



BEST PRACTICES FOR FACULTY REGARDING STUDENT-ATHLETES

Approximately 850-900 (12%) of Stanford's undergraduate students participate in 36 varsity sports. These student-athletes are dedicated to their academics and to competing at the highest level of their chosen sport. Instructors are strongly encouraged to work with student-athletes to resolve scheduling conflicts and provide reasonable accommodations that support the student-athlete's academic enrollment and engagement, while also maintaining the academic integrity of the course.

Athletic Practices

Student-athletes may only miss class for competition and travel, not athletic practice. Should a student-athlete request to miss class due to conflict with practice, this would be an NCAA violation for Stanford. In such cases, the instructor should refer the student to their Athletic Academic Resource Center (AARC) advisor. An exception to this rule is if the course is offered online or recorded and available to all students in the course per the course syllabus.

Student Responsibility

Because schedules for athletics competitions are typically known well in advance, student-athletes are not only responsible for notifying instructors at the beginning of the quarter of known conflicts between class meetings and assignments/exams, and athletic games and associated travel, but they should provide this notice through a written document which they can share with all their instructors. The instructor and the student-athlete should then discuss possible accommodation.

Instructor Responsibility

Instructors should work with student-athletes to resolve any conflicts with course meetings or requirements, focusing on resolution that neither penalizes the student-athlete nor provides them with an unfair advantage. For conflicts that arise during the academic quarter (i.e., not during final exams), instructors have authority to decide whether and/or how to accommodate conflicts.

Examples of accommodations for student-athletes:

- Excusing an absence in classes where attendance is taken
- Allowing class make-up opportunities via office hours with TAs or professors
- Allowing assignments to be turned in late or sent in electronically while the student-athlete is traveling
- Scheduling make-up tests or arranging for exams to be taken on the road
- Providing a broader range of laboratory or recitation session options, especially at times that may be more convenient for the student-athletes

Should conflicts with class meetings or academic requirements rise to the level of interfering with the learning goals of the course, the student-athlete should work with faculty and AARC

advisors to identify an appropriate alternative course or to make adjustments to athletic requirements so that the academic goals can be met.

Final Exams

While University policy generally forbids the scheduling of regular season games during finals, an [exception](#) has been granted for NCAA or conference championships. When such conflicts arise, the instructor should make alternate exam arrangements with the student-athlete.

Athletic Academic Resource Center

The [AARC \(Athletic Academic Resource Center\)](#) is committed to assisting student-athletes in accomplishing their academic and athletic goals and is available to advise instructors when conflicts arise. The AARC can also assist with administering exams when a student-athlete's absence conflicts with a scheduled quiz or exam.

For any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Director of Academic Advising Services for Student-Athletes, Melissa Stringer (mschell@stanford.edu; 650-723-5806) or the Faculty Athletics Representative, Jeff Koseff (koseff@stanford.edu; 650-723-2363).