Welcome to
Athletics Academic Services at
Texas Tech University

Mission Statement
The Office of Athletics Academic Services is committed to providing a comprehensive program that emphasizes the development of academic, personal and professional excellence for the student-athlete population.

Vision Statement
Texas Tech University will be a national leader in the academic support of our student-athlete population. Athletics Academic Services aspires to achieve national recognition through student-athlete academic support programs and the accomplishments of individual student-athletes.

Texas Tech University Athletics Academic Services will create an environment of excellence that fosters the highest standards of integrity, academic support and performance and will provide the resources necessary for our student-athletes to achieve their academic potential and prepare them for life after college athletes, both personally and professionally.

The Marsha Sharp Center
In January of 2004 the doors of The Marsha Sharp Center for Student-Athletes opened to meet the needs of the student-athletes of Texas Tech University.

This state-of-the-art facility is one of the finest in the nation and was designed to ensure academic success for each student-athlete. Responsibility for academic achievement rests with each Red Raider, and assistance by the Athletic Academic Services staff -- with full support of the Texas Tech coaching staff -- helps those student-athletes attain their academic goals.

The Marsha Sharp Center is at the center of support for student-athletes balancing academics, athletics and life after sport.

The Marsha Sharp Center for Student-Athletes provides sufficient space for private study, a state-of-the art computer lab, supplemental instruction classrooms, and private conferencing areas for tutoring and mentoring appointments.

The Texas Tech Academic Hall of Fame, located between the computer lab and conference room, recognizes those student-athletes who excelled both in the classroom and on the field, and provide a lasting legacy of their academic accomplishments.

The Office of Athletics Academic Services serves more than 400 student-athletes.
Meet Felicia Martin

Felicia Martin was named Associate Athletic Director for Academic Services at Texas Tech University in November 2008. In this position, Felicia is responsible for the administration of the academic and student services programs for approximately 400+ Texas Tech student-athletes.

Felicia originally joined the Texas Tech athletic staff June 1999 as a counseling specialist for the tutorial and mentor program. She served as the Coordinator of the CHAMPS/Life Skills program from 2000 to 2003. Felicia returned to Texas Tech after five years as the Assistant Executive Director at Division 1A Athletic Directors’ Association.

While at Division 1A Athletic Directors’ Association, Felicia was involved in virtually every aspect of Association activities and was responsible for working directly with all Division 1A athletics departments. She assisted with programming and events for athletic administrators’ leadership development and played a key role in life skills programs and education for student-athletes (1A CHAMPS Program). She was the primary administrator for the 1A CHAMPS Program of Excellence which included campus assessments and the application process. She was the Association’s liaison to various organizations and affiliate groups.

Felicia earned a Bachelor of Science in Educational Psychology and a Masters Degree in Counselor Education from Mississippi State University.

Best thing about working at the MSC?

“Like Gandhi said: ‘One person can make a difference and every person should try.’ Our work gives us that opportunity.”

Favorite Quote:

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

~ John F. Kennedy

Felicia can be reached at: felicia.martin@ttu.edu.
Rodney Lackey
Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Services/Football

ALMA MATER AND DEGREE: Central Michigan University, Psychology
ADVANCED DEGREE: Central Michigan University, Counseling

Meet Rodney Lackey

Rodney Lackey joined the Texas Tech Athletic Academic Services staff as the Assistant Athletic Director of Academic Services in July 2008. In this position Rodney is responsible for assisting Felicia Martin in overseeing the Athletic Academic Service program and being the lead advisor for football.

Rodney is originally from Detroit, MI and attended Central Michigan University where he was an All-Conference sprinter and team captain. While a member of the track team, he was awarded Outstanding Minority Male Athlete of the Year and the Bill Boyden Leadership Award, which is the highest award a student-athlete can receive. It recognizes a student-athlete in their final year of eligibility that is in good academic standing and whose record best combines participation in a varsity intercollegiate sport with leadership ability in campus affairs and activities. Rodney earned his B.S. in Psychology and M.A. in Counseling from Central Michigan.

