

Athletics Program Description and Highlights

In regards to student development of scholar athletes, the HCC Athletic Director has established a Student Academic Council, comprised of one freshman and one sophomore athlete from each team in the department. These scholar athletes meet with the Athletic Director one time per month to encourage open and honest lines of communication and to foster among all HCC scholar athletes a culture of leadership, positive contribution to HCC student life, and service to the Hagerstown community. More scholar-athletes have been encouraged to participate in non-athletic related organizations such as Phi Theta Kappa in order to broaden their College experience. In addition, the Athletic Director has recently established an expectation of all HCC coaches that they encourage and organize structured community service opportunities for the members of their specific team.

The HCC Athletics Department is regulated by institutional unit planning and key performance indicators, which are reviewed in the fall semester of each year. This process examines budgetary, administrative, academic and student-focused benchmarks of the department for the previous year and establishes goals for the upcoming fiscal year. The criteria examined at these meetings are established jointly among the members of the department, the HCC Office of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness, and various members of HCC administrative leadership, including the President of the College. In addition, the use of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) ensures that data used in the decision-making processes are objective and compared to several years prior to the current year examined. This process provides longitudinal and quantitative accountability for everyone present at the planning meetings. The Unit Planning process is

conducted for each department and academic division on campus, thus the Athletic Department is held to the same academic standards and fiscal guidelines as every other department at HCC.

Academic expectations are communicated to the HCC coaches of each sport during individual meetings with the Athletic Director. Additionally, handbooks outlining HCC Athletics policies are given to all coaches; these handbooks contain information regarding student academic expectations. It is the responsibility of the coaches of each team to share these academic expectations with their scholar athletes. Also, the Coordinator of HCC Academic Advisement is well versed in the academic expectations for all NJCAA and NCAA athletes, and the Coordinator often communicates these scholastic requirements to HCC scholar athletes in individual and group meetings.