



Student-Athlete Development (Mentoring and Character Development) Experience with Old Dominion University Athletics

Organization Overview: The Student-Athlete Development (Mentoring and Character Development) Experience is a distinctive program that connects student-athletes with experienced NFL professionals, offering a unique opportunity to focus on personal growth, character development, and mentorship within the context of collegiate football. This partnership is facilitated by the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) and Old Dominion University (ODU), and it serves to foster leadership skills, sportsmanship, and life skills among the next generation of athletes.

Experience Overview: The Student-Athlete Development Externship with Old Dominion University Football Team provides a transformative experience for both student-athletes and NFL mentors. It aims to empower young athletes with valuable life skills while benefiting from the wisdom and guidance of seasoned NFL players who are committed to their personal development.

Job Responsibilities:

1. **Mentorship:** Externs serve as mentors and role models for ODU's student-athletes, offering guidance and support in both athletic and life pursuits. They help young athletes set and achieve personal and academic goals.
2. **Character Development:** Implement character development programs that emphasize integrity, sportsmanship, teamwork, and leadership. Conduct workshops and discussions to instill strong values and ethical principles.
3. **Leadership Seminars:** Organize leadership workshops and seminars for student-athletes, focusing on leadership skills development, effective communication, and conflict resolution. Share personal experiences and insights from their football careers.
4. **Personal Growth:** Assist student-athletes in setting personal development goals, including time management, study skills, and stress management. Encourage a well-rounded approach to life as a Student-Athlete.
5. **Academic Support:** Collaborate with academic advisors to ensure student-athletes are excelling in their studies. Provide tutoring and academic guidance when needed to help them achieve academic success.
6. **Community Engagement:** Engage student-athletes in community service activities, promoting the importance of giving back and being positive role models in the community.
7. **Character Assessment:** Work with coaching staff to assess and evaluate the character and leadership potential of student-athletes, providing feedback and recommendations for individual growth.
8. **Communication Skills:** Teach effective communication skills, emphasizing the ability to articulate ideas, resolve conflicts, and express oneself confidently both on and off the field.
9. **Networking and Career Development:** Facilitate networking opportunities and career development sessions to prepare student-athletes for life beyond college athletics, including guidance on transitioning to the professional world.