



***AUSTIN COLLEGE***

***DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS***

# **Student Athlete Handbook**

Revised August 2022

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# Directory

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## DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

### ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES



EMAIL  
(@austincollege.edu)

EXTENSION  
(903-813-XXXX)

David Norman <i>Athletic Director and ESS Chair</i>	dnorman	2401
Sheila Smith <i>Athletic Department Office Coordinator</i>	sjsmith	2499
Rodney Wecker <i>Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities</i>	rwecker	2318
Michelle Filander <i>Assistant Athletic Director for Student Athlete Welfare Senior Woman Administrator, NCAA Diversity and Inclusion Designee</i>	mfilander	2404
Jeff Kelly <i>Director of Athletics Communications SAAC Sponsor</i>	jkelly	2275
Kelsey Warren <i>Head Athletic Trainer</i>	kwarren	2520
Dustin Green <i>Assistant Athletic Trainer</i>	dpgreen	2514
Shannon Cornelison-Brown <i>Faculty Athletic Representative</i>	sbrown	2815
Cece O'Day <i>Coordinator for Student Athlete Academic Success</i>	coday	

## DEPARTMENT EXTENSIONS



Dickey Fitness Pavilion	2735
Recreation Sports Office	2303
Hannah Natatorium	2519
Training Room	3081
Mason Complex Control Desk	3076
Athletic Department Fax	3196

# COACHES' DIRECTORY



<b>COACH AND SPORT</b>	<b>EMAIL</b> (@austincollege.edu)	<b>EXTENSION</b> (903-813-XXXX)
<b>FOOTBALL</b>		
Loren Dawson, Head Coach	ldawson	2403
Brenden Hunt, Assistant Coach	bhunt	2303
Joe Morgan, Assistant Coach	jmorgan	2510
Mike Silva, Assistant Coach	msilva	2405
Scott Bowsell, Assistant Coach	sboswell	2510
Zach Turner, Assistant Coach	zturner	2510
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>		
Ed Garza, Head Coach	egarza	2515
<b>MEN'S SOCCER</b>		
Taylor Goyen, Head Coach	tgoyen	2412
<b>WOMEN'S SOCCER</b>		
Kevin Gregory, Head Coach	kgregory	2280
Jaya Wilson, Assistant Coach	jnwilson	2290
<b>CHEER AND STUNT</b>		
Alyssa Freeman, Head Coach	afreeman	3047
<b>MEN'S BASKETBALL</b>		
Rodney Wecker, Head Coach	rwecker	2318
<b>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL</b>		
Michelle Filander, Head Coach	mfilander	2404
Olivia Hunt, Assistant Coach	ohunt	
<b>SWIMMING &amp; DIVING</b>		
Dan Snow, Head Coach	dsnow	2319
<b>BASEBALL</b>		
Shawn Counts, Head Coach	scounts	2516
<b>SOFTBALL</b>		
Kelly Sylvester, Head Coach	ksylvester	2394
<b>TENNIS</b>		
Syvoney Ybarra, Head Coach	sybarra	2400
<b>WATER POLO</b>		
Mark Lawrence, Head Coach	mlawrence	2003

# ***Introduction***

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The Austin College Athletic Department adheres to the following policies and procedures as dictated by Austin College, its mission, and NCAA Division III legislation. Student-athletes are encouraged to utilize this handbook as a resource as well as a guide to expectations for intercollegiate athletic participation. Any questions concerning this handbook or athletics should be directed to the Athletics office.

# ***Austin College Athletics***

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## **SPORT SPONSORSHIP**



### **FALL SPORTS**

- Football
- Volleyball
- Men's Soccer
- Women's Soccer
- Men's Water Polo
- Cheer

### **WINTER SPORTS**

- Men's Basketball
- Women's Basketball
- Men's Swimming & Diving
- Women's Swimming & Diving
- STUNT (Club)

### **SPRING SPORTS**

- Baseball
- Softball
- Men's Tennis
- Women's Tennis
- Women's Water Polo
- Cheer

## **CONFERENCE AFFILIATION**



Austin College competes in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. The SCAC is governed by the chief executive officers of the member institutions. Additional information about the SCAC, including the SCAC Conference Statement, Sportsmanship Statement, championship information, and archived results and statistics can be found at [www.scacsports.com](http://www.scacsports.com). Football competes as an affiliate member of the American Southwest Conference. Men's Water Polo is a member of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation and Women's Water Polo competes as a member of the Collegiate Water Polo Association.