Rodney has been in the profession of Athletic Academic Services for over 15 years working at Central Michigan University, North Carolina State University, University of Richmond, and most recently at Texas A&M University. Rodney has a son named Jonathan, and his wife, Taryn, works in the Registrar's Office at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Best thing about working at the MSC?

“Being a positive influence on the lives of our student-athlete’s and watching them grow and mature.”

Favorite Quote:

“Life's too short; just do it”

~ author unknown

Rodney can be reached at: rodney.lackey@ttu.edu.
Meet Marlon Dechausay

Marlon Dechausay, a native of Toronto, Canada, joined the Texas Tech Athletics Academic Services staff in August as Assistant Director and will serve as the Senior Academic Counselor for the men's and women's basketball programs.

He comes to Lubbock from Florida State University where he worked as an Academic Coordinator and Technology Coordinator in the Athletics Academic Support Services department for the past four years. During his time at FSU, Dechausay worked with the men's and women's basketball and football teams as well as numerous other Olympic sport programs.

Marlon earned a master's degree in 2005 in Information Management from Syracuse University where he worked as a graduate assistant in facility and operations intern for a season before switching to academics. He served one year as the men's basketball Academic Coordinator at Iowa State University before heading to FSU.

He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Louisiana-Lafayette in 2000 where he won a pair of 400-meter Sunbelt Conference outdoor titles as a star member of the track team. He was a member of the Canadian national track team from 1992-99 and is the Japan Under-19 400-meter record holder.

Marlon is a member of the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A) and recently served as the Region II director and Co-chair of the Membership Committee. Currently, he serves as Division Director of membership services. He is also a past recipient of the N4A Lan Hewitt leadership award, given to athletic advisors in the profession under 5 years. He is also a member of the Black Coaches Association. Marlon and his wife, Tina, have two sons; Marlon Jr. and Braylon.

Best thing about working at the MSC?

“Working with student-athletes is like a Cracker Jack Box, every student has something special in them but sometimes you have to dig a little bit to find that hidden gem.”

Favorite Quotes:

“Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.”
“Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses.”
~ George Washington Carver

Marlon can be reached at: marlon.dechausay@ttu.edu.
Meet Brett Wohlers

Brett Wohlers, a native of Weeping Water, Nebraska, joined the Texas Tech Academic Services staff in August 2010 as Assistant Director for Football Academics.

He comes to Lubbock from Auburn University where he worked as an Academic Counselor for the football team in the Student-Athlete Support Services for the past 6 years. During his time at Auburn, Brett also coordinated the Study Table and Class Checking programs.

Brett earned a master’s degree in 1997 in Sport Management from the United States Sports Academy. He earned a bachelor's degree in Sport Management from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1994. He also participated on the Nebraska Wesleyan football team. Wohlers is a member of the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A).

He is married to Audra Pugh Wohlers.

Best thing about working at the MSC?

“I enjoy working at the Marsha Sharp Center in helping our students achieve their academic goals and graduate.”

Favorite Quote:

“If you see a turtle sitting on a fencepost, you know it didn't get there by itself.”

~ Virgil Starks

Brett can be reached at: brett.wohlers@ttu.edu.
Michelle Brigham
Academic Counselor/Soccer, Softball, M & W Tennis, Volleyball

ALMA MATER AND DEGREE: Oklahoma City University, Accounting
ADVANCED DEGREE: Oklahoma City University, Liberal Arts (Rhetoric & Communications)

Meet Michelle Brigham

Michelle Brigham has been a counselor with Texas Tech’s Athletic Academic Services office since 2001. Her primary responsibility is supporting the academic achievement and degree progress of student-athletes.

Michelle advises students on major and career opportunities, oversees their academic progress for initial and continuing eligibility, and works closely with university faculty and departmental offices.

