Sport Administration Graduate Program
Prospective Student Information
Welcome to Ball State University!

We spark intellectual curiosity. Spirited and motivated, we learn, grow, and take flight. Our faculty and staff—everyone in our community—treat students as partners, from day one. In classrooms and labs, on the sports fields, in immersive learning projects off campus—with agility and perseverance—Cardinals fly. We are grounded in our values, lifted by our knowledge, and go confidently upward toward ever greater opportunities. Ours is a simple promise: to challenge each other to excel. And with Beneficence as our guide - We Fly.
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Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in our sport administration graduate program, and congratulations on your decision to further your education. The School of Kinesiology offers both a Master of Science (M.S.) and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Sport Administration.

The sport administration program is designed to prepare graduates for a career working in sport at any level. Our comprehensive curriculum allows students to pursue both an applied and theoretical approach to sport. If your goal is to work in sport, or continue your education beyond a master's degree, our program can make it happen. On the next several pages you will find the application and admission process, as well as information about our program, our university, and graduate assistantships. Additional information is available online at our program website, or through Facebook (Ball State University Sport Administration Program) and Twitter (@BSUSPTA).

Sincerely,
Dr. James E. Johnson
Associate Professor and Sport Administration Graduate Coordinator
James Johnson, Ed.D. - Associate Professor & Graduate Program Coordinator
Dr. Johnson earned a B.A. in Psychology at Franklin College in 1999, and a M.S. in Sport and Exercise Psychology from Ball State University in 2001. After two years as a commodity trader in Chicago, Dr. Johnson worked seven years within intercollegiate athletics as the Assistant Coordinator of Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes at Ball State University. In 2010, Dr. Johnson earned an Ed.D. from Ball State University specializing in adult, higher, and community education with a concentration in sport studies. Dr. Johnson is now an associate professor and has served as the sport administration graduate program coordinator since 2011. His primary research includes work in interscholastic and intercollegiate sport.

Mike Dalgety, Ed.D. - Assistant Teaching Professor
Dr. Dalgety earned a B.A. in Sport Sciences at University of the Pacific in 1997, and a M.A. in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona in 2003. He has 18 years of intercollegiate athletics experience, including roles as the Associate Director of Athletic Media Relations, Director of Compliance, and Senior Associate Director of Athletics for Internal Affairs at Pacific. In 2012, Dr. Dalgety earned an Ed.D. from Pacific, specializing in higher education. Dr. Dalgety is now a lecturer in sport administration and has research interests in intercollegiate athletics.

Benjamin Downs, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor
Dr. Downs earned a B.A. in History and Black Studies at the College of Wooster in 2008. After working in college recruiting and coaching, as well as professional baseball, he earned a M.S. in Sport Administration from Mississippi State University in 2016. In 2019, Dr. Downs earned a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University specializing in Kinesiology with a concentration in Sport Management. Dr. Downs completed his dissertation on the evolution of urban multipurpose sport facilities. His research focuses on facilities and utilizes modernization to better understand the construction and renovation trends related to multipurpose arenas. Dr. Downs is also interested in issues of diversity and inclusion in sport.

Robert Turick, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor
Dr. Turick earned a B.S. in Sport Administration at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2012, and a M.Ed. in Sport Administration from Bowling Green State University in 2014. In 2018, Dr. Turick earned a Ph.D. from the University of Florida specializing in Health and Human Performance with a concentration in Sport Management. Dr. Turick completed his dissertation on the underrepresentation of black coaches in college football. After graduating from UF, Dr. Turick is now an assistant professor at Ball State. His research focuses on studying social issues in sport, with a specific focus on racial and ethnic discrimination in sport. Dr. Turick is also interested in issues related to student-athlete well-being.

Khirey Walker, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor
Dr. Walker earned a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing at Elon University in 2011, and a M.S. in Sport Administration from Louisiana State University in 2012. In 2017, Dr. Walker earned a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University specializing in Kinesiology with a concentration in Sport Management. Dr. Walker completed his Dissertation on the organizational misconduct within intercollegiate athletics, specifically the National Collegiate Athletic Association. After graduating from LSU, Dr. Walker has arrived at Ball State as an assistant professor. His research includes work in intercollegiate athletics, primarily involving rule governance, leadership studies, and student-athlete fulfillment.
“The program at Ball State gave me valuable insights into what is going on and the inter-workings of how an athletic department is run.”

Mark Naylor (Class of 2006),
Assistant Strength Coach, University of Michigan

“The graduate assistantship that I was able to obtain at Ball State launched my professional career in the sports industry. It was a great opportunity that gave me hands on work experience as a sports information director, while also allowing me to continue my education with a master's degree.”

