

# **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS**



## **Student-Athlete Handbook**

Welcome to the University of North Texas at Dallas Athletics Department,

In 2020-2021, UNT Dallas began its inaugural season. In a very short time, athletics brought a new and positive aspect of our UNTD community. With the assistance of the first athletic director, Jack Allday, he paved the way for future Trailblazers to use intercollegiate athletics as a means to facilitate graduation. Our best way to honor him and all of his contributions to Trailblazer athletics is to represent our department and our University in the best way possible.

As a student-athlete at UNTD, you are among the most visible constituents on campus. As a team member, you literally wear the University's name on your chest. Your behavior, good or bad, will define how others view the university and our athletics department. I am confident that you will represent the university, the athletics department, your coach and your teammates well 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

You have earned the opportunity to get an outstanding education. Make the most of it. Strive to become more than an athlete, involve yourself in other areas of campus and these will be the best days of your life.

I am excited to get the 2023-2024 year started to celebrate your accomplishments in the classroom, on the court and field and in the community.

In my role as Athletics Director, I am the primary advocate for each of our student-athletes. I look forward to supporting your efforts in all areas of campus life. Make it a great year!

Sincerely,

*Kelly Perry*

Kelly Perry  
Director of Athletics

## UNT DALLAS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the University of North Texas at Dallas is to **Empower students, Transform lives, and Strengthen communities, by providing** access to high quality education and to prepare students to become exemplary citizens who can assume leadership positions in a global environment. Our mission is accomplished through an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning, the pursuit of innovative research and technologies, and a commitment to improve the quality of life through civic engagement. Our teaching, research, and civic engagement will be conducted in an environment guided by respect for and understanding of diverse viewpoints and the core values of virtue, civility, reasoning, and accountability.

### **Be a Trailblazer: In the Classroom, In the Community and in Competition**

#### Trailblazers in the Classroom

Being a trailblazer in the classroom means that graduation is not the goal; graduation is the expectation. Each student-athlete should arrive on campus expecting to graduate and be prepared to do whatever it takes to reach that goal.

#### Trailblazers in the Community

Being a trailblazer in the community means that we are not just going to count up community service hours; we are going to make those community service hours count. Student-athletes are very busy so we must make sure our community service efforts make a big impact on the community while teaching you, the student-athlete, the value of service so you carry with you a commitment to serving your community after you graduate from UNTD. Hopefully, as a result of our community service, those individuals and groups that we served will support you and your teammates during your competitions on campus.

#### Trailblazers in Competition

Being a trailblazer in competition means that we are not just going to win conference and national championships, we are going to win championships with sportsmanship, class and respect. As a result, our opponents will know that they are in store for a tough competition with UNTD teams that will compete while respecting our opponents, the fans and the officials.

### **SOONER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE**

UNT Dallas is a member of the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC). Information about the SAC can be found here:

[Sooner Athletic Conference](#)

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS**

UNT Dallas is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The purpose of the NAIA is to promote the education and development of students through intercollegiate athletics participation. Member institutions, although varied and diverse, share a common commitment to high standards and to the principle that participation in athletics serves as an integral part of the total educational process.

The NAIA embraces the concept of the student and recognizes the importance of the individuality of each member institution, the value of the conference and regional structure, and the benefits of membership in a national association.

## Champions of Character

The NAIA "Champions of Character" initiative, through awareness, education and community involvement, will continue to develop an atmosphere of integrity in sport. The NAIA Champions of Character initiative will create an environment in which every NAIA student-athlete, coach, official, and spectator is committed to the true spirit of competition through **respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership, and sportsmanship.**

### NAIA Core Values

#### Integrity

Know and do what is right

Be Committed: Set high standards for your behavior and stick to them even in difficult situations.

Be Courageous: Stand up for what you believe is just and good.

Be Honest: Choose words and actions that are sincere, not misleading.

Be Disciplined: Remain dedicated and self-controlled, even when challenged.

Be Resilient: Learn from mistakes and losses; seize the opportunity to improve.

