Dear University at Albany Community Member:

The Department of Athletics recognizes its role in the campus community, especially in relationship to academic affairs. We are proud that our student-athlete cumulative GPA in 2016-17 was 3.12. We also recognize that academic misconduct issues involving our student-athlete population may occur. As such, we would like to let you know about the infrastructure and policies we have in place to handle these issues.

1. **Faculty Athletics Representative:** NCAA rules require appointment of a Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) by each institution to monitor athletics. The FAR’s primary charge is to ensure academic integrity in the university’s athletic program. Dr. Richard S. Fogarty, Associate Professor in the Department of History and an Associate Dean for General Education, has been appointed to serve as FAR. Any issues of known or suspected academic misconduct involving a student-athlete can be reported to Dr. Fogarty.

2. **Respect of Academic Freedom:** The Department of Athletics respects the independent decision-making authority that the academic departments and individual faculty members hold through the principle of academic freedom, in concert with the Standards of Academic Integrity. Maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity ensures the value and reputation of our degree programs; these standards represent an ethical obligation for faculty intrinsic to their role as educators, as well as a pledge of honor on the part of students. If a violation of academic integrity occurs, faculty, staff, deans, and students all share in the responsibility to report it. When a faculty member determines that a student has violated academic integrity, he or she will inform the student and impose an appropriate sanction. Faculty members must respond in a manner most appropriate to the particular infraction and the circumstances of the case in question, according to his or her best judgment. Student-athletes should be treated like any other UAlbany student for academic misconduct.

3. **Student-Athlete Code of Conduct:** When a student-athlete is found to have committed academic dishonesty, he or she faces penalties through the Department of Athletics Student-Athlete Code of Conduct as well as Team Rules. Any penalties imposed for academic misconduct through the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct or Team Rules supplement, but do not replace, the penalties the student-athlete faces for violating the Standards of Academic Integrity. Penalties for violating the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct can include suspension from team activities, dismissal from the team, or forfeiture of an athletics scholarship.

4. **Limited Contact Related to Student-Athlete Academic Performance:** To prevent the potential of inappropriate influence, the Department of Athletics has implemented a policy that prohibits head coaches, their assistant coaches, and their staff members from contacting faculty members about the academic performance of their student-athletes. Any contact relating to a student-athlete’s performance in the classroom should come from the Office of Academic Services.

To be clear, this policy does not prevent all contact between faculty and coaches or their staff members. We recognize the importance that faculty members may play in the recruiting process when a prospective student-athlete is deciding which college or university to attend. As such, we do permit coaches and their staff members to contact faculty members to coordinate meetings related to a recruit’s visit to campus.
Athletic Department Academic Accountability for Student-Athletes

Office of Compliance Services - University at Albany

Our policy also permits coaches and their staff members to contact faculty members to maintain personal relationships as long as the relationships do not influence any student-athlete academic outcomes.

Thank you for everything you do for our institution to make it as academically and athletically competitive as possible. Should issues arise, I have included contact information for appropriate staff members below.

Sincerely,

Melissa Peach
Associate Athletic Director for Compliance
Office of Compliance Services
University at Albany

CONTACT INFORMATION

Administrators to Contact in Cases of Academic Misconduct

Richard Fogarty
Faculty Athletics Representative
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(518) 442-5344

Melissa Peach
Associate Athletic Director for Compliance
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Athletics Academic Advisors Who May Contact You about Student-Athlete Academic Performance

Lori Friel
Associate Athletic Director for Academic Services
Football, Women’s Golf
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Suzzette Garnett
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