveland State NCAA Squad Lists: This source also provides all student-athlete data for satisfactory progress and retention
3. NCAA Academic Performance Program: This source is also used for retention, good standing and progress towards degree for student-athletes
4. Cleveland State University's Institutional Research Office: Data for the general student body for retention and graduation.
5. Athletic Academic Advising Program Assessment Evaluations: Collected data to measure student and coach satisfaction for the AAAO.

### **Data Analysis**

## **Goal #1: To assure that every student-athlete is in compliance with all academic rules and regulations of the university and the NCAA.**

Outcome measures:

### **1. 100% of all newly recruited student-athletes will be notified regarding placement tests and Athletic Academic Advising procedures.**

#### *a. Research completed.*

We collected all recruit names from respective team head coaches. We sent introductory letters to all recruited scholarship students and recruited walk-ons.

We also collected final squad lists from the NCAA Compliance Officer

#### *b. Findings*

We found that we contacted 100% of newly recruited student-athletes for 2004-2005 academic year.

### **2. 100% of freshman student-athletes will attend one of the university's summer orientations and the Athletic Departments annual Welcome Back Orientation.**

#### *a. Research completed.*

In collaboration with University Studies staff, Athletic Academic Advising Offices advised all incoming recruited freshmen student-athletes during the regularly

scheduled orientations

Findings.

95% student athletes met with Athletic Academic Advising staff in two different venues to cover orientation topics; “Official” visits and orientations.

**3. 100% of the student-athletes will be advised regarding university, college and major requirements and are counseled on course selection.**

a. *Research completed.*

100% (78) of student athletes (recruited and non-recruited) were oriented and counseled on course selection and university, college and major requirements and how failing to meet these criteria could result in their athletic ineligibility.

Findings.

Proof of the above was their full-time registration record at the beginning of the fall term of 100% of all active student-athletes.

**4. 100% of all student-athletes will be registered in a minimum 12 semester hours.**

a. *Research completed.*

Full-time registration is checked weekly by the generation of weekly reports by the Registrar.

b. *Findings.*

At the time of certification, according to Registrar’s records all S/A’s were registered full-time (12hrs)

## **Goal #2: To assure that all student-athletes maintain athletic eligibility over their entire tenure at Cleveland State University.**

Outcome measures:

**1. Confirm that 100% of student-athletes meet the NCAA and University guidelines for good standing.**

a. *Research completed*

“Good Standing” is checked by the Athletic Certification Committee and documented in yearly certification forms.

b. Findings.

According to 2004-2005 Eligibility Forms 98% of returning student-athletes met good standing requirements. Those who did *not* meet good standing requirements at the time of certification *can* when finishing unresolved grading issues or can satisfy them at the completion of the fall term.

**2. To assure that 100% of student-athletes meet NCAA requirements for “Satisfactory Progress”**

a. *Research completed*

“Satisfactory Progress” is checked by the Athletic Certification Committee and documented in yearly certification forms.

b. Findings.

According to 2004-2005 Eligibility Forms 99% of 200 returning student-athletes met satisfactory progress requirements. Those who did *not* meet satisfactory progress requirements at the time of certification *can* when finishing unresolved grading issues or can satisfy them at the completion of the fall term. Two were certified after a waiver was accepted by the NCAA.

**3. Confirm that 100% of student-athletes meet degree completion requirements.**

a. *Research completed*

“Degree completion” requirements are checked by the Athletic Certification Committee and documented in yearly certification forms.

b. Findings.

According to 2003-2004 Eligibility Forms 99% of 183 returning students met degree completion requirements. Those who did *not* meet degree completion requirements at the time of certification *can* when finishing unresolved grading issues or can satisfy them at the completion of the fall term.

**4. Meet 100% of tutoring and academic support service requests.**

a. *Research completed*

Tutoring request forms are turned into AAA offices. There is no formal request system for support services. Academic advising and counseling is pre-scheduled by the student with AAA.

b. Findings.