#### Respect

Treating others the way you want to be treated

Be Accepting: Support everyone's worth and dignity, regardless of background, abilities or beliefs.

Be Considerate: Always be aware of and honor others' rights and feelings.

Be Attentive: Be ready to learn from coaches, officials and other contestants.

Be Encouraging: Demonstrate concern for the growth and development of all others.

Be Appreciative: Value the guidance of supportive adult and student leaders.

#### Responsibility

Embrace opportunities to contribute

Be Helpful: Understand and advance the group's positive goals.

Be Conscientious: Be aware and careful of the choices you make.

Be Accountable: Accept that your actions impact everyone around you.

Be Persevering: Work through difficulty and discouragement in pursuit of individual and team objectives.

Be Reliable: Prove that others can depend on you.

#### Sportsmanship

Bring your best to all competition

Be Cooperative: Join teammates, opponents, coaches and officials in mutual quest for excellence.

Be Fair: Compete skillfully, guided by the letter and spirit of the rules.

Be Gracious: Savor the challenge of a tough competitor and meet it with your finest performance, win or lose.

Be Honorable: Respect the game and everyone's contributions.

Be Humble: Take success in stride - share the credit.

#### Servant Leadership

Serve the common good

Be Empowering: Inspire and help others to grow, succeed and lead.

Be Visionary: Raise expectations for yourself and the team.

Be Interconnected: Recognize the vital link between individual effort and group achievement.

Be Generous: Freely contribute hard work and support to reach the team's goals.

Be Energetic: Initiate action - do what needs to be done.

## UNT Dallas Athletics Directory

### University of North Texas at Dallas Athletic Staff Directory

#### Administration

Kelly Perry	Director of Athletics	<a href="mailto:kelly.perry@untdallas.edu">kelly.perry@untdallas.edu</a>
Josh Howard	Associate Athletic Director	<a href="mailto:joshua.howard@untdallas.edu">joshua.howard@untdallas.edu</a>

#### Media Communications

Greshin McRae	Sports Information Director	<a href="mailto:greshin.mcrae@untdallas.edu">greshin.mcrae@untdallas.edu</a>
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#### Men's and Women's Cross Country/Track and Field

Kenneth Royal	Head Coach	<a href="mailto:kenneth.royal@untdallas.edu">kenneth.royal@untdallas.edu</a>
Knashia Dawson	Assistant Coach	<a href="mailto:knashia.dawson@untdallas.edu">knashia.dawson@untdallas.edu</a>

#### Men's Basketball

Josh Howard	Head Coach	<a href="mailto:joshua.howard@untdallas.edu">joshua.howard@untdallas.edu</a>
Matthew Johnson	Assistant Coach	<a href="mailto:matthew.johnson@untdallas.edu">matthew.johnson@untdallas.edu</a>
Rob Wright	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
Armando Beltran	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
Jay Foster	Volunteer Assistant Coach	

#### Women's Basketball

Rodney Belcher	Head Coach	<a href="mailto:rodney.belcher@untdallas.edu">rodney.belcher@untdallas.edu</a>
Sheila Davis	Assistant Coach	<a href="mailto:sheila.davis@untdallas.edu">sheila.davis@untdallas.edu</a>
Greshin McRae	Assistant Coach	<a href="mailto:greshin.mcrae@untdallas.edu">greshin.mcrae@untdallas.edu</a>
Mykayla Dumas	Graduate Assistant Coach	

#### Athletic Department Support Staff

Dr. Aaron Bartula	Faculty Athletics Representative	<a href="mailto:aaron.bartula@untdallas.edu">aaron.bartula@untdallas.edu</a>
Dr. Aubrey Frantz	Faculty Athletics Representative	<a href="mailto:aubrey.frantz@untdallas.edu">aubrey.frantz@untdallas.edu</a>
TBD	University Chief Compliance Officer	TBD
Dr. Maureen McGuinness	Title IX Coordinator	<a href="mailto:maureen.mcguinness@untdallas.edu">maureen.mcguinness@untdallas.edu</a>

