



Student-Athletes and Academics



Pegjohngy "Pj" Moses
Associate Athletics Director for Academics, Compliance and Student Services

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Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance

Stetson University Athletic Department



Dr. Mike Bitter



Rinker Distinguished Professor of Accounting
Faculty Athletics Representative

Stetson University Athletic Department



Role of the FAR

- All NCAA institutions must have a Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR)
- At Stetson, FAR is appointed by and reports to the President; FAR serves as her athletic adviser
- Responsibilities vary by institution, but purpose is to bring a faculty perspective to athletics
- Primary areas of responsibility at Stetson: academic integrity; NCAA rules compliance (including eligibility certification; student-athlete welfare (see job description)
- Permanent member of the University Athletics Committee
- He has served as FAR since 1999

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Select NCAA Academic Rules

- Generally, all student-athletes must...
 - Be enrolled full-time (12 credits) to practice or compete (if they drop a class and fall below 12 credits, they are IMMEDIATELY ineligible)
 - Pass at least six degree applicable credits per semester to compete
 - Meet annual progress toward degree and grade point average requirements
- Student-athlete may NOT...
 - Miss class for practice, conditioning or training
- But MAY...
 - Miss class for competition and competition-related travel or necessary medical treatment (e.g., doctor's appointment)

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Select NCAA Extra Benefit/Preferential Treatment Rules

“An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee...to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete’s relative or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Receipt of a benefit by student-athletes or their relatives or friends is not a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution’s students or their relatives or friends or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., international students, minority students) determined on a basis

unrelated to athletics ability. Stetson University Athletic Department



Extra Benefits/Preferential Treatment

Examples of impermissible extra benefits –

- Free or reduced-cost housing or meals (other than “occasional” meals and meals incidental to participation)
- Allowing a student to use your credit card
- The use of an automobile or provision of transportation (including a “ride home”)
- Signing or cosigning on a loan on behalf of the student-athlete
- Gifts of any kind (even something as simple as a birthday card or cookies)

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Academic-Related Extra Benefits/Preferential Treatment

The general rule is that faculty members are not allowed to provide support services, benefits, or treatment for a student-athlete that they would not provide for any other student. For example, a faculty member is generally not permitted to...

- purchase meals/drinks/snacks for student-athletes;
- offer special courses for student-athletes;
- create assignments for student-athletes that differ from those required of all other students in a class (this does NOT preclude make-up work);
- offer student-athletes incompletes or extra credit work unless the opportunities are available to all students, as identified in a course syllabus.
- authorize a course waiver or substitution of academic requirements unless the same would be done for any other student under similar non-athletics-related circumstances.
- authorize a grade change, unless for valid, non-athletics-related reasons.
- handle any case of academic dishonesty or other prohibited classroom behavior by student-athletes in a manner any different from which you would handle such behavior by any other student.

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Academic-Related Extra Benefits/Preferential Treatment

On the other hand, faculty members should not refuse to provide support services for student-athletes that they would normally or reasonably provide to other students. For example, if a student-athlete must take a make-up examination because of a university-sponsored athletic competition, and if other students are afforded the opportunity to take a make-up examination for a good reason, then the student-athlete should be given the same opportunity.

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Stetson Policies Related to Missed Class Time

- Athletics schedules are reviewed and approved by the FAR and missed class time is reviewed by the University Athletics Committee annually.
- In-season student-athletes are required to provide faculty members with a travel letter at the beginning of the semester that specifies the dates on which they may miss class due to travel and/or competition; not all student-athletes travel (there are travel party size limitations)
- Student-athletes will ask you to sign a form acknowledging receipt of the travel letter; at that time, I ask you to please be candid with the student-athlete about your attendance and make-up policies so the student-athlete can make an informed decision as to whether to stay in the class, explore another option (section or course), or defer the class to an “off” semester.
- Faculty have the discretion to determine how a student-athlete makes up missed work or exams and how to apply their attendance policy; unlike at many other universities, there is NO University-level policy governing this.
- **HOWEVER**, athletics events are **UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED** events, so the faculty member should apply their policies consistently, whether the student is an athlete, member of SGA, member of the University orchestra or choir, etc.

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Other Stetson Athletic Policies

- If student-athletes are delayed in returning to campus from an away competition (due to weather, delay, etc.), the Athletics Department will do its best to notify you in a timely manner.
- You will receive academic monitoring requests electronically from athletics twice per semester – I encourage you to complete and return them.
- Coaches are **NOT** permitted to contact faculty directly about student-athletes; however, faculty **ARE** permitted to contact coaches directly if they wish. If a coach contacts you directly, please notify me immediately.

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What to Do If...

- Please contact Dr. Mike Bitter, the Faculty Athletics Representative, if...
 - A coach contacts you directly
 - A student-athlete is involved in academic dishonesty/violation of our Honor Code
 - A student-athlete communicates a student-athlete welfare issue to you (please do NOT refer this to the University Athletics Committee, as this is not its role)
 - You need to discuss or report a potential rules violation
 - You have questions about NCAA eligibility
 - You have questions about NCAA rules
 - You want to discuss any other athletic-related issue

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Key Contacts

- FAR - Dr. Mike Bitter – 822-7422 or mbitter@stetson.edu
- Associate AD for Student Services – Pegjohngy “Pj” Moses – 822-8141 or pmoses@stetson.edu
- Assistant AD for Compliance – Elise Paulson – 822-7490 or epaulson@stetson.edu [NCAA rules]
- Compliance Coordinator – Stephanie Thompson – 822-8132 or snthomps@Stetson.edu [NCAA rules]
- Academic Success Coordinator – Sharniece Supal – 822-8823 or ssupal@Stetson.edu [student-specific academic issues (e.g., need for tutor, missing class, at-risk)]

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Stetson University Athletics

Vision Statement

Develop a culture of champions athletically, academically and within the community.

Mission Statement

Stetson Athletics recruits and develops student-athletes, coaches and staff, creating a culture of champions within and outside of competition.

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Stetson University Athletics

Core Values

**Championship
Culture**

Integrity

Excellence

Pride/Tradition

Leadership

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Resources

- “NCAA Rules Education” link on Stetson’s “A-Z” listing on the Intranet
- NCAA Rules Education for Faculty and NCAA Eligibility Rules are also posted on the academic advising web page
- www.Gohatters.com – under “Inside Athletics” click on “Compliance”
- Facebook – Stetson University Athletic Compliance
- Twitter - @SUCompliance

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