According to request forms all requests were assigned tutors.

### **Goal #3: To assure that the retention rates of student-athletes meets or exceeds university retention rates.**

Outcome measures:

**1. The calculation of freshman student-athlete retention rates into their sophomore year meets or exceeds the retention rates of the general student body.**

a. *Research completed.*

*Athletic squad lists for 2000-2001, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-05 were utilized for analysis.*

*Institutional research supplied university data*

b. Findings

- i. In the 2000-2001 academic year Cleveland State University brought in 43 recruited freshmen student athletes who received some athletic aid. 87% of that group (38) returned for 2001-02 compared to 66% for the general student body.
- ii. In the 2001-2002 academic year Cleveland State University brought in 48 recruited freshmen student-athletes who received some athletic aid. 84% of that group (44) returned for 2002-2003 compared to 63% for the general student body.
- iii. In the 2002-2003 academic year Cleveland State University brought in 37 recruited freshmen student-athletes who received some athletic aid. 96% of that group (35) returned for 2003-2004 compared to 59% for the general student body.
- iv. In the 2003-2004 academic year Cleveland State University brought in 37 recruited freshmen student-athletes who received athletic aid. 85% of that group returned for 2004-05 compared to 59% of the general student body.

**2. The calculation of junior student-athlete retention rates meets or exceeds the retention rates of the general student body.**

*Research completed.*

*Athletic squad lists for 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004 were utilized for analysis.*

*Institutional research supplied university data.*

Findings

- i. 72% of the 2000-2001 cohort (31) returned for the 2002-03 academic year.  
48% general student-body
- ii. 67% of the 2001-2002 cohort (32) returned for the 2003-04 academic year.  
47% general student body
- iii. 87% of the 2002-2003 cohort (37) returned for the 2004-05 academic year.  
42% general student body
- iv. 65% of the 2003-2004 cohort (37) returned for the 2005-06 academic year.

(University data is not available)

**3. The calculation of senior student-athlete retention rates meets or exceeds the retention rates of the general student body.**

*Research completed.*

*Athletic squad lists for 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002- 2003, 2003-2004 were utilized for analysis. Data was unavailable from Institutional Research.*

Findings

- i. 68% of the 2000-01 cohort (29) returned for their senior year; '03-'04
- ii. 66% of the 2001-02 cohort (31) returned for their senior year; '04-'05
- iii. 70 % of the 2002-03 cohort (26) returned for their senior year; '05-'06
- iv. (Not available for 2003-04 cohort.)

## **Goal #4: To Assure that 100% of recruited student-athletes who complete their eligibility at Cleveland State graduate.**

Outcome measures:

**1. Track and monitor completion of degree programs.**

*a. Research completed:*

Analysis of eligibility data from Registrar and Athletic Compliance was used.

*b. Findings:* According to fall '05 eligibility meetings 100% of all 2002-03 recruited student-athletes met NCAA percentage of degree requirements. 100% of all 2003-04 recruited student-athletes met NCAA percentage of degree requirements. 100% of all 2004-05 recruited student-athletes met NCAA percentage of degree requirements.

**2. Upon completion of their final year of eligibility each remaining, 100% of retained recruited student-athletes will be within one year (24hrs) of graduating; if they haven't already graduated.**

*a. Research completed.* Current recruited populations studied included 2000-01 & 2001-02, who are currently finishing their fifth year. All within this cohort were within 24 hours of graduation.

*b. Findings:*

68% (29 of 43) of the 2000-01 cohort were retained into their senior year; eight of the 29 graduated in their fourth year. 13 graduated in the fifth year of school. 21 of 29 graduated within 5 years. The remaining seniors are within 24 hours of finishing their degrees. 66% (31 of 48) of the 2001-02 cohort were retained into their senior year; all are within 24 hours of degree completion. Seven of the 31 graduated in their 4<sup>th</sup> year. Of the remaining seniors six graduated in fall of their fifth year; 16 are finishing their degree programs this spring and summer. Two transferred to other schools.

