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A reflective survey of roles in academic advising and life skills.

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Athletic Academic Advising and Life Skills opportunities

Northeastern University LDR 6615: Academic Advising and Life Skills under the instruction of Dr. CA Tolchinsky

The two schools which I have chosen to reference as models for Athletic Academic Advising and Life Skills both happen to be private schools from the state of Texas. School A is Southern Methodist University from the Dallas, Texas area and School B is Rice University from the Houston, Texas area. Southern Methodist University is in search of an Academic Coordinator and their ideal candidate will have experience in the revenue sports of “Football and/or Men’s Basketball” (“Coordinator 2 Academic Coordinator”, August 27, 2014). I also found out that Rice University is in search of an Assistant Director of Academic Advising for Athletics and their ideal candidate will possess a Bachelor’s degree (Assistant Director, August 28, 2014).

The first example of a position in athletic academic support is with Southern Methodist University which requires at least a Master’s Degree. The educational field of study in which the ideal candidate for employment is in “Counseling, Education, or Sports Administration” which fits in purposefully with the goal of working “…with the at-risk population of student-athletes…” (“Coordinator 2 Academic Coordinator”, August 27, 2014) (Coordinator 2 ASDA ACADEMIC COORDINATOR, August 25, 2014). The ASDA Academic Coordinator position requires previous experience “providing academic support to student athletes” for two years full time (August 25, 2014).

Relative to what we have learned thus far in our course material the ASDA Academic Coordinator needs to have “experience and understanding of NCAA rules, eligibility, academic advising, and compliance…” (August 25, 2014). Software and systems proficiencies which the ASDA Academic Coordinator should have are Microsoft Office and “Gradefirst system” (August 25, 2014). In a summary of duties the SMU Coordinator 2 (ASDA ACADEMIC COORDINATOR) provides “…resources and individual guidance to student-athletes to enhance time management and organizational skills, study skills, and communication skills” (August 25, 2014). The aid that this position is to the athletic program is to assist student-athletes “with the transition from high school to college” (Coordinator 2 ASDA ACADEMIC COORDINATOR, August 25, 2014).

The example position of employment with Rice University is Assistant Director of Academic Advising for Athletics. The incumbent Assistant Director “assists student athletes in exploring and identifying their educational goals and developing academic plans while maintaining compliance with Rice University, NCAA, and Conference USA rule and regulations” (Rice University, September 8, 2014). “The Assistant Director advises student athletes through one-on-one meetings and as a team of academic advisors” (Rice University, September, 8, 2014). There are three programs in which the incumbent Assistant Director will assist with and they are: 1) “the Athlete Peer Academic Advisor Program; 2) Orientation Week Program, and other advising programs and events” (Rice University, September 8, 2014).

In conclusion, this reflective response has helped me to identify similar duties and common goals of the academic advisor in an intercollegiate athletic program. The first thing I noticed which both the SMU and Rice jobs had in common was the one-on-one feedback with the students, this is a good practice as student-athletes need that accountability mentor in their lives for consistent progress toward graduation. The two positions at the two institutions were similar in core goals of serving the student-athletes, with the exception being that the position at Rice University as Assistant Director requires reporting duties regarding: planning, staffing, and budget (Rice University, September 8, 2014). An observation of both positions of employment is that the goal is to be compliant with the university, NCAA, and the athletic conference. After this exercise I feel more confident to identify the attributes which a college is looking for as I seek and apply for opportunities in Athletic Academic Advising and Life Skills.

**Works Cited**

*Assistant Director*. (August 28, 2014). Rice Works. Retrieved September 20, 2014, from <https://jobs.rice.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp?postingId=181186>

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