### **MEMBER INSTITUTIONS (SCAC)**

Austin College - Sherman, TX

Centenary College - Shreveport, LA

Colorado College - Colorado Springs, CO

University of Dallas - Irving, TX

University of St. Thomas - Houston, TX

Schreiner College - Kerrville, TX

Southwestern University - Georgetown, TX

Texas Lutheran University - Seguin, TX

Trinity University - San Antonio, TX

# MISSION STATEMENT



## **Austin College Mission Statement**

The mission of Austin College is to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences in order to prepare them for rewarding careers and full, engaged, and meaningful lives.

## **Austin College Athletic Department Mission Statement**

To provide an opportunity to participate in a competitive NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletics program that both complements and extends the student-athlete educational experience.

### **Department Objective:**

1. To be a competitive Intercollegiate Athletic program.
2. Foster success in an academic program and interest in life long learning.
3. Contribute to the overall enrollment of the institution and its athletic programs through recruitment and persistence.
4. Develop positive relationships and support for the institution and its athletic programs through participation.

### **Department Learning Outcomes:**

- A. Enhanced understanding for and improved skills associated with a particular sport of activity.
- B. Appreciation for life long health and fitness.
- C. Growth and development in numerous life skills.
- D. Respect and acceptance of sportsmanship and fair play.



# NCAA DIVISION III PHILOSOPHY

Colleges and universities in Division III place the highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience and on the successful completion of all students' academic programs. They seek to establish and maintain an environment in which student-athlete's athletics activities are conducted as an integral part of the student-athlete's educational experience, and an environment that values cultural diversity and gender equity among their student-athletes and athletics staff. To achieve this end, Division III institutions:

- a. Expect that institutional presidents and chancellors have the ultimate responsibility and final authority for the conduct of the intercollegiate athletics program at the institutional, conference and national governance levels;
- b. Place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators and place greater emphasis on the internal constituency (e.g., students, alumni, institutional personnel) than on the general public and its entertainment needs;
- c. Shall not award financial aid to any student on the basis of athletics leadership, ability, participation, or performance;
- d. Primarily focus on intercollegiate athletics as a four-year undergraduate experience;
- e. Encourage the development of sportsmanship and positive societal attitudes in all constituents, including student-athletes, coaches, administrative personnel and spectators;
- f. Encourage participation by maximizing the number and variety of sport offerings for their students through broad-based athletics programs;
- g. Assure that the actions of coaches and administrators exhibit fairness, openness and honesty in their relationships with student-athletes;
- h. Assure that athletics participants are not treated differently from other members of the student body;
- i. Assure that student-athletes are supported in their efforts to meaningfully participate in nonathletic pursuits to enhance their overall educational experience;
- j. Assure that athletics programs support the institution's educational mission by financing, staffing and controlling the programs through the same general procedures as other departments of the institution. Further, the administration of an institution's athletics program (e.g., hiring, compensation, professional development, certification of coaches) should be integrated into the campus culture and educational mission;
- k. Assure that athletics recruitment complies with established institutional policies and procedures applicable to the admission process;
- l. Exercise institutional and/or conference autonomy in the establishment of initial and continuing eligibility standards for student-athletes;
- m. Assure that academic performance of student-athletes is, at minimum, consistent with that of the general student body;
- n. Assure that admission policies for student-athletes comply with policies and procedures applicable to the general student body.
- o. Provide equitable athletics opportunities for males and females and give equal emphasis to men's and women's teams;
- p. Support ethnic and gender diversity for all constituents;
- q. Give primary emphasis to regional in-season competition and conference championships; and
- r. Support student-athletes in their efforts to reach high levels of athletics performance, which may include opportunities for participation in national championships, by providing all teams with adequate facilities, competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities.

The purpose of the NCAA is to assist its members in developing the basis for consistent, equitable competition while minimizing infringement on the freedom of individual institutions to determine their own special objectives and programs. The above statement articulates principles that represent a commitment to Division III membership and shall serve as a guide for the preparation of legislation by the division and for planning and implementation of programs by institutions and conferences.



