



Division of Student Affairs
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
AT FREDONIA

ANNUAL REPORT
Department of Athletics and Recreation
2021 - 2022

Department Overview

The Department of Athletics and Recreation is responsible for the function of the intercollegiate athletic teams, intramurals, compliance of club sports and the operation of the fitness center, natatorium, and outdoor athletic facilities. A staff of nearly forty serve the athletic teams and student-athletes along with the recreation needs of campus stakeholders.

Personnel

Leadership

Fredonia State Athletic Administration, consisting of Director of Athletics Jerry Fisk, Assistant Director of Athletics/Senior Woman Administrator Angela Pucciarelli Rice '09, and Assistant Director of Athletics P.J. Gondek saw no changes in leadership during the 2021-22 academic year.

Retirements

Jerry Reilly and Tracy Wyson, longtime Sports Information Director (SID) and Administrative Assistant, respectively, both retired.

New Faces and New Roles

Former Baseball Coach Matt Palisin replaced Reilly in the SID role. Bryan Hinchliffe and Natalie Sharpe joined the athletic training staff as assistant athletic trainers. Three teams were served by interim head coaches this year. Bill Bradley '18, led the swimming and diving program, Jordan Basile '09 led the baseball program and Alanna Herne led the women's lacrosse program this year. Mike Kelley, Anthony Walsh, Marissa Cussins, Katie Yudin joined the staff as assistant coaches.

The Year in Review

The 2021-22 year saw a return to (mostly) normal. The ability to compete and hold contests was a great step in the direction of normalcy. All teams returned competition and practice for the first time since the 2018-19 season. Testing was a regular part of being a student-athlete, but vaccines allowed more ability to compete, which was very welcomed.

2021-22 Highlights

- 1. Eleven of the seventeen varsity teams made the SUNYAC Championships.**
- 2. The FREDDYS returned in person with a great celebration in May.**
- 3. Student-athletes earned a 3.15 GPA for the year, with 130 Blue Devils named to the SUNYAC Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll.**
- 4. 27 senior student-athletes were inducted into the Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society.**
- 5. 16 Blue Devils were named All-SUNYAC or All-American for their athletic accomplishments.**



Campus Metrix

Enrollment, academic performance, retention and graduation continue to be bright spots for athletics.

FREDONIA STATE ATHLETICS

THE VALUE ATHLETICS BRINGS TO CAMPUS

OUR SUCCESS

Data will demonstrate our athletic department's performance in areas of great importance on campus: recruitment, enrollment, retention, academic success and commencement.


DATA

Over the past 18 years, the number of student-athletes has decreased by 11 (392 to 381, a 2.8% drop), while the number of non-athletes has decreased by 1,209 (4608 to 3399, a 26.2% drop).

Enrollment			
Year	# Student Athletes	Total Enrollment	Non-Student Athletes
2000-06	382	5,000	4,608
2006-07	354	5,016	4,666
2007-08	401	5,056	4,655
2008-09	405	5,231	4,825
2009-10	423	5,418	4,995
2010-11	442	5,440	5,000
2011-12	442	5,432	5,000
2012-13	458	5,244	4,786
2013-14	458	5,181	4,723
2014-15	432	5,008	4,576
2015-16	427	4,812	4,385
2016-17	383	4,408	4,022
2017-18	421	4,432	4,011
2018-19	355	4,405	4,050
2019-20	376	4,272	3,896
2020-21	387	3,861	3,474
2021-22	381	3,780	3,399

Participation in Sports	First Time		Transfer			
	Initial #	Retention %	Initial #	Retention %		
No Sports	4487	3271	73%	1276	1000	79%
Fall 2016	853	680	77%	305	227	74%
Fall 2017	885	776	77%	291	218	75%
Fall 2018	1002	726	69%	283	208	69%
Fall 2019	881	676	75%	223	164	63%
Fall 2020	863	601	72%	163	163	78%
Sports	529	3271	61%	169	84	84%
Fall 2016	70	60	84%	16	16	78%
Fall 2017	126	83	78%	12	11	62%
Fall 2018	112	89	79%	12	20	78%
Fall 2019	119	82	84%	16	14	67%
Fall 2020	91	71	81%	12	14	68%
Grand Total	4887	3891	74%	1376	1082	78%

Student-athletes are retained at a higher rate than non-athletes. Student-athletes were retained at an 8% higher rate for the five-year period from Fall 2016 to Spring 2021.



