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.
Our vision is simple: We provide GAMEPLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

The Clara Bell Smith Academic Center is a 31,000 square foot facility that was funded by private donations, led by a $2.5 million donation by former NBA player Steve Smith. The building was named in honor of his mother, Clara Bell Smith.
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.

The first stand-alone Academic Services building in the country, the Clara Bell Smith Center provides students with 2 large tutorial rooms, 10 small tutorial rooms, 2 computer labs and an auditorium.
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.

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.

CLASS SCHEDULING
Academic coordinators work in conjunction with college advisors to arrange classes around practice and competition schedules.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS
Academic Coordinators serve as an avenue to connect student-athletes with staff and faculty within various majors and fields.

LEARNING AND RETENTION SERVICES
Undergraduate student tutors are provided to assist 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.
Career development is based on a three-part process that consists of career exploration, career development, and career 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.

**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.

**FINANCIAL LITERACY**
A nationally recognized presenter interacts with student-athletes about saving during college, credit card statistics, and weighing the financials of job opportunities.
The Community Outreach program allows you to gain valuable experience, learn new skills and develop a sense of involvement that will stay with you throughout your 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 and MSU Foodbanks.

**MARCH IS READING MONTH**
Student-athletes read to elementary age students.

**TEAMS FOR TOYS**
Each team adopts an underprivileged area family, raises money and purchases, wraps, and delivers gifts to the family.

**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, celebrity readers, etc.
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP
SASS implements a variety of programs and workshops to help in your personal and leadership development.
These programs and workshops 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.

**HUDDLE UP**
Another very interactive program that emphasizes student-athlete awareness with issues related to gender based violence.

**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 twice a month to bring to the table concerns of student-athletes.

**STUDENT-ATHLETE DIVERSITY AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**
SASS aids in the delivery of all student-Athlete Diversity and Leadership programming through the Department of Athletics’ Student-Athlete Engagement unit.
The foundation of its programming is rooted in the Rose Initiative for Sports and Equality (RISE) organization whose mission is to educate and empower student-athletes, coaches and sports administrators to be leaders in discussing and addressing matters of racism, prejudice, diversity and inclusivity within their teams, schools and communities.

**DIVERSITY AND LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

After 10 years of being a national leader in student-athlete multicultural programming MSU Student-Athletes have an opportunity to serve on the Department of Athletics’ Diversity and Leadership Advisory Committee. This Committee plans events and discusses relevant issues for minority and international students.
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