SECTION 1: THE BACKGROUND

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis is an urban research and academic health sciences campus, with 18 schools which grant degrees in over 200 programs from both Indiana University and Purdue University. IUPUI was created in 1969 as a partnership by and between Indiana and Purdue Universities, with IU as the managing partner. With over 29,000 students, IUPUI is the second-largest campus in the Indiana University state wide system.

IUPUI's mission is to advance the State of Indiana and the intellectual growth of its citizens to the highest levels nationally and internationally through research and creative activity, teaching and learning, and civic engagement. By offering a distinctive range of bachelor's, master's, professional, and Ph.D. degrees, IUPUI promotes the educational, cultural, and economic development of central Indiana and beyond through innovative collaborations, external partnerships, and a strong commitment to diversity.

IUPUI sponsors an NCAA Division I athletic program consisting of 16 sports – 7 for men and 9 for women. A total of 230 student-athletes participate in the intercollegiate athletic program at IUPUI.

The mission of intercollegiate athletics at IUPUI is to provide athletics programs that contribute in an effective and meaningful manner to the achievement of the broader goals of the university. The athletics programs should aspire to enhance the total educational experience of students, promote the matriculation and retention of students, advance the reputation of IUPUI, and cultivate pride, spirit, loyalty and support of students, alumni and the community at large.
SECTION 2: THE GAME PLAN

To address the unique academic advising and support needs of student-athletes, the IUPUI Chancellor created an Athletics Academic Advising Office reporting directly to the Chancellor’s Office. The Chief of Staff to the Chancellor has responsibility for the day-to-day supervision of this office. Staffing for this office consists of the Associate Athletics Director for Academics, two academic advisors, and an academic services coordinator for the study table program.

Advising Model/ Delivery System

The Athletics Advising Office utilizes a “split model” with athletics advisors advising student-athletes who are in University College. Student-athletes who have been admitted into a school are advised by a member of the “A Team.” The A Team is composed of an academic advisor in each IUPUI school who is specifically designated to advise student-athletes. These advisors receive special training regarding NCAA eligibility rules and work closely with the Associate Athletics Director for Academics to ensure student-athletes are making progress toward their degrees and are meeting all NCAA eligibility requirements.

Mission of the IUPUI Athletics Advising Office

Academic advising helps student-athletes realize their academic goals, personal potential and career aspirations. The mission of the IUPUI Athletics Advising Office is to challenge and support student-athletes, promote student-athlete learning and encourage intellectual and personal development of student-athletes.

Goals

- To assist student-athletes in clarification of life and career goals.

- To provide an environment in which student-athletes can learn about the full array of educational opportunities available to them at IUPUI.

- To engage student-athletes in the development of suitable educational plans and guide them toward selection of a major by the beginning of their sophomore year.

- To encourage student-athletes to become self-directed learners.

- To identify and provide support to students who may be developing academic problems.
• To use campus resources effectively to assist student-athletes with career planning, study strategies, personal development, etc.

• To provide academic support programs that address the cognitive and affective learning needs of at-risk students.

• To provide information and assistance to student-athletes regarding degree requirements, course selection, career planning, campus resources, eligibility, registration, study skills, tutoring, etc.

• In conjunction with academic authorities at IUPUI schools, to evaluate student-athlete progress toward their degree to maximize opportunity for continuing eligibility and graduation.

• To use continued examination and assessment to improve student-athlete and Athletics Academic Support Program performance.

Student Learning Outcomes

Through the academic advising and support experience at IUPUI, student-athletes will:

• Demonstrate the ability to make effective decisions regarding their career and academic goals.

• Develop an educational plan for successfully achieving their goals and select courses each term to progress toward fulfilling that educational plan.

• Select a major by the end of their freshman year.

• Understand the academic requirements of their degree program and school as well as NCAA eligibility requirements and assume responsibility for meeting those requirements.

• Utilize academic advising services provided by the A Team member in their school.

• Utilize campus resources and services to assist them in achieving their academic, personal, and career goals.

• Understand the need to foster faculty relationships.

• Understand the importance of being an active learner.

• Develop skills associated with being a self-regulated learner.

• Understand the importance of time management and its relationship to success.

• Graduate in a timely manner based on their educational plan.

In addition, the Athletics Academic Support Program has the following annual goals related to NCAA measures:
• Four-year Academic Progress Rate (APR) for each team of 925 or higher.

• Four-year APR of 950 or higher for the overall athletics program.

• Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of 80% or higher for the overall athletics program.

SECTION 3: Programs to Support Academically At-Risk Student-Athletes

► Intrusive advising

Underprepared and at-risk students often come to the institution with limited knowledge regarding how to be a college student. Garing (1993) recommends development of an intrusive advising relationship with these students which requires “structured strategies of intervention by advisors at specific times throughout the students’ semesters in college” (p. 97).