FACT

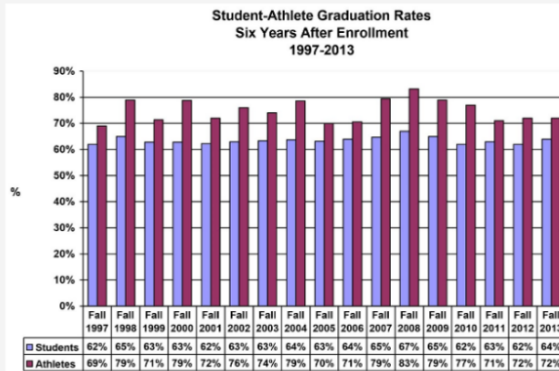
Fredonia State Athletics routinely exceeds our recruiting goals, having surpassed them in seven of the last eight years.

FACT

Fredonia State Athletics brings in high caliber student-athletes. The GPA of student-athletes is 0.12 higher than non-athletes over the last five years.

DATA

For the 17 classes that enrolled from 1997 to 2013, student-athletes graduated at 74.9%. Non-athletes graduated at 63.5%, an 11.4% difference.



Fredonia State Athletics needs additional support from campus to continue to excel and lead campus in these important metrics that impact our solvency and sustainability. The student-athlete experience is being significantly compromised as we take vans, put more student-athletes in each hotel room on the road, and require more fundraising, not to enhance, but just to continue our operations. If this continues, we will undoubtedly see a decrease in the number of student-athletes, the department's ability to retain them and their graduation rate.

The FREDDYS Returned in Person

After two years of virtual FREDDYS, the annual awards gala was held in person in Rosch Recital Hall in early May. Everything from the senior reception to the red carpet and the awards ceremony itself

went well and was a true celebration of the many accomplishments of our talented student-athletes. Great leaders who had tremendous impact on Blue Devil Athletics were honored. Awards were named in honor of Greg Prechtl and Dr. Everett (Doc) Phillips and Dr. Pat Damore and Ron Szot were also remembered for their contributions to our programs. FREDDYS' videos and winner announcements are available on the athletics website.

Student-Athlete Leadership Seminar

In the Fall of 2018, the Department of Athletics and Recreation initiated the Student-Athlete Leadership Seminar (SALS) in response to an identified need -- discovered during the 2017-18 academic year -- for more leadership and co-curricular skills development.

There were no SALS events during the 2021-22 academic year. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee was surveyed and based upon that information there were no events. In lieu of events, there was a significant effort to ensure that student-athletes were aware of the support available to them, both academically and mental health related.

Team Success

Several Blue Devil teams saw success throughout the year. Fall sports saw two teams make the playoffs, as women's soccer qualified for the SUNYACs as the five seed and earned a road victory at New Paltz before losing a 1-goal game to the eventual champions in the semifinals. Women's volleyball earned the four seed and hosted a SUNYAC playoff game. Two winter teams also made the playoffs. Hockey earned the five seed and lost a tough contest in the first round. Women's basketball earned the six seed and gave the three seed all it could handle before eventually losing to end their season. Softball led the charge in the spring, going 9-9 in conference to earn the five seed and qualifying for the double elimination tournament. The Blue Devils finished eighth in the Dr. Patrick R. Damore Commissioner's Cup.

There were many team academic awards for Blue Devil teams this year.

- Men's Cross Country USTFCCCA All Academic Team 2021
- Women's Cross Country USTFCCCA All Academic Team 2021
- Women's Indoor Track & Field USTFCCCA All Academic Team 2022
- The Women's Soccer team was recognized with the United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award for their team GPA.
- The Women's Lacrosse team was named as an IWLCA Honor Squad by the national coaches association.
- The Women's Volleyball Team received the 2021 American Volleyball Coaches Association All Academic Team for the fifth straight year and eighth overall.

Student-Athlete Academic Recognition

Women's soccer won the team academic award with a team grade-point average (GPA) of 3.61. Women's swimming and diving was second at 3.60. Overall, 13 of 17 teams had a GPA of 3.0 or higher and 9 of those teams had a GPA over 3.35.

The 2021-22 SUNYAC Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll included 130 Blue Devils. The Academic Honor Roll encompasses all student-athletes who contributed to an athletic team and have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 through the spring semester.