#### Faculty Athletics Representatives

Dr. Aaron Bartula is a professor in the Criminal Justice and Sociology department and Dr. Aubrey Frantz is a professor in the Biology department and Assistant Dean of Students for the school of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Together, they serve as the Faculty Athletics Representatives (FAR). They are not members of the athletics department and Dr's. Bartula and Frantz represent the institution and the faculty voice in the development of sound educational policies for athletics. They also assist with student-athlete eligibility certification and with rules education as necessary. FARs often participate in the NAIA and conference governance structure. They also help monitor and advocate for student-athlete well-being. Dr's. Bartula and Frantz are a resource for you to talk to about anything related to your experience as a student-athlete. Their contact information is listed above in the athletics department directory.

## **Student-Athlete Campus Involvement**

ASA – Association of Student-Athletes: The ASA is an advisory group made up of two student-athlete representatives from each UNTD athletics team. The ASA meets monthly to address issues concerning the student-athlete experience at UNTD. The student-athletes are encouraged to discuss any concerns with their coach, their sport administrator, the Athletics Director, or the ASA. The ASA will be asked to plan and conduct at least one student-athlete development activity and one department-wide community service activity annually. The ASA also organizes and conducts the annual SA Awards banquet. Finally, the ASA provides feedback on appropriate NAIA rule proposals when necessary.

Chi Alpha Sigma – A National College Athlete Honor Society: Chi Alpha Sigma will be founded during the 2023-2024 school year. It is an honor society that was specifically created to honor and recognize the academic achievements of student-athletes who are juniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher.

There are many groups, clubs, and social organizations on campus. We encourage you to take part in these groups as your schedule allows.

### **UNT Dallas PRIDE**

**Being a student athlete at UNTD is a source of pride. Student-athletes should make every effort to promote the university by wearing school colors. Every team distributes practice and game apparel; consequently, we ask that you make every effort to not wear apparel that promotes another college or university.**

### **Win Well and Lose Well**

Win or lose, UNTD student-athletes are expected to act with a high degree of sportsmanship.

**Support other UNTD athletic teams and invite their support of your team.**

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

**Make good decisions.** Student-Athletes are closely observed in many areas: On the field/court, in the classroom, on the campus, and in the community. Thus, for the welfare of each team, the whole program, and the individual, each student-athlete's conduct should be above reproach. While engaging in athletic competition, the student-athlete is expected to exercise self-control at all times. The conduct of teams on away trips should be impeccable. Recognizing the significant value of personal appearance, student-athletes may be required to conform to a specific standard set forth by coaches or the Athletics Director. At all times, student-athletes must abide by the policies, regulations, and standards of the university as set forth in the current *UNTD Student Handbook* and this manual. Student-athletes who violate university policy will be dealt with by the Dean of Students and may be suspended or dismissed from their team.

### **Social Media Policy**

As a student-athlete participating in intercollegiate sports at University of North Texas at Dallas, you represent your team, UNTD athletics, and UNTD. This makes you and your actions – including those conducted online – subject to scrutiny from the media, spectators, university officials, and the public. Potential employers, internship supervisors, graduate programs, and scholarship committees now search social media sites to screen candidates and applications.

Be mindful of posting information, photos, or other items online that could be harmful to you, your family, your team, the athletics department, or UNTD. This includes information about team activities and teammates. Before participating in any

online community, understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site or delete a post. UNTD student-athletes are encouraged to use social media to positively promote team achievements, encourage attendance at upcoming competitions and recognize individual success.

## **UNTD Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy**

University of North Texas at Dallas is an alcohol and tobacco free campus. UNTD recognizes drug and alcohol abuse diminishes the strength and vitality of human resources and the integrity of the institution. It is the intent of the university to educate, discourage, and discipline a student found abusing or distributing controlled substances, both legal and illegal. The university may require any student, who is reasonably suspected of drug use, to undergo drug testing.

All student-athletes should read the UNTD Student Handbook. For the complete handbook refer to [Policies - University of North Texas at Dallas - Acalog ACMS™ \(untdallas.edu\)](#)

## **Academic Integrity**

In accordance with Policy 7.002 Code of Academic Integrity, UNT Dallas expects all students to exhibit a high value of personal responsibility, accountability and honesty in all academic endeavors. The value of the UNT Dallas degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the student work submitted to attain a degree. Therefore, it is imperative that all students demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in their scholastic work.