A program of intrusive advising is utilized by the Athletics Advising Office for all underprepared and at-risk IUPUI student-athletes including:

✓ Weekly meetings with every student-athlete below a cumulative 2.60 GPA. Athletics academic advisors, fifth-year student-athletes, or mentors from the Bepko Learning Center meet with the student-athletes to discuss assignments, papers, tests, projects, etc. The advisor or mentor monitors deadlines, works with the student-athlete to develop and follow an academic plan, assists the student-athlete in developing good time-management skills and ensures the student-athlete is completing assignments and preparing for tests appropriately. The advisor or mentor also reviews results of tests and assignments with the student-athlete and determines if any additional departmental or campus resources (e.g. tutoring, disability testing, etc.) need to be utilized.

✓ Student-athletes with a GPA of 2.60-2.99 may be required to attend a weekly academic meeting at the discretion of their athletics advisor.

✓ Select freshman student-athletes are required to attend a weekly meeting with a Bepko mentor based on a review of their high school academic record.

► Student-athletes with learning disabilities

Students who enter college with a learning disability often find that the strategies they used in high school to compensate for their disability are no longer sufficient in college (Getzel and McManus, 2005). In addition, some students will enter college unaware they have a learning
disability. They may have been able to compensate for their disability in high school but the disability manifests itself when the student is faced with the more demanding requirements of the college curriculum. Academic advisors must be aware of the warning signs of a learning disability so they can direct the student to the appropriate resources for testing. Advisors must also work with the resources on campus to ensure students with disabilities are served.

The Athletics Advising Office coordinates services with two campus resources for any IUPUI student-athlete who has a disability or may have an undiagnosed disability:

- **Testing at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**
  
  Staff psychologists at CAPS provide assessment services for Learning (LD) and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity (ADHD) Disorders. Evaluation for LD or ADHD begins with an interview with a staff psychologist during which information is requested regarding academic, psychological, medical, developmental and family history. At the conclusion of the interview, a recommendation is made regarding further testing.

- **Adaptive Educational Services (AES)**
  
  Adaptive Educational Services coordinates support services and academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. AES ensures students with documented disabilities have equal opportunities to pursue a college education, while also ensuring a high level of academic integrity is maintained. AES understands students with disabilities face unique challenges in college and their services are designed to maximize potential and minimize disability.

**Undecided student-athletes**

Gordon (2006) asserts that all students need career advising – those who are truly undecided as well as those who have decided on an academic major. The students who have declared a major may have made that decision with very little information regarding the degree or the career options associated with the degree, or with unrealistic expectations about their abilities to complete the degree program.

The Athletics Advising Office provides assistance to undecided IUPUI student-athletes or student-athletes in need of career services in the following ways:

- The IUPUI Athletics Department has partnered with The AfterSport Group, a company that works with Athletic Directors, Academic Counselors and Life Skills Coordinators to implement a program designed to prepare current and former student-athletes to enter the workforce. Through a series of workshops and individual coaching sessions offered at no charge to IUPUI student-athletes, the AfterSport Group provides tools that assist them with transitioning from student-athletes to prepared, confident, career focused employment candidates.

  **Program Focus:**
  
  - Career mapping
  - Resume building
  - Business etiquette
  - Interviewing
  - Networking
  - Job placement
A partnership has been created with the IUPUI Academic & Career Development Office so student-athletes have the opportunity to investigate career paths prior to choosing a major. Components of this partnership include:

- A contact person in ACD designated specifically for student-athletes.
- Incorporation of ACD into student-athlete orientation.

Freshman student-athletes who exhibit a high level of indecision regarding their academic major by at the end of their first semester are advised to take UCOL-U 210, Career Connections. This is a one-credit course designed to help students develop and execute a personalized plan of major and career exploration.

SECTION 4: Additional Support Services for Student-Athletes

Learning Community

- All IUPUI freshman students are required to enroll in a learning community to facilitate their successful transition to college. A Themed Learning Community (TLC) is a group of courses developed around a common theme. Each TLC consists of 25 students who co-enroll in 2-4 linked academic courses and a First Year Seminar course. Faculty across the linked courses work together to provide a comprehensive perspective about higher education and create a program that helps support incoming first-year students.

- The Student-Athlete TLC, designed for first-semester University College student-athletes, consists of four courses - Introduction to Psychology, Speech, English Composition I and a First-Year Seminar. The faculty, an advisor, a student mentor (who is typically a student-athlete), and a librarian collaborate to foster the skills necessary for success in balancing academic and athletic responsibilities. Student-athletes learn to study together, collaborate on projects and depend on each other for support in and outside of the classroom.

- Student-athletes who have been admitted to an IUPUI school are typically enrolled in a learning community conducted for majors in the school.

Study table program

- All freshman student-athletes are required to participate in a minimum of 6 hours of study table activities per week during their first academic year at IUPUI. These students have the option of fulfilling their study hours via a combination of any of the following activities:
• Study hall in University Library monitored by Athletics Advising staff Sunday-Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
• Tutoring sessions (e.g. Writing Center, Math Assistance Center, Speaker’s Lab)
• Meetings with professors
• Meetings with a Bepko Learning Center mentor
• Attendance at Supplemental Instruction
• Other activities approved by the Athletics Advising staff

When student-athletes are traveling for away-from-home competitions, team study sessions may also be used to fulfill study table hours.

