

Frequently Asked Questions - Sport Administration

Q: How many classes do you teach in your first year?

A: Typically sports administration students teach three physical education classes per semester during their first year.

Q: How many students are in the program each year?

A: The typical sports administration class has nine full time students with the possibility of an additional dual degree law student.

Q: Describe the internship interview and placement process.

A: During the first semester, all students are given the opportunity to “shadow” as many of the current second year students as possible. After acquiring a greater understanding of the responsibility with each particular internship, in January of the first year, all students will rank their top choices for internships. During the months of February and March, students will interview at their top 3-5 choices. After interviews, each student will again re-rank their choices after having a chance to meet members of each department. Internship advisors will also rank their choices after interviews. Upon completion, students will be placed in the internship that best reflects their preference and the internship supervisor’s preference. Typically students will be notified of their internship in late March or early April, depending on time constraints.

Q: How many applications are there on average each year?

A: The number of applications for the nine slots over the past 10 years has ranged from 60 – 125 per year.

Q: What type of experience is valued for admittance into this program?

A: Selection criteria for admission to the program include the academic record, GRE scores, recommendations, personal goal statement, experience in athletics, and employment background. Employment in athletics can range from high school, collegiate, and professional opportunities. It is important to excel at whichever opportunity one has experienced prior to application.

Q: What practical experience is available outside of the internship during the first year of the program?

A: Students are given operations duties at UNC athletic events, ACC tournaments, and NCAA post-season competition. There are typically three students working each Football and Men's Basketball games as an usher supervisor or suite assistant (football games). Olympic sports duties range from ticketing, usher responsibilities, and hosting of officials and visiting teams at ACC and NCAA competition. In addition, students are given the opportunity to work as an operations assistant for Soccer and Lacrosse.

Q: How do I know if this program is right for me?

A: The focus and range of opportunities in this program is extremely unique in comparison to other sports administration graduate programs. If you are passionate and value working in college athletics, the specificity of classes, and experience with a major Division I athletic department, UNC is your choice! The combination of academic theory, practical experience, and high quality sports programs to "learn on" is extremely beneficial.

Q: What are some positions that graduates of the UNC sports administration program have been able to obtain?

A: Graduates are employed in collegiate athletics administration throughout the nation, while many are currently employed by UNC Athletics. For instance, three of the nine members of the Class of 2007 were hired by the athletic department at UNC upon graduation. Current students and graduates of the program will have access to an alumni directory in order to network with past graduates.

Q: Can we get tickets to UNC sporting events?

A: While you will have admittance to events you are scheduled to work, sports administration students are not given any special privileges on tickets any different than the student body. Some football games and all men's basketball games tickets are allocated through an online student lottery system.

Q: What kind of workload can be expected from classes?

A: UNC is rated as the top public university by many trusted academic ranking organizations. To that end, expect rigorous study and fulfilling practical application. The EXSS department recruits and maintains outstanding students, faculty, and staff. Resources are available to help you succeed in all aspects of the program.

Q: Is there a chance to work with the UNC Men's Basketball team?

A: Currently, there are no opportunities to work specifically with the men's basketball team. However, students will gain experience through operations work at home men's basketball games.

Q: What type of housing is available for graduate students?

A: The majority of graduate students live off-campus, however, family and graduate student campus housing is available.

Q: Can I handle a part-time job while in the program?

A: With the workload of taking and teaching classes, and operation assignments, it is highly recommended to avoid additional part-time employment. However, students have been able to work a few hours per week in various departments on campus.