## STUDENT ATHLETE WELFARE

Student Athlete Welfare, is a collaborative effort on the part of student affairs and the athletics department to provide student-athletes, as well as the general student body, the opportunity to participate in programming aimed to enhance their academic experience. As a Division III institution, Austin College athletics is committed to the full development and well-roundedness of its athletes. Programming and activities in any given academic year will represent one of five areas:

1. Academic Excellence
2. Performance
3. Leadership Development
4. Career Development
5. Community Service



## STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is sponsored by the athletic department and consists of representatives elected from each team. The SAAC meets regularly throughout the academic year and works to achieve any goals set by the group, discuss current issues both within the athletic department and outside the Austin College community, be it conference or nationwide. Those chosen to represent their teams are encouraged to engage in the group as well as communicate back with their respective teams to achieve the best possible results. SAAC representatives serve a two year term and leadership is elected bi-annually.



# ***Conduct and Policies***

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## STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS



Intercollegiate athletics can be a pivotal experience; it allows opportunity for growth beyond the field of play by providing student-athletes with the ability to learn and practice leadership skills, interpersonal communication, work ethic, and teamwork among countless other attributes. The Austin College athletic department believes strongly in and supports each student-athlete's opportunity for participation. As with many opportunities, there are also attached expectations. Austin College complies with all NCAA regulations and legislation as it relates to participation as well as any applicable conference guidelines. Student-athletes will be educated annually by the athletic department relating to specific NCAA rules and regulations that require their acknowledgment by signature. Additionally, student-athletes are encouraged to educate themselves regarding general NCAA Division III legislation and can find more information at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). **Furthermore, the Austin College athletic department exists within the division of Student Affairs and adheres to the policies outlined by the Environment and the Outback guides; student-athletes are responsible for being aware of all applicable Austin College policies.** These publications can be found at <http://www.austincollege.edu/campus-life/student-life/student-life-publications/>

Participation and membership on an athletic team also means accepting responsibility for one's self as well as being fully aware of each team/coach's specific expectations for that team. Overall, Austin College student-athletes are expected to represent themselves, their team, and the institution in a positive manner and be aware of the following department and institutional policies.

## SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY



The Austin College athletic department adheres to federal Title IX law, Texas State law, and the Sexual Misconduct and Title IX policies as outlined by Austin College. Student-athletes are strongly encouraged to be aware of the Austin College Sexual Misconduct Policy. The policy as well as support resources can be found at <https://www.austincollege.edu/campus-life/sexual-misconduct/>

The Austin College Title IX Coordinator is listed below.

### **Title IX Coordinator**

Melanie Oelfke                      Director of Well Being and Human Resources  
moelfke@austincollege.edu      903-813-2433

### **Deputy Title IX Coordinator**

Jake Saap                              Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Compliance Officer  
jsaap@austincollege.edu          2432

## HAZING POLICY



Austin College opposes all forms of hazing and Texas Hazing Law prohibits all forms of hazing; personal and organizational, as well as the knowledge of hazing. Hazing is defined as any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally affects the mental health or physical health or safety of a student or willfully destroys or removes private property for the purposes of affiliation, initiation, admissions or as a condition for continued membership in any organization by Austin College on or off college property. Suspected violations will be reported to Student Affairs and infractions may result in athletic and/or institutional disciplinary action.

## SPORTS WAGERING AND GAMBLING



Austin College and the NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering, which has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community. Any violation may result in disciplinary action.

## SOCIAL MEDIA/CELL PHONES/COMMUNICATION



The Austin College Athletics Department recognizes and supports its student-athletes rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of online social networks, cell phone and electronic correspondence, and all written forms of communication. As a student-athlete are expected to portray yourself, your team, and the college in a positive manner.

If you participate on a social networking site, use social media, or utilize text messaging, email, or any other public boards you must keep the following guidance in mind:

- Your posts are public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information may be accessible even after you remove it. Information may become public, even if you believe you are in ‘private group,’ ‘private board,’ or utilizing an ‘anonymous’ platform.
- What you post may impact your future. Many employers and graduate school admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant.
- The Athletics Department discourages disrespectful comments and behavior, such as:
  - Derogatory or defamatory language;
  - Comments that create a serious danger to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of serious physical injury to another person;
  - Comments or photos that describe or depict unlawful behavior, including violating Austin College policies;
  - Overall conduct that is detrimental to the College, the team, the coaches and staff, other students, or other student-athletes

Any social media content that violates state or federal law, Austin College policy, athletics department policy, or team rules could result in suspension or dismissal from Austin College athletics.

