OUR VISION IS SIMPLE:
WE PROVIDE
GAMEPLANS
FOR THE
FUTURE.
We are committed to providing our student-athletes with the academic tools necessary to be successful in the classroom, but also prepare them for their future. Our goal is for each and every student-athlete to leave MSU with not only a degree, but a plan for employment or postgraduate study.
Academic Services

We provide each student-athlete with a comprehensive and individualized academic support plan. The guidance, resources and support that each student-athlete receives enhance their development both academically and personally.

Academic Coordinators
Teams are assigned a sport specific Academic Coordinator who monitors each student’s academic success from freshmen orientation to graduation.

This is accomplished through weekly academic meetings, implementing time management and learning strategies and organizational skills.

Learning and Retention Services
Undergraduate student tutors are provided to assistance in a wide variety of academic areas, In addition, graduate students serve as Learning Assistants to enhance the overall learning experience by providing additional support when needed.

Class Scheduling
Academic coordinators work in conjunction with college advisors to arrange classes around practice and competition schedules.
**Degree Completion**
Every student-athlete is given the tools to leave Michigan State University with a meaningful degree. Academic Coordinators will provide degree specific requirements and guidance to meet this goal.

**Eligibility**
In weekly meetings, Academic Coordinators monitor eligibility and academic progress to ensure student-athletes are on track for eligibility and graduation.

**Campus Connections**
Academic Coordinators serve as an avenue to connect student-athletes with staff and faculty within various majors and fields.
Personal and Career Development

Personal and career development is based on a three-part process consisting of career exploration, development and placement. Some of the tools used to accomplish this include:

Career Interest Inventories
These tests help student-athletes determine career and major interests specific to MSU.

Workshops
Career workshops are held frequently to address resume and cover letter writing, interviewing skills and networking.

Financial literacy
A nationally recognized presenter interacts with student-athletes about saving during college, credit card statistics and weighing the financials of job opportunities.

Career Fairs and Student-Athlete Career Mixer
In addition to the University’s Career Gallery, SASS hosts a Career Mixer strictly for student-athletes. This informal mixer is encouraged for all student-athletes regardless of year in school or major.

Spartan Career Network
The Spartan Career Network connects student-athletes with employers, former student-athletes and MSU alumni all over the world who are seeking individuals for full-time jobs and internships.
Community Outreach

The Community Outreach program allows student-athletes to gain valuable experience, learn new skills and develop a sense of involvement that will stay with them throughout their life. Numerous outreach opportunities are arranged by the Student-Athlete Development Program including:

**Student-Athlete Food Drive**  
Each December student-athletes collect non-perishable foods from the surrounding neighborhoods to donate to the Greater Lansing Foodbank.

**March is Reading Month**  
Student-athletes read to elementary age students.

**Teams for Toys**  
Each team adopts a family, raises money and purchases, wraps and delivers gifts to underprivileged area families.

**Shoot for a Cure**  
Charity events are held to raise money to fight children’s cancer.

**Relay for Life**  
A team of varsity athletes participate in the walk to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

**Requested Outreach**  
Student-athletes can participate in various opportunities throughout the year such as DARE graduations, assembly speakers and celebrity readers.
Leadership Opportunities

SASS implements a variety of programs and workshops to help in leadership development. These include:

Branded A Leader Program (BAL)
BAL is a highly interactive leadership program that teaches critical decision-making skills to student-athletes while challenging them to be responsible for their decisions and those of their teammates.

Alcohol and Drug Seminars
Participants will be challenged to consider social norms, personal reasons for use, and how it can compromise decision-making ability and athletic performance while also empowering the group to be proactive bystanders with teammates.

Social Networking
Highlights the costs and benefits of using social media, and provides information to enable safe, healthy use while developing communications that are consistent with the participants’ character/brand.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)
Two representatives are chosen from each team to serve on this committee that is a direct link to the athletic administration. The group meets once a month to discuss issues pertinent to the lives of student-athletes.
Student-Athlete Multicultural Program

The program is designed to allow all student-athletes the chance to participate in events that celebrate and express diversity.

Multicultural Advisory Board

Student-Athletes who participate in the Multicultural Program have the opportunity to serve on the board that plans events and discusses relevant issues for minority and international students.
MANDY CHANDLER  
Associate Director  
SMITHMIR@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.432.2943

ELLIOTT DANIELS  
Director of Learning and Retention  
DANIE128@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.355.8506

TODD EDWARDS  
Director of Academic Services  
EDWARDS@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.432.4099

JEREMY FLYNN  
Assistant Director  
FLYNNJER@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.353.4686

ANGELA MONTIE  
Director of Student-Athlete Development  
HOWARDAN@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.355.2205

JIM PIGNATARO  
Director of SASS  
PIGNATARO@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.355.2204

KRISTIN REINHART  
Academic Coordinator  
REINHART@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.432.4893

MELISSA TALLANT  
Assistant Director  
TALLANT@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.432.2957

LAURA TERRY  
Learning Specialist  
TERRYLAU@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.432.5575

DAVID WILLIAMS  
Academic Coordinator  
WILLIAMS@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.432.4387

SARA WOODRUFF  
Technology Coordinator  
VITEKS@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.353.9161

KRISTIA WORTHY  
Academic Coordinator  
KRISTIAWORTHY@SASS.MSU.EDU  
517.432.2969

Michigan State University  
Student Athlete Support Services  
517.355.2204  
SASS.MSU.EDU

Instagram: @MSU_SASS  
Twitter: @MSU_SASS  
Multicultural Program Twitter: @MSU_SASSMCP