

COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

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Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (APEC) Annual Report AY23-24
May 23, 2024

Dear Faculty Senate Executive Committee Members,

I write to you as the Chair of the Academic Eligibility and Progress Committee, a subcommittee of the Athletic Board, to share my annual report for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

The Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (APEC) had a busy year discussing numerous changes at the campus level all the way through the NCAA level. We successfully conducted 7 Sport Reviews with the respective Team Head Coaches. We also welcomed one new faculty member, Dr. Linda Moorehouse.

APEC Official Sport Review Summary AY 23-24

The APEC is officially tasked with reviewing three key criteria for every team head coach on a 3-year cycle. Last year, in AY 22-23 addition to the regular schedule for sport reviews, we chose to hold off-cycle reviews for new head coaches as an orientation to Illinois academic standards. Since there were no newly hired head coaches, there were no off-cycle reviews this year. Thus, reviews were only conducted at the AY23-24 September and February meetings.

The APEC sport review criteria include ensuring that:

- (1) the Team GPA for the past 6 semesters is a 2.25 or higher
- (2) the Scholarship athletes earn a 2.25 GPA or higher for the past 6 semesters
- (3) 80% of the team earns a 2.0 or higher

APEC Sport Reviews Completed This Year:

- September 2023: WSO, WBB, WTR, MWR
- February 2024: WGY, MGY, WGO

It is with great pleasure that I can share that all of our teams met and exceeded the APEC requirements. The overall student athlete academic success is evident in numerous metrics beyond the average team GPA including the Graduation Success Rate (GSR), the broad range of respective degrees earned at both the undergraduate and graduate level, and the number of student athletes consistently earning high academic honors. Notably, the teams demonstrated consistent upward trends in academic success including an incredible team GPA of 3.66 for Women's Basketball in Spring 2023.

Another review component includes the Academic Progress Report and Graduation Success Rate for each head coach. These numbers became publicly available again for all NCAA coaches starting this year.

General APEC Updates September 2023

Regarding AY22-23 academic statistics, we had some exciting data points:

- There were 148 Total Graduates across 10 colleges and 45 unique majors. This included a breakdown as follows:
 - 30 December '22 grads
 - 98 May '23 grads
 - 20 August '23 grads
 - 42 earned post-bacc degrees.

Spring 2023 included additional positive reports including:

- Averaged combined SP23 Term GPA for all teams: 3.45
- Average combined SP23 Term GPA for female athletes: 3.60
- Average combined SP23 Term GPA for male athletes: 3.28
- Average combined FA22-SP23 Term GPA for all Teams: 3.45 (**record tied for highest)

Other Key Data Points:

- 26 consecutive semesters combined student athlete GPA above 3.0 (**record**)
- 18/19 Teams earned over a 3.00 SP23 Term GPA
- 67 student athletes earned a 4.0 term GPA
- Teams with highest semester ever (7 teams): FB, MXC, WSB, WSWD, WBB, WGY, MWR

General APEC Updates February 2024

Once again there were several significant records to note including:

- 27 consecutive semesters combined student-athlete GPA above 3.0
- 77 student-athletes earned a 4.0 FA23 Term GAP
- 8 teams with highest ever Term GPA (MBA, MXC, MWR, WSB, WSWD, WBB, WGY, WTE)
- 74% of all student-athletes earned a 3.0 or higher for Fall 2023 Term GPA
- 18 teams earned over a 3.00 FA23 Term GPA
- Average combined FA23 Term GPA for all teams was 3.47
- 27 Fall 2023 Graduates representing 5 colleges and 14 majors.

APEC subcommittee meeting summaries

1. SAE Updates

We also discussed the recently implemented Screen, Assess, Evaluate (SAE) process implemented for onboarding incoming new student athletes. This process involves a 3-tier process designed by Shanika Mungin, DIA Academic Services staff and PhD student in Education. Her process supports identifying existing issues as well as potential issues for each student in terms of mental health conditions and learning impairments. The process filters students up through an evaluation process supported by INBAL Director, Dr. Kathryn Leskis, at the third tier, which assists with diagnostic evaluations for the purpose of supporting students in seeking accommodations through DRES.

One key component to the SAE process involves Clinical Case Consultations, which provide a collaborative space for academic counseling staff, learning specialists, mental health providers,

trainers, and coaches to explore best ways to intentionally support student athlete success both athletically and academically.

Faculty members of the subcommittee continue to be pleased with this process and the academic results it is producing for student athletes. We believe all Illinois students should have access to this type of intentionally structured support and are proud that DIA is a thought leader in this space.

2. General Conference and NCAA topics

APEC discussed the potential impacts of the conference expansions looming in 2024. To date, DIA staff have worked to plan for collaborative support across institutions for away-game competitions as well as making efficient use of resources such as Zoom to allow academic counselors to continue to provide high quality support for student athletes.

The FAR reports this year centered around the Big 10 FAR meeting and conversations related to missed class days as the conference works on supporting student athletes academically despite major expansion to the conference. The Big 10 has worked hard to support member institutions in the logistics of scheduling competitions, such that there is not significant concern about scheduling impacts on student athlete missed days of class. As well, Illinois already provides 10 days with a process that allows for petitioning APEC for approval of additional days beyond 10. This process requires a written justification of why the team needs more than 10 days and what action was taken to ensure students remain in good standing.

We also noted a campus level change that occurred in December 2023. The Faculty Senate approved changing 60-hour residency rule to 45 hours moving forward. This will assist transfer students in more timely completion of their degree. It will also support DIA efforts to recruit transfer students and navigate the transfer portal.

In sum, although the landscape of college athletics continues to evolve, the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics has successfully supported our students.

Best,



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