

Student Athletes Briefing

BACKGROUND

Certified by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Oregon State University participates in the NCAA Division I Bowl Championship Subdivision as a member of the Pac-12 Conference (Pac-12). OSU sponsors 16 varsity sports (plus men's rowing): baseball (men), basketball (men and women), cross country (women), football (men), golf (men and women), gymnastics (women), rowing (men and women), soccer (men and women), softball (women), indoor and outdoor track and field (women), volleyball (women), and wrestling (men). The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (Athletics) focuses on the holistic growth of its 500+ student-athletes through academic and athletic excellence in a progressive and inclusive environment of mutual respect. In February 2018, Athletics unveiled the [Build the Dam Strategic Plan](#), a five-year plan which includes six strategic goals consistent with the mission and core themes/values described in the university's Strategic Plan (SP4.0).

CONNECTION TO OSU'S STRATEGIC PLAN 4.0

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics launched its *Build the Dam Strategic Plan* (2018-23) in February 2018 just prior to SP4.0's (2019-23) launch. The planning processes for both strategic plans were being worked on at roughly the same time and Athletics was inclusive of other university leadership and staff as it built its plan to ensure strategic partnership and strong alignment.

Athletics is assessing the current strategic plan as the department is heading into the final year. A comprehensive evaluation of the plan is underway and will include an evaluation of accomplishments, identification of areas that need further development and implementation, and adjustments that are relevant to the changing intercollegiate landscape. These changes will guide the department through the next five years of planning. Athletics will publicly release an accomplishments update to the plan in summer 2022 and outline a timeline for a revamped departmental strategic plan which will roll out in fall. As always, Athletics' plans will align with the university's strategic plan, goals, mission and values.

METRICS

Athletics is guided by the measurable objectives and strategies identified within the strategic plan including specific actions and metrics identified to ensure objectives are met.

KEY INITIATIVES, PROJECTS, AND PRIORITIES

Student-Athlete Success

OSU's student-athletes have performed well academically during the 2021-22 academic year. In winter 2021, 14 of 16 teams earned a GPA greater than 3.0. The combined GPA of 3.26 surpassed that of the general full-time student population. All teams have a 3.0+ cumulative OSU GPA. The top academic teams last winter were women's cross country/track & field with a 3.75 GPA, and men's golf with a 3.55 GPA.

Additionally, 97% of the student-athlete population are in good academic standing as the group passed 95% (6,226 of 6,562) of the term credits taken and 38% of the student-athlete

population earned Honor Roll status last term.

The tracking of OSU's graduating student-athletes has been a priority since the launch of the Athletics strategic plan in 2018. The primary goal is to have student-athletes achieve one of the following three categories after graduation: graduate school, full-time job and/or an internship. Of student-athlete graduates from fall 2019 through summer 2020 (92 total), nearly 64% fell into one of these three categories with an additional 12% participating in professional sports and another 12% pursuing other opportunities. Of student-athlete graduates from fall 2020 through summer 2021 (87 total), nearly 62% find themselves in one of these three categories and/or they are currently on campus taking classes and competing, while 11% are professional athletes and 15% are pursuing other opportunities.

Community service is something that our staff, coaches and student-athletes take very seriously. To date, 1,379 hours of community service have been logged by OSU's student-athlete population, with the top three being men's rowing (282), gymnastics (275) and women's soccer (221).

Athletics continues to create outreach and orientation programs for all teams that help with students' reentry to campus life following the pandemic. Athletics works with campus partners in these efforts, as well as support groups within Athletics.

Lastly, the BEST program (Bridge Encouraging Successful Transition) will take place for incoming student-athletes this summer. Entering its seventeenth year, BEST offers new student-athletes an orientation to campus, an introduction to the culture of OSU, and credits toward their degrees.