Previous experience includes 3 years as an advisor and 2 years as Director of Undergraduate Student Services for the University of Colorado-Boulder, College of Business, and 4 years as Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions for Oklahoma City University. She earned her BSB in Accounting and an MLA with an emphasis in Rhetoric and Communication from OCU.

Best thing about working at the MSC?

“I love working at the Marsha Sharp Center because we get to help students every single day from recruitment to graduation and beyond.”

Favorite Quote:

“Character is doing the right thing when nobody’s looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that’s right is to get by, and the only thing that’s wrong is to get caught.”

~ J.C. Watts

Michelle can be reached at: michell.brigham@ttu.edu.
**Meet Suzanne Dickenson**

After obtaining her teaching diploma in secondary education and mathematics from Mico Teachers College in Kingston, Jamaica, Suzanne Dickenson went to Abilene Christian University on a track scholarship where she had a very successful All-American career. Dickenson earned her Bachelor of Science degree in 1999 and her master's in 2001, both from Abilene Christian. Her honors on the track ranged from being named to the Jamaican Pan American and Junior Carifta Teams after winning the Jamaican Junior Championships in the 100m hurdles. She was also a four-time runner-up at the NCAA DII Indoor and Outdoor Championships in the 100m and 55m hurdles and a five-time All-American from 1998 to 1999.

In 1999 Suzanne became the student assistant to the compliance coordinator and graduate assistant for the 2000-01 school year before being promoted to full-time assistant coach and UIL regional director from 2001-2006. In 2006 Dickenson was promoted to Director of Athletic Academic Services in order to create a new Athletic Academic Program at Abilene Christian. In 2008 she came to Texas Tech University to become the Senior Counselor for Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country.

**Best thing about working at the MSC?**

“You could not have ask for a better group of people to work with at the Sharp. We are one big happy family and we each look out for each other. The job is not about money but the personal satisfaction you get when you can make a difference in someone's life as well as seeing them walk across the stage at graduation after all the hard work they put in on and off the field.”

**Favorite Quote:**

“Success lies not in the result but in the effort. ‘Being’ the best is not important ‘Doing’ the best is all that matters.”

~ author unknown

Suzanne can be reached at: suzanne.dickenson@ttu.edu.
Meet Denise Hood

Denise Hood joined the Athletic Academic Services staff in August 2003. Her primary obligation is to coordinate the Associate Director, eight academic counselors, two learning specialists, three graduate assistants and ten student assistants. She is also responsible for assisting student-athletes with textbook issues, study table monitoring, grade reports, the Academic Hall of Honor awards and departmental budget issues.

Denise has been an employee of the University for 23 years. She previously worked in the Texas Wine Marketing Research Institute in the College of Human Sciences. She and her husband, Dennis, have two daughters, Ashlee and Amberlee, who both graduated from Texas Tech.

Best thing about working at the MSC?

“I love working at the Marsha Sharp Center because I love working with all of our student-athletes. I’m all about the them.”

Favorite Quote:

““It’s not the load that breaks you down, it’s the way you carry it.”

~ Lena Horne

Denise can be reached at: denise.hood@ttu.edu.
Meet Matthew Jordan

Matthew Jordan joined the office of Athletic Academic Services in September 2005. His primary responsibility is to ensure satisfactory progress towards degree and initial and continuing eligibility for all sports. He also serves as the academic counselor for the baseball program.

Prior to joining the athletic department, Matthew worked as an academic advisor for the College of Mass Communications. Matthew earned his undergraduate degree from Big 12 rival, Baylor University, in 1988 with a degree in business management and a minor in marketing. He earned a master’s degree in Physical Education from Texas Tech in 1993.

Best thing about working at the MSC?

“What I like best about my job is working with students and seeing them succeed in all that they do.”

Favorite Quote:

“I believe in overlearning. That way you are sure.”