27 Blue Devils were recognized for their academic excellence and inducted into the Chi Alpha Sigma honor society. The award recognizes seniors that have a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher while being a contributing member of a Blue Devil team. Seniors Katie Smith of women's basketball and Tony Gettino of cross country/track and field took home the Dr. Everett (Doc) Phillips Scholar-Athlete of the Year awards, earning the highest GPA among graduating senior student-athletes.

Fredonia State's 2022 Chi Alpha Sigma inductees are:

- Patrick Bigham, Baseball, Sport Management major
- Tessa Brady, Women's Lacrosse, Psychology major
- Jessica Caracciola, Women's Soccer, Childhood Inclusive Education major
- Eleanor Clarke, Women's Volleyball and Track & Field, Early Childhood/Childhood Education major
- Morgan Davis, Women's Basketball, Childhood Inclusive Education major
- Jimmy Duran, Men's Soccer, Business Administration major
- Tony Gettino, Men's Cross Country and Track & Field, Sport Management / Communications: Public Relations major
- Melanie Gleason, Softball, Exercise Science major
- Eric Hirschhaut, Men's Hockey, Sport Management major
- Emily Jones, Women's Volleyball, Communications Disorders and Sciences major
- Sierra Keim, Women's Volleyball, Communications Disorders and Sciences major
- AJ Kinney, Baseball, Childhood Inclusive Education major
- Nicole Kumro, Softball, Childhood Inclusive Education major
- Emily Kwiatkowski, Women's Soccer, Early Childhood Education: Foreign Language major
- Brandon Londos, Men's Soccer, Sport Management major
- Dominique Martello, Women's Tennis, Earth Science Adolescent Education major
- Lauren Mickley, Women's Basketball, Chemistry major
- Alyssa Piniewski, Softball, Childhood Inclusive Education major
- Amber Piniewski, Softball, Childhood Inclusive Education major
- Katie Pitcher, Women's Basketball, Business Management major
- McKayla Polowy, Women's Swimming, Biology major

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- Sophia Richiusa, Women's Soccer, Communications Disorders & Sciences major
 - Brinn Shaughnessy, Women's Volleyball, Childhood Inclusive Education major
 - Kendall Shearn, Women's Lacrosse, Communications Media Management; Public Relations major
 - Katie Smith, Women's Basketball, Geology major
 - Marisa Sultana, Softball, Early and Childhood Education major
 - Sam Wagner, Men's Soccer, Finance major

Kristin Kelemen of women's cross country and track and field swept the indoor and outdoor track SUNYAC Elite 20 Award for Academic Excellence. The Elite 20 Award goes to the championship participant with the highest grade-point average.

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All American Scholar Athlete Award, with a 3.5 GPA or higher for the 2020-21 academic year was awarded to the following members of the softball team:

Alex Brizendine, Lexi Wulf, Alyssa Piniew-ski, Alyssa Santiago, Amber Piniewski, Emily Chelius, Evelyn Webster, Marisa Sultana, Melanie Gleason, Vanessa Galbraith.

Three members of the women's lacrosse team, Julia Nicolosi, Sydney Booth and Tessa Brady were named to the IWLCA Honor Roll.

From the Cheer team, Isabella Trifilo was inducted into the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society Epsilon Chi Chapter and Gianna Spataro was inducted into the Phi Alpha Honor Society.

Alon Kremerman from the men's basketball team was awarded the James McKenna SIAM Award (The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) by the SUNY Fredonia applied math dept in April.

Katie Smith of the women's basketball team was inducted into the Golden Key Honor Society and also earned the Genealogy Alumni Award.

Student-Athlete Athletic Recognition

Sophomore Logan Dyck of Ice Hockey and junior Izzy Audette of Women's Soccer won the Greg Prechtl Athlete of the Year awards at the FREDDYS. Each was recognized, based upon voting by the department staff, as the most outstanding male and female student-athlete for the year. The Male Rookie of the Year was Logan Dyck of Ice Hockey and the Female Rookies of the Year were Mary Culeton of Women's Basketball and Hally Lerner of Women's Track and Field, after the voting ended in a tie.

All America and All SUNYAC recognition

Regional All America

Juniors Izzy Audette, a defender, and Gabby Alston, a forward were recognized on the United Soccer Coaches Region III All Stars as All-Region. Audette made the second team, while Alston was a third team selection.