Student-athletes obtain signatures on a “Paw Pass” from professors, tutors, etc. when participating in study table activities. The forms must be turned into the Study Table Coordinator by Sunday for students to obtain credit for their hours the previous week. A report of the hours completed by each student-athlete is sent to head coaches on a weekly basis.

Freshman student-athletes who were admitted to IUPUI conditionally (i.e. attend the Summer Success Academy) are required to participate in a minimum of 8 hours of study table activities per week. Athletics Advising staff and/or head coaches may increase the number of hours for any individual student-athlete.

Athletics Advising staff will identify any upper-class student-athletes who must participate in the study table program and their number of required hours based on their IUPUI academic record.

➤ **Tutoring**

✓ Student-athletes utilize the same tutoring services on campus that are available for all students including:
  • Math Assistance Center
  • Writing Center
  • Speaker’s Lab
  • Chemistry Resource Center
  • Psychology Resource Center
  • Biology Resource Center
  • Supplemental Instruction provided by the Bepko Learning Center

✓ Private tutoring can be arranged for a student-athlete in some circumstances.

➤ **Peer mentoring at Bepko Learning Center**

✓ Peer mentors at the Bepko Learning Center are students who have been successful in specific courses and have been recommended by the faculty to serve as peer mentors. Student-athletes who need additional help with study skills, time management, critical thinking skills, etc. may be required to meet weekly with a peer mentor at the Bepko Learning Center.
► Academic training workshops

- Workshops to teach student-athletes study strategies in areas such as time management, note taking, test preparation, learning from textbooks, etc. are conducted each Friday during Summer Session II.

► Referral to campus resources

- The Athletics Advising Office works collaboratively with other campus departments to develop a network of support services for student-athletes. Examples of these campus resources include:
  - Adaptive Educational Services
  - Admissions
  - Bookstore
  - Bursar's Office
  - Student Support Services
  - Counseling & Psychological Services
  - Office of International Affairs
  - Multicultural Center
  - Registrar's Office
  - Testing Center
  - University College
  - Office for Women

► Progress reports

- The Athletics Advising staff sends out progress reports to each student-athlete's faculty twice per semester. The information from these reports is shared with the student-athletes' coaches and the Athletics Advising staff addresses any issues from the reports with the student-athlete.

► Regular communication between athletics advisor and coach to discuss the progress of all student-athletes on the team

- Academic meetings between the head coach and the team's athletic advisor take place following the receipt of progress reports each semester. Additional meetings are scheduled as warranted.

► Priority Registration

- Student-athletes have been granted the privilege of Priority Registration. Priority Registration allows student-athletes to register for classes one day before registration opens to other IUPUI students. This privilege is given to student-athletes so they can register for course sections that will not conflict with their practice schedules.
✓ Student-athletes must utilize this privilege appropriately. This includes making an advising appointment in a timely manner, asking the advisor to send written confirmation of the appointment to the Athletics Advising Office, checking for holds that would prevent the student from registering, and enrolling in courses on the designated Priority Registration day.

✓ Incoming freshman student-athletes are also permitted to register prior to attending summer orientation. The Athletics Advising staff will contact each incoming freshman student-athlete with registration and course information. Incoming student-athletes should register as soon as possible because classes start to fill up once summer orientation sessions for all students begin.

► Summer orientation

✓ Gerdy (1997) maintains that incoming student-athletes should participate in a university-wide orientation program so the students will receive an accurate picture of “student life and the wide diversity of campus opportunities available to all students, including student-athletes” (p. 65). All incoming IUPUI student-athletes (freshmen and transfers) attend New Student-Athlete Orientation in the summer which combines programming specific to student-athletes in conjunction with IUPUI summer orientation. Information pertinent to incoming student-athletes is presented and each student-athlete receives academic advising from the Athletics Advising Office in addition to attending the same orientation program that all incoming IUPUI students attend.

► Jaguar Jump-Off

✓ Carodine, Almond, & Gratto (2001) state that “institutions of higher education have an obligation to prepare athletes for life beyond collegiate athletic competition” (p. 22). To that end the IUPUI Athletics Department sponsors a CHAMPS/Life Skills program which is designed to support each IUPUI student-athlete’s development in five areas: academics, athletics, personal development, career development and community service. The Jaguar Jump-Off is part of the CHAMPS/Life Skills program for IUPUI student-athletes. It is a mandatory program for all student-athletes conducted before the first day of classes in the fall and includes speakers on a variety of topics such as:

- Gambling
- Drugs and alcohol
- Supplements
- Hazing
- Social networking
- Stress management
- Nutrition

✓ The morning half of the Jump-Off is a continuation of New Student-Athlete Orientation for all incoming student-athletes and includes presentations on the following topics:

- Academic honesty
- Financial aid policies & procedures
CONCLUSION

Richard Light (2001) states that "good advising may be the single most underestimated characteristic of a successful college experience" (p. 81). The ultimate goal of the Athletics Advising Office is for every IUPUI student-athlete to leave IUPUI with a degree. This Academic Playbook is designed to provide the guidance and support to reach that goal.

REFERENCES


