

## **Academic Support Programs & Services Center Overview**

New Mexico State University Academic Support Programs & Services Center is committed to providing quality educational services that achieve academic, personal and career success for all student-athletes. The ASPSC offers a full range of support and referral services to assist student-athletes in their holistic growth and development. The Associate Athletics Director, Sport Administrator & Academic Services Director provides the overall leadership to the unit and the Director of the ASPSC supervises the day to day operational aspects of the center with a highly qualified staff including: 2 full time Academic Coordinators, Life Skills Coordinator, Lead Student Development Specialist, 10 Student Development Specialist, 3 work study students, who are all dedicated to helping student-athletes develop the skills necessary to become independent and successful learners.

The most comprehensive aspect of the programs and services we offer to student-athletes is our Early Warning Academic System which was designed and implemented to improve freshmen and continuing student-athlete success by establishing responsible class attendance during the initial part of each semester. One branch of the system is the Professor E-mail Academic Request that are sent out at the beginning of each semester helps create a one-to-one intervention during the critical first weeks of the semester between the professor/instructor, student-athlete and academic office for student-athletes. This method statistically connects the student-athletes correlation between responsible class attendance and academic success by providing a better connection for the student-athlete to utilize the various programs and services offered to them through ASPSC.

Other components affiliated with the Early Warning Academic System to assist in student-athlete academic success is as follows: New Student Orientation, Student-Athlete Handbook, Class Attendance & Academic Appointment Policy, Study Hall, Internal Tutoring Program / Campus Tutoring Programs (Crimson Scholar, Math Success Center, Writing Lab, Departmental Tutoring), Academic Mentoring Program, Writing & Reading Comprehension Program, Pre Advising & Degree Progress Forums (NCAA, WAC, NMSU), Monitoring of Academic Progress & Athletic Eligibility, Bi-Weekly Mtgs. w/Head Coaches and or Team Academic Liaison & Student-Athletes, NCAA Student Affairs Program / Living Learning Community and Student-Athlete Annual Evaluation & Exit Interviews.

We currently serve 475 student-athletes, with an average of 120 coming through our doors on a daily bases for a variety of reasons. Our academic center is open 72 hours a week for student-athletes to engage in their educational pursuit through the programs and services. With the appropriate internal and external personnel and resources working towards the common goal of graduation, every student-athlete will be assured to have the necessary tools to maintain and surpass steady progression toward their fulfillment of their degree requirements.

We also instituted the A+ Aggie Program, with its primary focus on student-athletes who need additional support and programs for academic, personal and career development. While, all student-athletes have access to the A+ Aggie Program, our priority is given to those who have tested into developmental courses, has a documented learning disability or who have been

identified as having a marginal academic profile based on their high school or NMSU academic portfolio.

The A+ Aggie Program mission is to teach and promote lifelong educational, personal and career skills for student-athletes. In addition, personalized attention is given to each student through a collaboration of individual and group services with program goals focusing on providing assistance, advice, teaching and encouragement in specific content and general study skill areas. Ultimately, the training mechanisms will enhance and develop thinking and homework skills for student athletes to progress and advance towards the supplement of tutoring and mentoring opposed to the need of the services.

The A+ Aggie Program also utilizes the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) when student athletes profiles exceed the traditional programs and services offered through ASPSC. SAS provides a variety of services to students with documented physical, learning or psychological disabilities in the area of test and quiz preparation, time management skills, note taking strategies, organization and study skills, tutorial services, academic mentoring, monitored study hall, individual academic contracts, early warning program-communication with professor regarding academic progress, educational evaluations, psychological testing, scribes, note takers, test taking accommodations, and books on tape/cd.

Another component of our Early Warning Academic System is the *Writing & Reading Comprehension Program* which was created to provide intense individual guidance to *pre-selected* student-athletes who require additional assistance in the various aspects of the writing process (brainstorming, outlining, revising, editing, proofreading, etc). The intent of the writing & reading program is to supplement and support sound education practices (class attendance, note-taking, reviewing and preparing properly for quizzes, projects, and exams, and staying current with all assignments) which are imperative for academic success for all students. The program is designed to support these student-athletes in articulating ideas, acquiring strategies, and learning the skills to engage effectively in their reading and writing habits. Working collaboratively with a reading and writing specialist, the student-athletes will establish learning methods that will guide them from the early stages of a writing assignment to its final version.