All members of the university community are expected to report academic dishonesty to the faculty member of the class in which the academic dishonesty is alleged to have occurred. Reports of academic dishonesty may also be made to the Dean of Students. Reports may be verbal, in writing or electronic.

## **Missed Class Policy – DO NOT MISS CLASS!**

Head Coaches will attempt to minimize the number of missed class days by scheduling contests and scrimmages cognizant of the importance of class attendance. Recognizing the importance of seeking quality scheduling for the teams, as well as good public relations for the university, the following guidelines prevent undue academic hardship on the student:

1. For home contests for which classes must be missed, a student-athlete can be exempt from class two hours before the contest but must communicate with the instructor during the week prior to the contest to determine alternate arrangements if necessary.
2. Students will provide instructors with written notice of upcoming missed classes for student-athletes prior to the absence. One possible exception is make-up games due to inclement weather, in which case the coach will notify instructors immediately upon determining the game time.
3. Extended trips must be approved by the Athletics Director. No more than 3 consecutive school days will be missed on a trip. Extended trips will not take place during fall orientation, during the first week of classes, or during the final week of classes. No contest will be scheduled during the first three days of an exam period. This policy does not apply to conference, regional, and national playoff contests.
4. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to attend all classes when there is no conflict with an officially scheduled contest. **NEVER MISS CLASS FOR A PRACTICE.**
5. Each student-athlete is responsible for knowing the absence policy of each of his/her courses.
6. NO officially scheduled contest automatically excuses a student-athlete from class. An officially excused absence from a class will occur only after faculty members are notified of the contest date(s) and do not challenge the absence as excused.

**Student-Athletes should:**

- Take a complete season schedule to each professor at the start of the semester.
- Take an excused absence form (provided by your coach) to each professor at least two classes prior to the class that will be missed. You should also know the policies of each of your professors about communicating absences.
- Work with your professor to make up class work that was missed.
- Attend all other classes.
- Be proactive! Find a friend or teammate in each of your classes to get notes for the classes you miss.
- Bring any concerns to your coach or athletic administrator immediately.

### **Student-Athlete Stole policy**

Being a student-athlete is a privilege. In order to earn a student-athlete stole at graduation, you must be an active member of the team and exhaust your eligibility upon graduation. Any deviation from this policy may be appealed to the athletic director.

### **Equipment**

UNTD athletic teams provide student-athletes with appropriate equipment for safe participation. However, the University recognizes that the student-athlete may have to purchase equipment for his or her sport specific to the individual's needs. All equipment that is supplied to the student-athlete remains the property of UNTD and it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to prevent theft or damage to the equipment issued to them. Student-athletes are responsible for returning to the head coach all equipment that is owned by UNTD.

## **SPORTS INFORMATION**

### **Overview of the UNTD Sports Information Office – Role Within the Athletics Department**

- Serves as public relations office for the UNTD Athletics Department in conjunction with the Athletics Director
- Responsible for the following:
  - Serving as a liaison between the athletics department/student-athletes and members of the media.
  - Managing statistical aspects of all home athletics events, as well as collecting statistics of away events, and keeping season statistics updated.
  - Overseeing all athletics publications – media guides and game programs
  - Maintaining information on the athletics webpage.

### **Student-Athletes and the Media**

1. Keep in mind that you are representing your teammates, your coaches and UNT Dallas during an interview – NOT JUST YOURSELF.
2. You are **not required** to do an interview that has not been set up by the Sports Information office.
  - If you are contacted by a member of the media (including The Campus newspaper) without prior knowledge from the Sports Information Office, you are welcome to **politely** ask the media member to contact the SID office and tell them you will be happy to answer their questions after the interview has been cleared.
3. Remember that members of the media are not your enemies.
  - Don't be nervous.
  - Remember, an interview is just a conversation with someone about a sport that you love to play.