All SUNYAC

First Team: Izzy Audette (women's soccer) and Haley Lerner (women's outdoor track & field, pole vault)

Second Team: Christy Ackendorf (women's volleyball), Gabby Alston (women's soccer), Katie Pitcher (women's basketball), Nicole Kumro (softball), and Logan Dyck (men's ice hockey)

Third Team: Selena Brown and Emily Jones (women's volleyball), Bri Grazen and Sabrina Suriani (women's soccer), Kyle Campbell (men's cross country), McKayla Polowy (women's swimming), and Eleanor Clarke (women's track and field, javelin)

The 36th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day was observed on campus on Saturday, February 5. While Fredonia State games for the day were canceled, the girls basketball teams from Salamanca and Cassadaga Valley met in Dods Gym. The game was a celebration of the opportunities for women in sport and did not disappoint.

Division III Week is an annual celebration of what it means to be a Division III student-athlete that concludes with National Student-Athlete Day. April 4-9, 2022 was the week designated for recognition of our student-athletes. Social media posts on Twitter and Instagram helped to celebrate the value that our student-athletes bring to campus. National Student-Athlete Day saw all student-athletes receive a complimentary t-shirt to reward their efforts and commemorate the week.

Student-Athlete Assessments

Fredonia State Athletics conducts student-athlete assessments at the end of each season.

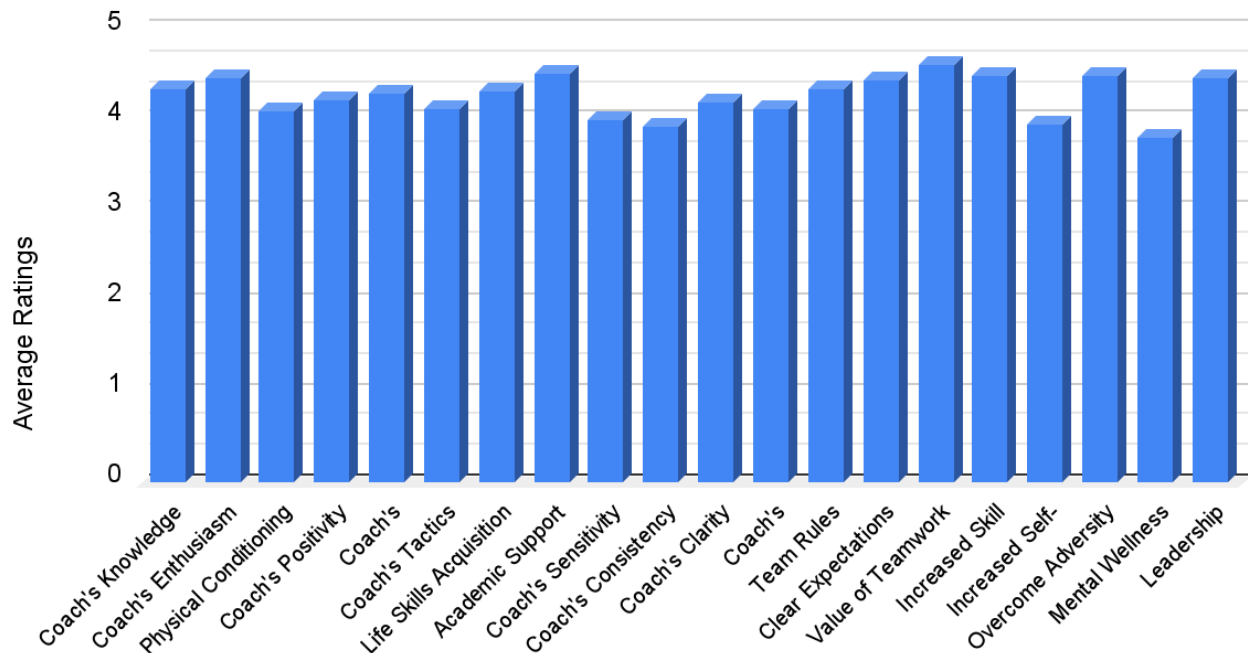
Administrators and coaches review the surveys and use them to evaluate each program. The assessments are also used for decision-making purposes.