Competitive Success

OSU's student-athletes and coaches have enjoyed tremendous competitive success. Led by exceptional head coaches, including 2021-22 Pac-12 Coach of the Year recipients Terry Boss (M. Soccer), Tanya Chaplin (Gymnastics), Chris Pendleton (Wrestling) and NCAA Regional Women's Indoor Track & Field Coach of the Year Louie Quintana, the Beavers have had a great year representing OSU through the winter seasons. Spring sports are off to a great start, too. Football had its first winning season and bowl game since 2013. Men's Soccer captured the Pac-12 title on their way to the number one overall seed in the NCAA Tournament. Gymnastics captured a Pac-12 co-championship. Wrestling took second place in the Pac-12. Cross Country track placed seventh at regionals. Women's golf finished second at the Pac-12 championships. Baseball is currently in first place in the conference and ranked as high as number two in the national polls.

Student-Athlete Development, Support and Programming

The holistic development of our student-athletes has been and continues to be the cornerstone of OSU's Athletics program and staff take pride in the opportunities the department provides Beaver student-athletes through robust programming. Initiatives and programs that directly impact student-athletes include:

- a. The mentorship program has seen success as a new delivery platform and has greatly assisted in the implementation and growth of the program, allowing for better tracking of growth and outcomes. Athletics' partnership with Varsity OSU

(a network for former student-athletes) has been vital in this area, along with campus partnerships.

- b. Athletics has created seventeen internal internship opportunities over the past year to provide student-athletes who want to work in Intercollegiate Athletics with an opportunity to get hands-on experience with different units within the department. Eight departmental units have participated in this new initiative. Staff look forward to expanding these opportunities as we move forward.
- c. [#DamWorthIt](#) is a program designed and developed by two former OSU student-athletes who dealt with tragedies on their teams (suicide by teammates) while competing at Oregon State. [#DamWorthIt](#) is a program created for student-athletes by student-athletes to help remove the stigma around mental health issues. The program has blossomed throughout OSU campuses and is accessible to the general student population.
- d. Athletics continues to grow and strengthen its partnership with Diversity and Cultural Engagement (DCE) to create synergy around resources, space utilization, joint sponsorship of guest speakers, etc.
- e. Athletics is working with Student Affairs to assess and implement the finding and recommendations stemming from a peer review and audit of the academic services area. Athletics' goal is to implement a majority of the recommendations put forth in the review.

The Intercollegiate Athletics department continues to build on the momentum of all of its student-athlete development programs, including community service and international travel experiences (Beavers without Borders).

Facilities Master Plan Progress

1. Completing Reser Stadium (CRS): Summer 2023
 - a. \$160M project
2. In support of the Build the Dam Strategic Plan, the department has most recently executed the following facility improvements where private support was a key driver. In addition to CRS, nearly \$28M in new construction and/or renovations have been made in Athletics facilities, including:
 - a. Kelly Field (OSU Softball) - new lights, hitting facility, branding, surface upgrades
 - b. Kelly Field (OSU Softball) - new Video Board (expected spring 2023)
 - c. OSU Gymnastics Training Facility
 - d. Soccer Bleachers
 - e. Women's Basketball Locker Room
 - f. P. Wayne Valley Sports Performance Center renovation
 - g. Gill Plaza renovation
 - h. Whyte Track and Field bleachers and enhancements
3. Projects in design
 - a. Rowing erg facility and indoor baseball hitting facility

Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Fundraising Accomplishments

1. FY22 was a record year for athletics development and was highlighted as the department surpassed fundraising goal for *Completing Reser Stadium initiative* securing \$91.6M toward a fundraising goal of \$85M.
2. Supported other initiatives identified as priorities in the facility master plan including:
 - a. \$1.8M to support the opening of the OSU Gymnastics Training Facility (dedicated in fall 2021)
 - b. \$1.1M to support a new video board for Kelly Field (softball) and other field enhancements (expected in spring 2023)
 - c. Launched a \$3.5M fundraising effort to support the work being done to construct bleachers for Whyte Track and Field complex (Fundraising to conclude by fall 2022)
3. Planning for launch of a comprehensive *Women's Excellence Fundraising initiative* in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Title IX (summer 2022)

Campaign preparedness

1. Review and prioritize remainder of facility projects on facilities master plan to determine philanthropic potential and establish timelines for execution
2. Re-visit strategic plan to identify objectives that can be synthesized into a series of potential fundraising objectives with \$5M+ opportunities
3. Maintain 40% of donors are supportive through gifts that are not tied to ticket purchases