**3. Calculate four, five and six year graduation rates of recruited student-athletes.**

*a. Research incomplete. Sources used:* NCAA graduation reports for 2000-01; 2001-02; 2002-03 & CSU Athletic Squad Lists. Cohorts were the recruited student-athletes from 1994-95; 1995-96; 1996-97; 1997-98. A review of the 1994-95; 1995-96; 1996-97; 1997-98. cohorts will show the graduation data for 4 and 5 year rates.

*b. Findings and anticipated findings:* The NCAA studies graduation results for Cleveland State indicates that CSU graduates its student-athletes at a lower rate than the national average. (60%) However they do graduate at nearly twice the rate of the general student body at Cleveland State University. We anticipate improvement from 1998 through all subsequent recruited classes.

**Goal #5: To assure that responses to the student-athlete satisfaction survey average between 4.0 and 5.0 as a grand mean. To assure that responses by coaches to a satisfaction survey average between 4.0 and 5.0 as a grand mean.**

**Administer 19 question program evaluation to student athletes.**

**Administer 14 question program evaluation to coaches.**

Outcome measures:

**1. 95%-100% of all student-athletes will be given a “satisfaction” survey notified regarding Athletic Academic Advising function and procedures.**

*Research completed.*

We administered student satisfaction surveys to all competing student-athletes during their competitive seasons.

b. *Findings*

Between 95 and 100% of all students taking the program evaluation scored each question between 4 and 5.

A Grand Mean for all questions was between 4.0 and 5.0.

**2. 100% of all Coaches will be given the coach’s version of the program evaluation form covering, recruiting visits, Clearinghouse, NCAA rules, liaison activity, orientations and academic support in general.**

*Research completed*

12 of 16 coaches responded to our evaluation.

b. *Findings.*

Responses to all questions resulted in an average between a 4.0 and 5.0.

A Grand Mean also was between a 4.0 and 5.0

**Narrative:**

**Goal #1: To assure that every student-athlete is in compliance with all academic rules and regulations of the university and the NCAA.**

**A. 100% of all newly recruited student-athletes will be notified regarding placement tests and Athletic Academic Advising procedures.**

**B. 100% of student-athletes will attend one of the university’s summer orientations and the Athletic Departments annual Welcome Back Orientation.**

**C. 100% of the student-athletes will be advised regarding university, college and major requirements and are counseled on course selection.**

**100% of all student-athletes will be registered in a minimum 12 semester hours unless they are in the final term of their degree and it requires fewer than 12.**

It is important that each student-athlete be aware of their ongoing responsibility to comply with NCAA rules and regulations as well as the university rules and regulations that directly affect NCAA bylaws.

Through the above tasks, 100% of student athletes, whether a walk-on or recruited student-athlete, are informed of their responsibilities. All students are notified early in the summer of the University’s Orientation Program and the preparation necessary for that orientation.

Throughout the summer, all new freshmen and transfers are met by Athletic Academic Advising and notified of all requirements they are expected to meet for the duration of the academic stay at CSU. These include university, college, major and NCAA criteria.

The Welcome Back orientation, conducted by the Department of Athletics, gives Athletic Academic Advising another opportunity to inform *new* students of their academic responsibilities that affect academic performance and athletic eligibility. That orientation includes reviews of procedures for tutor requests, study hall requirements, satisfactory progress, good standing as well as general reviews of other NCAA rules and regulations.

Athletic Academic Advising, in collaboration with the Freshman Orientation Coordinator, has arranged a system for orienting and advising all freshmen student-athletes utilizing the orientations throughout the summer. We regard that as a notable improvement that will incorporate our student-athletes into the general student body.

Athletic Academic Advising codes 100% of student-athletes with *negative* service indicators. They cannot register or add/drop without seeing an Athletic Academic Advisor. Weekly reports from the Registrar indicate which student-athlete may be less than full-time (12 hrs). Student-athletes cannot compete or practice without being full-time students.