4. Remember there is no such thing as an “off the record” comment.
  - Anything you say, can and will be used by the media.
  - If you don’t want to comment on something, it is okay to say “I would rather not comment on that.”
  - Remember to protect yourself, your teammates, your coaches and UNT Dallas during an interview.

## COMPLIANCE

### Athletics Eligibility

- All first-time NAIA participants must be deemed eligible by the NAIA Eligibility Center prior to competing for UNTD. It is your responsibility as a student-athlete to submit all necessary information to both the NAIA and UNTD, and prior to an initial Eligibility Center determination UNT Dallas is not able to certify you for any competition.
- You must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours unless you are in the final semester before graduation.
  - **Regardless of how many hours you are enrolled in, BEFORE dropping a class, you are to let your coach and the athletic director become aware.** This can not only impact you but your entire team if we are not in compliance.
- You must pass 24 hours per year.
- You must maintain a 2.00 GPA to be in good academic standing at UNT Dallas. If you fall below this, you will be unable to participate or travel with your team.

### Transfer Rule

A student-athlete who identifies with UNTD and then chooses to transfer to another institution will be subject to one or more of the conditions listed below:

1. If a transfer is made to a SAC institution, the transferring student-athlete will be restricted from participation for one year.
2. Your academic credits earned at UNT Dallas may not transfer to your next institution which may impede your degree.
3. You may be subject to other conference and association rules that can impact graduation and competition.

### Non-Participating Athletes (Redshirt)

The term non-participant applies to a student-athlete whose participation is limited to team practice but excludes games and scrimmages. The head coach will determine if a student-athlete will not participate for the academic year if:

1. The head coach determines that an additional year may allow the student-athlete to more fully develop their potential skills.
2. A non-participant student-athlete is expected to:
  - a. Participate in all team obligations
  - b. Regain or maintain eligibility
  - c. Observe the same rules and regulations placed upon other student-athletes

### Student-athlete day off policy

In accordance with the NAIA Institutional Day Off Policy, (Article I, Section H, Item 7) effective August 1, 2023, each intercollegiate athletics team at University of North Texas at Dallas shall prohibit all athletics-related activities per the policy below.

All athletics-related activities shall be prohibited at least one day per week during the 24-week playing season and at least two days off per week must be provided outside of the 24-week playing season during the academic year (August 1 to May 15). One day off per week is not required during weeks occurring after the regular season has concluded and the team is preparing for and participating in postseason competition (i.e., conference and national governing body championships) that spans a period equal to or greater than seven days. Preseason practices that begin after August 1, must meet the day off policy requirements. The day(s) off do not need to be the same day of the week each week of the academic year. Designation of the day(s) off each week is at the discretion of the head coach. A week begins on Monday at 12:00 am and ends on Sunday at 11:59 pm.

### **Athletics-Related Activities**

Any activity with an athletics purpose that involves a student-athlete and is directed or supervised by any person on the coaching staff, including strength and conditioning coaches is considered an athletics-related activity.

Athletics-related activities include:

- Competition (countable and exhibition)
- Scrimmages with outside competition
- Practice
- Skill Instruction
- Required strength and conditioning workouts
- Use of UNTD athletics facilities/any athletics facilities that UNTD rents or utilizes when such activities are supervised by or held at the direction of any member of the UNTD coaching staff
- Required participation in camps or clinics
- Video review
- Meetings with an athletics purpose (e.g., technique or tactics discussions)

### **Athletics-related activities do not include:**

- Study hall, tutoring sessions, or any other academics-related activities
- Participation in fundraising activities, community service or community engagement
- Compliance, personal development, or organization meetings
- Entertainment activities
- Sports medicine activities (e.g., medical examinations, treatments, rehabilitation)
- Competition travel where no athletics-related activities occur
- Attendance at an awards or celebration event
- Involvement of UNTD's strength and conditioning staff with student-athletes in voluntary strength and conditioning programs for safety purposes

### **Canceled Competition**

When a competition is canceled before it has started, or canceled before the competition is considered a completed event in accordance with the playing rules of that sport, a coach may use that day as the required day off, provided the student-athletes do not engage in any further countable athletics-related activities during that day.

