

The Board of Trustees Policy for Athletics

The Board of Trustees endorses the mission statement for Duke Athletics, which follows, and authorizes the President to realize the mission by overseeing athletics at Duke.

In particular, it shall be the responsibility of the President, acting on the advice of the Athletic Council, Director of Athletics, and Faculty Athletics Representative to establish and apply criteria to determine which sports will be added or eliminated for intercollegiate competition within the financial parameters authorized by the Board of Trustees.

Mission Statement for Duke Athletics

Intercollegiate Athletics

The University endeavors to provide a program of intercollegiate athletics from which participating students can derive all the benefits that participation in competitive sports confers. The goal of the intercollegiate program is the same as that of the University's academic programs: excellence. In this context, excellence includes commitment to the physical and emotional well-being and social development of student-athletes as well as to the development of their sense of citizenship, dedication to sportsmanship and fair play, the development of individual and team skills, the exertion of best effort, the will to win, and general conduct that brings credit to the University and is a source of pride and enthusiasm for all members of the Duke community.

The measure of excellence when applied to intercollegiate athletics means also a level of performance that frequently will produce winning seasons and the realistic opportunity to compete for team or individual championships. It requires that students engaged in intercollegiate athletics be students first, that they be admitted according to this criterion, that they progress satisfactorily toward a degree, and that their attrition and graduation rates as student-athletes not be significantly different from those of non-athletes.

Duke's intercollegiate program shall be composed of nationally or regionally recognized sports that satisfy the following criteria: they meet the needs, interests, and abilities of male and female students; they provide adequate institutional collateral benefits; they reflect due regard for the athletic traditions of Duke University as well as future promise; they fall within Duke's abilities to provide appropriate facilities; they geographically allow Duke to schedule conveniently and competitively; and they fall within financial capabilities of Duke University to fund adequately.

Health, Wellness, Physical Education, and Campus Recreation

The Division of Health, Wellness and Physical Education provides a strong educational foundation in physical activity and promotes wellness and fitness concepts that benefit the whole person. Classes and programs are designed to serve the entire university community with the goals of increasing proficiency in a wide range of activities, increasing understanding and application of health and activity based programs that promote a healthy lifestyle, developing interest in continued inquiry and research in the areas of study addressed in the Department's courses and programs.

These goals are accomplished by creating a broad range of diverse, exciting, and challenging programs in a safe and welcoming environment that is both sensitive to the needs of its participants and professional in its approach.

The Division of Campus Recreation provides the use of diverse facilities and programs to promote the physical, emotional, and social growth by encouraging the development of lifelong skills and positive attitudes. Campus Recreation is comprised of the following program areas; Aquatics, Intramurals, Outdoor Adventures, and Sport Clubs.

Through participation in campus recreation, students are encouraged to create new problem-solving strategies, develop critical-thinking skills, sharpen decision-making skills, further develop teamwork and cooperation, learn to challenge themselves in many ways, and to integrate this information and these new skills into all aspects of their lives.

The overall mission of the athletics program ultimately, is that of Duke itself: “to engage the mind, to elevate the spirit, and stimulate the best effort of all who are associated with the University.”

(The Board of Trustees policy on athletics and the mission statement are contained in the Athletic Policy Manual.)

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