

**SUNY Potsdam
Administrative Unit
Assessment Summary Form**

Administrative Unit: Athletics

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Assessment Year: 2023-2024

PURPOSE

This annual assessment summary form provides the opportunity for units to follow-up on their assessment plans, track progress toward goals, and to highlight actions taken to improve processes and/or efficiencies in functioning that lead to outcomes that benefits students, staff, or the college. These could be process changes or improvements in efficiency, skill level of staff, opportunities for the college, or other aspects over which the unit has a certain amount of control.

SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT PLAN FOLLOW-UP

A key component of the continuous improvement assessment process is regularly following up on [your assessment plan](#). Please review your plan and select one-third of your unit goals, along with related desired outcomes and objectives to report on the progress made. Units should select a goal that has not yet been reported on during the '22-'26 cycle.

Selected Goal

Mentor and support student-athletes with the goal of helping them succeed in the classroom. Help to ensure student-athletes leave Potsdam with a degree.

Desired Outcomes/Objectives

Aim to have student-athletes maintain a higher GPA than the general student body, while also seeing student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.

Related Targets/Measures

Review of team/ department wide GPA's at the end of each semester. Review graduation rates at the end of each academic year.

NOTE: Once completed, administrative unit leaders should submit this form to their direct supervisor for review and approval. Supervisors, upon approving the form, should submit it to the assessment committee via email at adminassessment@potsdam.edu for their review.

Describe the progress made toward the selected goal and the related desired outcomes and objectives. Be sure to include steps taken and any information/data collected and results.

Most recent data shows that student-athletes had a combined GPA of 3.42 during the 23/24 academic year. This is a marked increase from the combined GPA of 3.16 posted in 22/23. Each semester, we are able to look at the semester/cumulative GPA's of each individual student-athlete. We are also able to tabulate them by team (sport) and for the department as a whole. We are fortunate to be able to rely on our academic coordinators who serve as extra advisors to our student-athletes and who understand the unique scheduling challenges our athletes face. The academic coordinator program is unique to Potsdam within the SUNYAC.

56.7

Regarding graduation rates: Across the five most-recently studied six-year cohorts, student-athletes have graduated at a rate of 62.36, compared to a rate of 50.72 for non-athletes. Though this number bodes well for the athletic department, it does not look so good when compared with the graduation rate of the 2013 student-athlete cohort, which was 74.2. Recent dips in graduation rates could be attributed to COVID, but the goal of the athletic department is to get back to the rate posted in 2013.

All graduation rate data was provided by the office of institutional effectiveness.

Based on the assessment data and information shared above, what planned actions were or will be taken as a result?

It's clear that when it comes to GPA's, we are on a good track. We will continue to recruit high-achieving students who are set up for success not only on the field, but in the classroom as well. Benefits like priority scheduling and access to the aforementioned academic coordinators should continue to be afforded.

Regarding graduation rates: Though student-athletes still graduate at a higher rate than the general student body, there is work to be done. One important area to explore is a new, more intentional partnership with the Loughheed Center, and specifically, career services and internships. Working more closely with career services will allow student-athletes to see that the trajectory they are on can result in gaining employment in the field of their choice. Additionally, the career services office can help student-athletes become more attractive to employers by showcasing the leadership and teamworking skills inherently learned through athletics. The internship office can create new and exciting internships for student-athletes, improving their overall college experience. Conversations have already taken place with the Loughheed Center employees to ensure a correct path forward is created.

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SECTION 2: DATA INFORMED DECISIONS & UNPLANNED ASSESSMENT (OPTIONAL, BUT VALUABLE)

The experiences of every administrative unit contribute to our collective narrative as a campus. We encourage you to share an example from this past year where you leveraged data or assessment type activities. This could involve planning, taking action, and/or solving a problem. Unlike section 1, there's no need for a formal reporting structure for this section. Instead, focus on a narrative that highlights what was done, the results and the impact of your efforts. Please include any related data and information when available and appropriate.

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