\*Cell phone use, (call, pictures, video, and/or recording) is prohibited during team meetings/events, individual meetings, etc. unless otherwise communicated by the coach or Athletic Director. Cell phone use is highly discouraged in locker rooms, practice fields, weight room and athletic training room/facilities.



## DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

The Austin College athletic department recognizes the state laws of Texas as well as the policies of Austin College regarding drug and alcohol possession/use on campus. As a member of the NCAA, Austin College prohibits the use of illegal drugs and NCAA banned substances by student-athletes at any time during the year; on campus or off. Violations of this policy will result in direct report to the office of Student Affairs and also constitute an NCAA violation. Infractions carry a 75 day social probation as well as community service obligations, a monetary fine, and parental notification. In-season, athletes will not participate with their team while on probation. Out-of-season violations are subject to the same probationary period and a minimum 10% competition suspension for the next season. **It is the responsibility of each student-athlete to be aware of and well educated about the list of NCAA banned substances. This list can be found at [www.ncaa.org/health-and-safety/policy](http://www.ncaa.org/health-and-safety/policy).** Each team/coach also has the ability to dictate team alcohol policies and expectations; these should be communicated consistently with student-athletes as well as the athletic department. Texas state law prohibits the consumption, possession, and purchase of alcohol for those under the age of 21. The Austin College athletic department also applies this position to prospective student athletes under 21 visiting campus. Prospective student-athletes will be made aware of this policy prior to their campus visit. Student-athletes hosting prospective students should not encourage under-age consumption of alcohol and coaches should consistently communicate this policy to their teams/hosts.



## UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Student-athletes will be issued practice gear, a combination lock, and a laundry clip at the beginning of their season by their coach. As pursuant to NCAA bylaws 16.11.1.7 and 16.11.1.8, student-athletes are permitted to keep used practice attire but any sport specific and/or travel equipment must be returned to the coach/athletic department and is the responsibility of the student-athlete to do so. Uniforms will also be issued by each coach and retrieved by the coach at the conclusion of the season. Student-athletes who fail to return equipment will be billed for the replacement cost.

Laundry services for practice gear and uniforms will be provided by the athletic department; student-athletes are discouraged from including personal items in the laundry as the athletic department will not be responsible for any damages that could occur while being laundered. Student-athletes are highly encouraged to utilize the issued combination locks on their locker as locker rooms may, at times, be used for visiting teams.



## NAME IMAGE AND LIKENESS

NCAA student athletes have the opportunity to benefit from their name, image and likeness. The NCAA has adopted an interim policy that removes any restrictions historically placed on such activities so long as they coincide with Texas state law. The Austin College athletics department, in accordance with Texas NIL requirements, ask every student athlete to complete the NIL disclosure process to allow the institution to fulfill its responsibility to identify potential conflicts with institutional provisions. Student athletes are also required to attend a five hour life skills workshop at the beginning of their first and third years of participation.



## CONCUSSION AND CATASTROPHIC INJURY

In compliance with NCAA Concussion Safety Protocol Legislation you have been provided the NCAA concussion education fact sheet as well as links to the NCAA safety video for student athletes. We encourage to review this information and be well versed in safety protocols with regards to concussion and catastrophic injury. The links are provided below:

NCAA Concussion Education Fact Sheet

[https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/concussion/2020\\_Concussion\\_Safety\\_Protocol\\_Checklist.pdf](https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/concussion/2020_Concussion_Safety_Protocol_Checklist.pdf)

NCAA Safety Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXOLhtEwySw&feature=youtu.be>



## MENTAL HEALTH

Just because student-athletes are generally a healthy population does not mean that they are immune to mental health issues. In fact, because of this perception of health and resilience, student-athletes who have mental health concerns may be even more reluctant than a non-athlete student to seek help. The Austin College Athletic Department strongly encourages student athletes who may be experiencing an event or a more chronic situation to utilize our on campus resources to begin taking steps towards wellness.

