

PAUL OLIVER WALL OF INSPIR8TION

Life After Athletics: Career Development

The Goal

The University of Georgia is the only athletic association in the country that has a mandatory career development program in place for all student-athletes. The program is a tiered system that takes our student-athletes through several layers of preparedness. The desired result of which is that, when they are ready to move into life after athletics, each student will:

- Have selected a major that relates to their career interests and plans;
- Know what jobs and careers best suit their interests and skills;
- Be aware of job and career opportunities in their fields of interest;
- Have made connections and developed relationships in those fields;
- Have a resume that includes experience in the forms of job shadowing and internships.

The Process

Each year, student-athletes will take an individualized assessment, complete a series of short, educational training modules, and participate in workshops and activities designed to get them “career ready” in their preparation for life after athletics. While there will be many aspects to the program, much of it will be offered in conjunction with our partners on and off campus and customized to suit individual student needs including mandatory majors awareness fairs, career networking events, etc. At minimum, each student-athlete will have a basis of assessments and career experiences that will provide them with the tools to better prepare them for life after athletics.

For those who want to take full advantage of our program, there is also assistance with developing: resume/cover letters, statements of purpose, applications in preparing for graduate/professional school, etc. Through the student-athlete opportunity fund, stipends are available for professional attire, leadership/internship costs, as well as fees/costs associated with applying to graduate and professional schools.

The Network

Our focus is to prepare our student-athletes to be their best in life after athletics. This includes helping them to recognize and market their unique transferable skills, develop and refine interview skills, and gain internship or work experience as an undergraduate. Thus, an important aspect of this preparedness will include forging relationships with companies to ensure that our student-athletes have the ability to participate in networking opportunities, job shadowing and internships.