~ Woody Hayes

Matthew can be reached at: matthew.jordan@ttu.edu.
**Meet Justin Paysinger**

Justin Paysinger joined the Texas Tech Athletic Academic staff in October 2009 and serves as the Director of Student-Athlete Affairs. Through the Red Raider Life Skills program, Justin is responsible for providing Texas Tech student-athletes with quality resources that will help them attain personal, professional, academic, and athletic success during their collegiate careers. These programs and events will help to establish the necessary life skills Texas Tech student-athletes will need for life after college.

Justin also serves as the Athletic Academic Advisor for both the Men’s and Women’s Golf teams. He is dedicated to providing his golfers the necessary support needed to earn a college degree and experience academic success.

He was born and raised in Los Angeles, California and attended San Jose State University where he earned his M.A. in Sport Management and his B.A. in Child and Adolescent Development. While attending graduate school, Justin took on the role of CHAMPS/Life Skills Graduate Assistant. As center on the SJSU football team, Justin was a four-year starter for the Spartans.

**Best thing about working at the MSC?**

“Student-athletes have their individual coaches to help them achieve athletic success over their 4-5 year collegiate career. It is the responsibility of Red Raider Life Skills to prepare every student-athlete for the next 40-50 years of their lives so they can attain personal success once they graduate from Texas Tech. And, that is what I enjoy so much.”

**Favorite Quote:**

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Justin can be reached at: justin.paysinger@ttu.edu.
Meet Kristin Price

Kristin Price joined the Marsha Sharp staff in August 2010 as a learning specialist. Her duties include assessing the academic needs of current and prospective student-athletes as well as developing learning plans for these students. She also collaborates with Disability Services, University Counseling Center, and local psychologists in order to coordinate the learning assistance program and meet the needs of each individual.

Kristin was raised in Mesa, Arizona. She received her B.A in psychology from The Ohio State University while competing as a student-athlete. Kristin then received her M.S. in Sport Management from Florida State University while working as a graduate assistant in the academic center for student athletes. After graduation she served as tutorial coordinator at FSU before eventually joining the staff at Louisiana State University. At LSU she served as Academic Coordinator for the soccer team and tutorial coordinator before stepping into the role of Learning Specialist. While at LSU Kristin completed an Educational Specialist certificate in special education and completed coursework to be a certified reading specialist.

Best thing about working at the MSC?

“The best part of my job is pushing students to go beyond where they have ever been. It can be a struggle, but having the opportunity to be there when that light comes on and they begin enjoying the learning process is a reward beyond words.”

Favorite Quote:

“The kids in our classroom are infinitely more significant than the subject matter we teach.”

~ Meladee McCarty

Kristin can be reached at: kristin.price@ttu.edu.
Meet Hilary Sanders

Hilary Sanders, who hails from San Angelo, TX, joined the Texas Tech Athletic Academic Services staff full-time in January 2011 as an Athletic Academic Advisor working with football academics. Her primary responsibility will be working with initial-eligibility and walk-on student-athletes.

Prior to this, Hilary worked as a Graduate Assistant for Athletic Academic Services. During that time, Hilary was involved in all aspects of football academics, Life Skills, initial eligibility, academic coaching, overseeing the pilot class checking program, and helping with day-to-day operations of the Marsha Sharp Center. Sanders earned a master's degree in December 2010 in Exercise and Sport Sciences with emphasis in Sport Management from Texas Tech.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech in May 2008. During her undergraduate studies, Hilary served as a student-assistant with women's basketball for three seasons. After graduation, Hilary spent a semester at Marshall University as a Graduate Assistant with Women's Basketball pursuing a coaching career, but later switched to academic services.

Hilary is a member of the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A) and the Sport Management Society. She enjoys being with her basset hound, Marty, playing Frisbee golf, and Skip-Bo.

Best thing about working at the MSC?

“I like working at the Sharp because I enjoy helping students succeed in the classroom as they do on the field.”

Favorite Quote:

“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who’ll decide where to go.”

~ Dr. Seuss

Hilary can be reached at: hilary.sanders@ttu.edu.