Goal #2: To assure that all student-athletes maintain athletic eligibility over their entire tenure at Cleveland State University.

**Confirm that 90-100% of student-athletes meet the NCAA and University guidelines for good standing .**

**To assure that 90-100% of student-athletes meet NCAA requirements for “Satisfactory Progress”**

**Confirm that 90-100% of student-athletes meet degree completion requirements.**

**D. Meet 100% of tutoring and academic support service requests.**

All the above outcomes are confirmed by the Athletic Eligibility Committee, which meets prior to each semester. The Athletic Eligibility Committee consists of an Associate Registrar, (Muriel Robinson), the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) (Dr. Sue Ziegler), University Studies Athletic Academic Advisors, (Mark Gefert & Winnie Lane) and the Athletic Compliance Officer Christine Moeller).

The week before each semester, but no later than the first day of the semester, the committee convenes to review each team’s members to determine the athletic eligibility of each student-athlete.

Those rules and regulations that determine ongoing athletic eligibility are;

#1.... a student must be in “good” academic standing as determined by the university and it’s interpretation of what privileges are removed when a student is not in good standing. #2....a student-athlete must meet NCAA requirements regarding “Progress Towards Degree”.

#3....a student-athlete must meet NCAA requirements for percentage of degree completion requirements.

Not addressed in the above system are the NCAA requirements for **freshman eligibility** for Division 1 (D-1) competition. Each freshman must register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. That organization makes the determination of athletic eligibility for all freshmen, nationally.

The NCAA allows each university to determine how “**Good Standing**” is interpreted. Those rules and regulations that determine continuing eligibility for extracurricular activities are what affect the eligibility for athletic competition.

NCAA Bylaws require 100% of student-athletes to meet benchmarks in the progression of yearly and cumulative academic progress. The NCAA **satisfactory progress** bylaws cover yearly hour completion (24). How those 24 hours are earned throughout the year. **[(75/25); No more than 25% (6) the 24 yearly hours can be earned in summer school]**. Which hours count and during which year they are countable; **[(Remedial), i.e., Remedial hours are only countable for satisfactory progress during the first year]**.

When considering degree completion percentages, all remedial hours must be removed from calculations. [The percentage of degree completion benchmarks. (40-60-80).] At the end of four *full-time* semesters a student-athlete must have completed a minimum of 40% of their chosen degree; at the end of six semesters, 60%; eight semester 80%.

Athletic Academic Advising addresses all requests for academic support; usually tutorial service requests. Because of poor tutor pay there is a scarcity of students willing to put in the time working as a tutor. However the AAAO has met 100% of all requests using the university tutoring program.

Goal #3: To assure that the retention rates of student-athletes meets or exceeds university retention rates.

**The calculation of freshman student-athlete retention rates meets or exceeds the retention rates of non-athletes.**

**B. The calculation of sophomore student-athlete retention rates meets or exceeds the retention rates of non-athletes.**

**C. The calculation of junior student-athlete retention rates meets or exceeds the retention rates of non-athletes.**

The retention rates for student-athletes are higher than that of the general student body at all levels. Athletic squad lists which show all student-athletes competitive for specific teams were utilized when compiling the data. The years utilized were 2000-01; 2001-02; 2003-04; 2004-05. Only those recruited freshmen student-athletes who received athletic money in any amount were utilized in these calculations. Walk-ons are of an unknown commodity. The coach has had no previous knowledge of the student prior to their attempt at making their team.

The university retention rates for students from first to second year ranges from 56-66% from 1996 through 2005. **Student-athlete rates** range from 84% to 96%;

The university retention rate for students from second to third year ranges from 56-66% from **Student-athlete retention rates** for students from second to third year ranges from 64% to 71%.

**Student-athlete retention rate** for the 2000-01 cohort going into the 4<sup>th</sup> year is 64%.

The majority of those students who do not return, transfer to other institutions in good academic standing.