Counseling Services - Adams Center

903-813-2247



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Consistent with the Austin College non discrimination statement and NCAA Division III inclusion initiatives the Austin College athletics department works to identify opportunities for student athletes to participate in campus and NCAA diversity programming, provide education, and create an equitable environment that provides for a positive student athlete experience.

### **Vice President for Student Affairs and Diversity and Inclusion**

Carllos Lassiter

classiter@autincollege.edu                      903-813-2228

### **NCAA Athletic Diversity and Inclusion Designee**

Michelle Filander

mfilander@austincollege.edu                      903-813-2404



# ACADMIC ELIGIBILITY AND FINANCIAL AID

In order to be eligible for intercollegiate athletics participation a student-athlete must make satisfactory progress according to NCAA bylaw 14.4.1 as defined by each individual institution. Austin College defines satisfactory progress as such:

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

All financial aid recipients must complete the number of cumulative credit units by the end of each long semester (fall or spring) as listed in the table below. Part-time students must reach the required credit unit level in double the number of terms.

No student will be eligible to receive federal or state aid for more than 10 long terms for a four-year program. No student will be eligible to receive Austin College institutional aid for more than 8 long terms for a four-year program.

A 2.00 cumulative grade point average (GPA) earned at Austin College is required for graduation from Austin College and is not rounded.

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

<b>Number of Long Terms (Fall or Spring at Austin College)</b>	<b>Minimum Number of Credit Units to be Completed</b>	<b>Minimum Cumulative GPA</b>
1	2.0	1.5
2	5.0	1.7
3	8.0	1.8
4	12.0	2.0
5	15.0	2.0
6	19.0	2.0
7	22.0	2.0
8	26.0	2.0
9	29.0	2.0
10	34.0	2.0

Student-athletes must also maintain full time student status to be considered eligible; Austin College considers a minimum of 3 classes per semester full time. If a student-athlete requires less than 3 classes **to complete** their degree; they will maintain eligibility. It should be noted, only grades received at Austin College are used in the calculation of GPA's.

As an NCAA Division III institution, Austin College adheres to all NCAA bylaws related to financial aid. Student-athletes cannot be and will not be awarded financial scholarship based on athletic performance, potential or athletic leadership. Coaches and athletic department staff have no role in the awarding of student-athlete financial aid.



## TEAM TRAVEL AND SCHEDULING CONFLICTS

Travel to scheduled athletic contests during the traditional season of play is an approved college activity. This means that while a student-athlete is approved to miss class they are still responsible to the faculty member for what occurs in the particular class session. Though coaches will make every effort to share information about travel to the college as a whole, student-athletes need to understand that they are responsible for speaking to their faculty specifically about missing a class. This interaction needs to take place at the **beginning** of the semester and should be followed by a reminder just prior to travel.

- Student-athletes are responsible for coordinating travel with their faculty.
- Faculty may keep a student-athlete from traveling for any one of three reasons:
  - A. Inadequate notice and timing;
  - B. Excessive number of (unapproved) missed classes already occurred in the class;
  - C. Student-athlete has performed poorly and is in jeopardy of failing the class.
- The athletic department will email final travel rosters to all faculty as confirmation of travel.

Student-athletes will travel to competition venues with the team as well as return to campus with the team. Student-athletes will only be permitted alternative travel with their parents.

## SPORTSMANSHIP



Pursuant to the integrity of higher education, Austin College holds all individuals associated with an institution's athletic department and events to the highest ideals of sportsmanship. All athletic administrators, coaches, student-athletes, spirit groups and fans shall act with respect, fairness, civility and honesty in an effort to create an appropriate environment for athletics competition as well as a positive image for their institutions. The use of alcohol and tobacco are not permitted. Taunting, baiting, and fighting are unacceptable, and those individuals displaying such actions may be reprimanded, publicly or privately, or suspended as deemed appropriate by the NCAA, SCAC, and/or Austin College. Any violations that are simultaneous student conduct violations could be subject to institutional disciplinary action as well.