Approximately 161 student-athletes took the anonymous surveys in 2021-22. Some takeaways:

- Two-thirds of respondents stated that participating in varsity athletics has increased their self-confidence either a great deal or considerably.
- Several categories had averages over 4.3 (out of 5): the coach's overall knowledge of the sport, the coach's enthusiasm for coaching, the coach's concern that you master "life skills" necessary to succeed upon graduation, the coach's concern for your academic achievement, the coach's establishment and enforcement of reasonable and fair team rules, and the coach's clear articulation of "expected off-the-court/field/ice/etc. behavior" of team members.

Additionally, the responses suggest the student-athletes have learned the value of teamwork, increased both their skill level and ability to deal with adversity, and helped each develop leadership abilities.

End of Year Student-Athlete Assessments 2021-22



Hall of Fame

The pandemic, again, forced the postponement of the Fredonia State Athletics Class of 2020 Hall of Fame induction (five individuals, three Teams of Distinction). The bi-annual ceremony -- originally scheduled for October 2020 -- was postponed and will now be held on Saturday, October 8, 2022.

The following will be Inducted as individuals:

Jordan Basile '09, baseball

Matt Borchard '06, men's soccer

Sarah Hite-Moore '05, women's track and field

Walt Hubbard '93, men's basketball

Greg Prechtl '68, coach and administrator

The following will be Inducted as Teams of Distinction:

1981 Men's Cross Country
1985 & 1986 Men's Soccer
1992-93 Men's Basketball

Yearly Competitions

Lake Erie Cup

The battle for the Lake Erie Cup, head-to-head between Buffalo State and Fredonia State ended in a tie. The Cup will remain with Buffalo State for the 2022-23 academic year.

The I-90 Cup

The annual baseball competition between Fredonia State and Penn State Behrend was not contested this year due to weather cancellations and the priority of conference contests. The Cup will remain in Fredonia for the 2022-23 academic year.

Learning Outcomes

Beginning in 2018-19, the Department of Athletics developed a list of concrete Learning Outcomes -- and correlating tactics, measures, and strategies -- to assure that our work ties back to the educational role of higher education.

We focused on four tenets: personal development, interpersonal competence, intercultural and global understanding, and practical problem-solving. The Department has continued to evaluate, assess, and use the Learning Outcomes to help drive strategic decision-making.

The Learning Outcomes are as follows:

1. Student-athletes who engage in programs provided by the Department of Athletics and Recreation will be able to articulate how their co-curricular involvement integrates with their personal and career goals.
2. Student-athletes who engage in programs provided by the Department of Athletics and Recreation will be able to manage their mental health and personal wellness.
3. Student-athletes who engage in programs provided by the Department of Athletics and Recreation will be able to understand the cultures, customs, practices, struggles, and successes of individuals and groups around the world through constructive discourse and issues-based conversations.
4. Student-athletes who engage in programs provided by the Department of Athletics and Recreation will be retained at a higher rate than the general student body, and will perform well academically to maintain their eligibility and help their team grow and succeed.

Assessment and Program Evaluation Expectations for 2022-23

The student-athlete evaluations serve as our primary assessment tool. The data collected helps direct our decision-making process and goals for the following year.

The data collected suggests that our focus for the 2022-23 academic year should be on the following:

In our dealings with student-athletes

1. Clear communication. There are many factors that may have impacted communication this year. The department and its staff will work to better communicate with our stakeholders, both internal and external. More face-to-face communication should help with this goal.
2. Sensitivity to feelings. We know that the mental health crisis is real, and our student-athletes are no exception. Mental health will be a primary focus for the Student-Athlete Leadership Seminar in the 2022-23 academic year. The athletic department and staff will also work to give each student-athlete the time and attention they need to support them throughout any challenges that arise.

In Our Performance:

1. The department and our staff believe that while GPAs are higher than the student body at large, there is room for improvement.
2. 11 teams competing in the SUNYAC Championships is good. There is room for improvement. There are many factors that contribute to success in competition and we will work to eliminate barriers to success.

Within the Department:

1. The department and our staff will work to support one another more effectively. Scarcity of resources, demands on time and other stressors must be addressed to ensure that our team is performing to the best of its ability.

In Memoriam--The Passing of Two Blue Devil Legends

We lost two giants in the history of Fredonia State Athletics this year. Dr. Everett Phillips and Dr. Pat Damore both passed away. They are both fundamental to the University and Department of Athletics at Fredonia State and will be greatly missed.