

N4ACORNER



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As technology continues to dominate aspects of our daily lives, it is no surprise that we are seeing an increase in the number of online classes offered to students across the country. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the number of students taking online classes grew by 5.7 percent or 350,000 students from the fall of 2016 to the fall of 2017. Online courses provide flexibility for students to learn anywhere in the country and around the world. They are especially convenient for student-athletes in sports with extended travel times, to prevent them from falling too far behind in their courses. It also helps prevent student-athletes from missing excessive amounts of in-class lectures and assignments.

From the learning specialist perspective, the online class platform also helps provide

an aspect of educational development that is challenging to obtain in the classroom for some students,

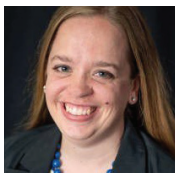
especially the student-athlete population that may come in underprepared for the college classroom. For instance, although many online courses have deadlines similar to in-person courses, online classes allow students to review material at their own pace and go back and review material they may have challenges comprehending in a typical 50 to 65 minute class. Working as a learning specialist for six years, I have seen student-athletes face challenges with processing the information presented by the professor in the lecture class and their inability to keep up with fast-paced lecture notes. In an online course, students are able to go back as often as necessary to review information they may be struggling with. In addition, typically, online courses provide students with all the necessary materials and resources needed to be successful in the course including lecture videos, notes, and clear assignment expectations.

Furthermore, applications and software utilized in online classes allows Generation Z students to learn in new and innovative ways that engage them. Recently, we began utilizing the application Flipgrid, which is offered through

the Canvas site at Florida State University, in our Student Leadership and Development course. Flipgrid is a digital discussion board where students can post short videos ranging from one to five minutes long on a designated topic. Students are also able to reply to other students through the application.

Despite the many benefits online classes provide, they are not free from challenges and/or concerns. We are always concerned with academic integrity and ensuring our student-athletes adhere to those guidelines. Online courses may not provide monitoring for exams/quizzes which may pose academic integrity concerns. Recently, I have seen an increase in the number of online courses requiring a proctor, whether through the university or online platforms, such as Examity and ProctorU, which can aid in providing academic monitoring. As online courses continue to grow in popularity, we should acknowledge the challenges and concerns that these classes may have, but also realize there are immense benefits and ways to engage the generation of young scholars who have only grown up in a world full of technology.

NAACCORNER



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Imagine compliance and academic services are in a stock car race. If you've never seen a race, here is some information. Each car has an owner and a driver. An owner can have one to four cars on their team. Drivers have a group of people that help them during the race and as they prepare. Now imagine the owners are the universities, and the cars are compliance and academic services.

At some institutions, compliance would be one race team, and academic services would be a different race team. They are in the same race, but working their own plan. However, the actions of one affects the other, because if there is a crash, everyone gets caught up in it.

At some institutions, compliance and academic services would be two cars on the same race

team. They communicate daily. They each have their own race plan. They may let the other draft behind them if they need a break. They will sometimes help keep another race team from overtaking their teammate. They have each other's back.

At some institutions, compliance and academic services is just one car with one person doing both roles.

If an institution has just one car, they become acutely aware of the members of their pit crew. They need every single one of them to change tires, provide fuel, and make repairs. They need their crew chief and spotter to provide the clearest path to the finish line. These single cars make alliances outside of their team to help get where they need to be. They rely on folks at their university and in their conference to help and serve as a sounding board.

If your institution is lucky enough to have a team of compliance professionals and academic services professionals, being on the same race team is vital. Compliance professionals may interact with the prospective student-athletes to help them through the initial eligibility process. Perhaps, the compliance staff works

with financial aid and admissions to help get the prospective student-athletes from being signees to actually being students. However, enrolling and attending classes is not the end of the race. It is hardly even the beginning.

Academic services develops relationships when the student-athletes are on campus because they are meeting regularly with the student-athletes, helping them set schedules, helping them get tutors if needed. Compliance sometimes is cast in the role of inspectors, where compliance just comes in and tells them what they cannot do or what they have done wrong. In the ideal team, compliance and academic services would each be different kinds of engineers or mechanics for the same team.

If one can understand the challenges and capabilities to affect change the other possesses, they can be a race team where many drivers are getting acclaim and earning victories. If compliance and academic services work together to understand what we need to do to guarantee certification or what new legislation means for the academic side, everyone gets to enjoy the victory lap.