## GREIVANCE PROCEDURE



This procedure has been established to be an aid to student-athletes who wish to make concerns known about a member of the Austin College athletic staff. It is intended to be used infrequently as student-athletes are encouraged to first communicate with the department member; should no reasonable conclusion be reached student-athletes can meet with the Athletic Director and/or Senior Woman Administrator. Appointments can be made through the Athletic Department Administrative Assistant and all involved parties may be asked to attend in order to reach a resolution. Student athletes will provide in written form a summary of their concerns to the Athletic Director (or SWA dependent on who they choose to meet with) prior to their scheduled meeting.

## REMOVAL FROM ATHLETIC TEAMS



The Austin College athletic department reserves the right to remove a student-athlete from their team, either as a suspension or indefinitely, should the coach and Athletic Director feel the student-athlete has violated the policies, guidelines, or philosophies of the team, the athletic department, Austin College, or the NCAA.

# ***Support Services***

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## **SPORTS INFORMATION**



In order to best promote athletics at Austin College; student-athletes who are contacted by members of the media to conduct interviews, etc. are encouraged to request the assistance of our Sports Information office. We are more than happy to assist with photograph requests, etc. We will only provide necessary information regarding student-athlete statistical information, as well as, biographical and academic information while maintaining awareness of student-athlete privacy rights and federal laws. Austin College also sponsors the official forms of social networking via Facebook and Twitter. Student-athletes are discouraged from using anonymous accounts that present themselves as Austin College accounts; you will be asked to remove the account immediately.

Any questions or requests can be directed to our Sports Information Coordinator and student-athletes are welcome to visit our athletics webpage at [www.acroos.com](http://www.acroos.com).

## **ATHLETIC TRAINING**



The Austin College athletic department believes in providing a safe and healthy environment for student-athletes to compete in, therefore we staff a training room with NATA certified trainers as well as an orthopedic surgeon who visits campus once a week. Student-athletes should report all (in-season) injuries to either their coach or directly to an athletic trainer. Student-athletes have access to treatment procedures as well as physical therapy protocols, but are responsible for complying with all treatment and maintaining consistent communication with the athletic training staff. Student-athletes will not be permitted to compete or practice until they have been cleared in written documentation by the treating physician or by a trainer for injuries not requiring a doctor. Student-athletes and coaches should be aware of all training room policies; specifically open hours for rehabilitation and pre-practice treatment. Any illness affecting a student-athletes ability to participate is handled through our campus health center and coordinated with our training room.

All student-athletes must complete electronic pre-participation forms prior to participation. Student-athletes will be notified via Austin College email when the pre-participation forms are available for completion and instructions as to how to set up their online accounts to access and complete all necessary forms.

All Austin College students are required to have health insurance; copies of that insurance should also be provided to the training room. Student-athletes should verify their primary insurance covers varsity athletics. Austin College athletics provides secondary insurance for intercollegiate athletics; this insurance covers injuries that occur during the official, supervised practice or competition. Student-athletes are encouraged to contact the athletic training staff for details into the claim process. The NCAA also provides catastrophic coverage (that includes a \$90,000 deductible), information regarding that coverage can be found at <http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/insurance/student-athlete-insurance-programs>



# ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Austin College is an academic decision first and the athletics department prioritizes each student-athletes primary objective; to obtain the best possible educational experience. While the NCAA prohibits any specific academic support for student-athletes not offered to the general student population; student-athletes may participate in study halls, etc. as defined by each team/sport/coach.

Student-athletes are strongly encouraged to be aware of and utilize the many opportunities that exist on campus for academic achievement. Consistent and quality communication with the faculty, use of the Academic Skills Center, as well as the Peer Tutor program are all options available to students. Also, student-athletes should communicate with coaches about scheduled review sessions, out-of-class activities as stated on the class syllabus, and/or extra credit opportunities that may take place during practice time as the coach will coordinate with the student-athlete appropriately.

## **AUSTIN COLLEGE STUDENT ATHLETE ACADEMIC PERSISTENCE**

The Academic Persistence Program was put in place to support and guide student-athletes through the beginning of their first semester and beyond if necessary. This is accomplished with strong partnerships between the Athletic Department and the Academic Skills Center.

### **Coordinator for Student Athlete Academic Success**

Cece O'Day

Persistence Monitor/Assistant Swimming and Diving Coach

[coday@austincollege.edu](mailto:coday@austincollege.edu)

### **Academic Skills Center**

Wortham Campus Center 211

903-813-2454