



## **Executive Summary**

National Association of Academic Advisors for  
Athletics (N4A) Partnership Proposal To The  
National Collegiate Athletic Association  
(NCAA)

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Subject to Approvals – Not For Distribution

# **N4A – NCAA Partnership Proposal**

## **Executive Summary**

### **July 2007**

#### **Proposal Approvals**

The Board of Directors approved the development of the partnership proposal to the NCAA at its mid-year meeting in January 2007. The Board of Directors has been requested to approve submission of the proposal to the NCAA in July 2007. If the partnership is accepted by the NCAA, terms and conditions of the partnership agreement will be reviewed for final N4A approval.

#### **The Partnership**

The N4A proposes a collaborative partnership with the NCAA for the development and delivery of education initiatives for successful implementation of Academic Performance Program (APP) objectives. The N4A is to provide instructional workshops and consultation teams to the membership of the NCAA and related organizations, athletic conferences, and collegiate faculty groups. The partnership would access the professional expertise of the N4A, an Association uniquely qualified to construct such training, assessment, and education initiatives regarding APP and APR.

#### **Partnership Rationale**

The essence of the NCAA Academic Performance Program is the increased and shared accountability by institutions for the eligibility and retention of their student-athletes. By definition, APP requires effective collaboration throughout the University for student-athlete academic achievement and degree completion. The public ‘scorecard’ of APR is intended to promote institutional ownership for athlete academic progress and student connection with the campus community.

This partnership provides the NCAA with the vital expertise of N4A professionals who work daily at the core of athlete eligibility and retention efforts and are, ultimately, the practitioners best suited to evaluate, confront, and impact the most strategic elements of APP. N4A professionals possess the comprehensive experience necessary to assess and address the athlete’s ability to compete in the classroom, their connection with the University, and the many variables influencing their eligibility and retention behaviors.

## **Partnership Structure**

The partnership and its educational initiatives will be managed by three N4A task forces which will, in turn, report to its Board of Directors and a Director-At-Large position assigned to oversee external relations, sponsorships, and partnerships. The three task forces are Administrative, Instructional Workshops/Presentations, and Consultants.

- The Administrative Task Force is charged with the overall management of the partnership. This administrative team is to address implementation requirements of the partnership including the member application and selection process, budget, and program evaluation.
- The Instructional Workshop Task Force is to develop training content and materials for N4A presenters. These workshops will address a variety of groups, conventions and/or conferences regarding successful practices of APP implementation and APR improvement planning.
- The Consultant Task Force will develop comprehensive training programs and materials for N4A members who will administer institution self-assessments, make site visits to review programs and services, and develop action steps and recommendations.

## **Partnership Goals**

The N4A will develop educational initiatives targeting professionals whose job responsibilities have a direct or indirect impact on the NCAA Academic Performance Program (APP) including, but not limited to, athletic administrators, university administrators, conference offices, faculty athletics representatives (FAR), coaches, academic support professionals, and the athletes themselves.

1. Develop and implement comprehensive training program and materials for participants selected for the instructional workshop program and/or the consultant program.
2. Deliver effective instructional workshop presentations to organizations or groups impacted by APP/APR.
3. Provide NCAA member institutions with consultant teams which administer self-assessment instruments, execute site visits, and develop action recommendations for APP administration issues and APR improvement planning.
4. The N4A will provide trained consultants to serve the NCAA's program of comprehensive support service reviews incorporated in Athletics Certification.
5. Institutional and participant outcomes include enhanced appreciation for APP intent and goals (as reflected in the multiple elements of APR and GSR), technical understanding of APP/APR reporting mechanisms, and detailed education of successful strategies for student-athlete retention and academic priority.