**Goal #4: To Assure that 100% of recruited students-athletes who complete their eligibility at Cleveland State graduate.**

**Track and monitor completion of degree programs.**

Upon completion of their final year of eligibility each remaining, recruited student-athlete will be within one year (24hs) of graduating; if they haven't already graduated.

**Calculate four, five and six year graduation rates of recruited student-athletes.**

The tracking of Student-athlete progress towards degree and graduation begins from initial enrollment at CSU.

NCAA Bylaws require 100% of student-athletes to meet benchmarks in the progression of yearly and cumulative academic progress. The NCAA **satisfactory progress** bylaws cover yearly hour completion (24). How those 24 hours are earned throughout the year. **[(75/25); No more than 25% (6) the 24 yearly hours can be earned in summer school]**. Which hours count and during which year they are countable; **[(Remedial), i.e., Remedial hours are only countable for satisfactory progress during the first year]**. When considering degree completion percentages, all remedial hours must be removed from calculations.

[The percentage of degree completion benchmarks. (40-60-80).] At the end of four semesters a student-athlete must have completed a minimum of 40% of their chosen degree; at the end of six semesters, 60 %; eight semester 80%.

Those student-athletes who remain at CSU are within 24 credit hours of degree completion unless they have changed their majors or added a second major or minor.

The NCAA graduation rate reports are produced every year using a 6 cohort for degree completion. It can be assumed that since the student-athlete six year graduation rate is nearly double that of the university, that the four and five year rate is equally high.

In summarizing:

In general student-athletes perform better than the general student body in all areas of academics. Given the fact that student-athletes miss numerous class days due to travel and competition, are required to practice 20 hours a week and professors reduce course grades due to absences, at the end of fall 2005 they had a cumulative GPA of 3.03 and graduation at a rate nearly twice that of the university.

Goal #5: To assure that responses to the student-athlete satisfaction survey average between 4.0 and 5.0 as a grand mean. To assure that responses by coaches to a satisfaction survey average between 4.0 and 5.0 as a grand mean.

Administer 28 question program evaluation to student athletes.

Administer 14 question program evaluation to coaches.

The student-athlete evaluation of the AAAO consists of 28 questions covering counseling / advising performance, study hall and tutoring services.

All student-athletes have negative service indicators placed on their registrar's record. They cannot register or add/drop without seeing an Athletic Academic Advisor. Since all student-athletes must meet with the AAAO for advising, they all probably have opinions as to the services provided and the demeanor in which they are provided. The evaluations cover comfort levels in the advising sessions, information provided, accuracy of the information, assistance in understanding of university functions along with advising towards degree. Evaluations also ask for opinions regarding tutorial assistance as well as study hall. [All freshman and continuing students below a 2.25 cumulative GPA are required to attend study hall 4 hours a week.]

All responses had an average score between 4.0 and 5.0 on the Likert Scale. The average or Grand Mean was 4.375

The coaches' evaluation of the AAAO consists of 14 questions. Each head coach was given an evaluation covering those services that the Athletic Academic Advising Office provides, while assisting him or her with the operation of each of their programs. Those services cover NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse, academic evaluations, on-campus recruiting contacts and eligibility issues that can negatively impact a team unless handled in a timely fashion.

Coaches rely on the Athletic Academic Advising Office for timely reports on initial and continuing eligibility issues that affect their team. Whether it's as simple as an evaluation of a high school transcript or as complex as an analysis of a multiple-school international transfer. NCAA rules must be applied accurately to ensure compliance with their bylaws. Athletic Academic Advising certifies all official visit requests and meets all recruited high school prospects on visits to campus. The AAAO also updates coaches as to the possible problems that certain students may be having with their academics that can affect eligibility and renewal of athletic related aid.

Responses to all questions averaged between a 3.5 and 5.0 on the Likert Scale. The average of Grand Mean was 4.65.