### **Voluntary Athletics-Related Activities**

Student-athletes are free to participate in their own athletics-related activities on the day off but can NOT be mandated to do so by the UNTD coaching staff.

An athletics-related activity is voluntary only if:

- Student-athletes are not required to report back to a coach or other athletics department staff member any information related to the activity — nor may an athletics department staff member who observes the activity report back to a coach any information related to the activity.
- The activity is initiated and requested solely by the student-athlete.
- Student-athlete attendance and participation in the activity is not recorded for the purpose of reporting such information to coaching staff members or other student-athletes.
- Student-athletes are not subject to penalty if they elect not to participate in the activity. Further, an athletics department staff member may not provide recognition or incentives based on student-athlete performance or attendance in the activity.

### **Process and Violations**

Each head coach is responsible for communicating the Day off Policy with their student-athletes at the first team meeting. Each coach is required to submit their 24 week calendar to the athletic director prior to beginning practice and is to designate on this calendar when the day off is going to occur. Changes to calendar and days off must be communicated prior unless due to a cancelation of competition.

Compliance with the policy is the responsibility of each head coach, with oversight from the athletic director. The Director of Athletics, the university compliance officer, and/or the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) can be notified via email of non-compliance with the policy.

### **Evaluation**

Each student-athlete will have the ability to evaluate your overall experience at UNTD pertaining to academics, coaching staff, environment and team in general. These evaluations are done confidentially as a team and we welcome your honest feedback in order to improve each year.

### **FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS**

The total of your athletics scholarship and other grants/scholarships you receive **cannot** exceed the University's estimate of your student cost for the academic term.

**Institutional scholarships** have various requirements and all information can be obtained in the financial aid office.

**Athletics Scholarships are earned.** Athletics Scholarship Agreements are made for **one academic term** and are based on a student-athlete's past athletic and academic performance, potential for future athletic and academic performance, and/or the needs and interests of the team, athletics department, and/or University, as determined by the coach and/or athletics director. Acceptance of athletics scholarship neither implies nor guarantees that you will be provided an athletics scholarship in future academic sessions. **If you have a question about your scholarship award or amount, contact your coach.**

FAFSA – Every student-athlete is required to complete and submit a FAFSA form in the Financial Aid Office. Failure to do so may jeopardize your athletics scholarship. The FAFSA must be completed each year. In order to be eligible for financial aid, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be enrolled as a regular student in a degree or certification program
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Provide a valid and verifiable social security number
- Be a citizen of the United States, or be another type of eligible non-citizen

- Demonstrate financial need, with the exception of the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. Need is determined from the information provided on the FAFSA
- Respond in a timely manner to requests from the Financial Aid Office for additional information
- Be registered with the Selective Service, if required
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress toward a degree or certificate
- Not have borrowed in excess of annual or aggregate Title IV loan limits or be default on any Title IV loan or owe an overpayment on any federal Title IV program received for attendance at any institution

## **ATHLETIC TRAINING AND HEALTH CONCERNS**

Tynisa Owens [TCOWens@BSWRehab.com](mailto:TCOWens@BSWRehab.com) is our physical therapist at Dallas- Camp Wisdom via Baylor, Scott and White.

AT services are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Trinity Basin. Times vary, your head coach will give you the information.

### **Students with Disabilities**

The core functions of the Disability Services Office are put in place accommodations which are deemed appropriate in adherence with Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAA), provision of reasonable accommodations, act as a consultant, and educate the UNT Dallas community.

Phone: 972-338-1787

Email: [untddisability@untdallas.edu](mailto:untddisability@untdallas.edu)

### **Location & Hours**

UNT Dallas Student Center, Suite 1104

### **Title IX**

The University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring an educational and employment environment that is free of discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex. Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 is the federal statute that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

Dr. Maureen McGuinness

DAL1, Suite 356: 817-735-5919: [maureen.mcguinness@untsystem.edu](mailto:maureen.mcguinness@untsystem.edu)