Kit Stetzel (Class of 2008),
Assistant Sports Information Director, Butler University

“Professors care about your success not only throughout your time as student, but continue to provide guidance after graduation.”

Peyton Stovall (Class of 2010),
Assistant Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Development, Purdue University

“BSU’s Sport Administration graduate program offers courses that provide team-oriented projects. By working as a team, it challenged me to improve my organization and communication skills. Today, these skills serve as the foundation of my management and leadership style.”

Derreck Parkevich (Class of 2011),
CEO/Executive Director, Cass County Family YMCA

“I truly loved having all my classes with the same people. Most of us are still friends and it is a great resource to have because our field is always changing.”

Lauren Easter (Class of 2013),
Assistant Director, Campus Recreation, Missouri State University

“I had the opportunity to not only learn about the sport industry with relevant and applicable projects in the classroom, but within the Athletics Department by volunteering.”

Chelsie Krill (Class of 2014),
Partnership Activation Coordinator, Indiana Pacers
Application Deadlines:
• For summer or fall - application materials should be submitted by March 1. Applications may be accepted after this deadline with approval from the program coordinator.
• For spring - application materials must be submitted by November 1.

Application Process:
• Apply for admission through the Ball State University Graduate School*. This will require completion of the graduate school application, submission of all unofficial undergraduate transcripts, and an application fee. If students take the GRE (not required) they should request scores be sent to Ball State University Code 1051. More specific information can be found at: Graduate School Application Information. In the Graduate School application process, prospective students will be required to submit the following documents:
  • statement of purpose outlining career goals (900-1000 words),
  • resume
  • one academic reference that can comment on the student’s potential to succeed in a graduate program
• Contact Amy Vold (Graduate Programs Administrative Coordinator) at avold@bsu.edu if you have questions about the application process or to set up a campus visit.
• International students should contact the Rinker Center for International Programs, before applying.

Admission Decision:
Application materials will be reviewed soon after each application deadline. Only complete application files will be reviewed. Admission decisions will be based on availability within the program and quality of application materials.
Kinesiology – Sport Administration Concentration

Master of Arts: 33 hours w/ Internship or Research Paper/Creative Project
Master of Science: 33 hours w/ Thesis

Core Classes
(12 credit hours)
Core classes are required and only offered in semester listed. All courses are 3 credit hours except internship (6) and thesis (6)

- SPTA 611: Sport Marketing and Promotions (FA)
- SPTA 615: Sport Law (FA)
- SPTA 617: Financial Principles in Sport (SP)
- SPTA 676: Sport Administration Theory & Policy Development (SP)

Research Requirements
(9 credit hours MA – 12 credit hours MS)
The internship or research paper/creative project options will fulfill requirements for the MA, while the thesis option will fulfill requirements for the MS. Students must choose one option.

Internship Option (9 hours) – MA
- KINE 601: Research Applications (non-thesis)
- SPTA 698: Internship (6 hours)

Research Paper/Creative Project Option (9 hours) – MA
- KINE 601: Research Applications (non-thesis)
- EDPS 641: Introduction to Statistical Methods
- RES 697: Research Paper (3 hours) OR
- CRPR 698: Creative Project (3 hours)

Thesis Option (12 hours) – MS
- EXSC 611: Research Design and Data Analysis
- EDPS 641: Introduction to Statistical Methods
- THES 698: Thesis (6 hours)

Electives
(9 credit hours MS – 12 credit hours MA)
Students should choose electives based on interests, career goals, and availability. Students are encouraged to select SPTA directed electives when available, but additional courses in related areas may be approved by the graduate program coordinator.

Directed Electives (preferred)
- SPTA 603: Sport Administration Ethics and Philosophy
- SPTA 605: Organization and Administration of Recreation Programs
- SPTA 619: Sport Facility and Event Administration
- SPTA 620: Seminar in Sport Administration
- SPTA 628: International and Comparative Administration of Sport
- SPTA 677: Intercollegiate Athletics Policy
- SPTA 691: Historical Foundations of Sport

Additional Electives
(not an exhaustive list – some require additional fees)
- SEPS 609: Sport Psychology
- SEPS 644: Psycho-Social Processes of Sport and Physical Activity
- SEPS 690: Sport Sociology
- EDAD 600: Introduction to Educational Leadership
- EDFO 631: Philosophy of Education
- ACC 501: Financial Accounting
- ECON 509: Survey of Economics
- MGT 500: Managing Organizational Behavior
- MKG 505: Survey of Marketing

Note: Athletic Coaching Education courses through the online Master’s in Athletic Coaching Education program may also be approved as electives.
Admissions FAQ

Is the GRE required?
• No – GREs are not required.
• If a student elects to take the GRE there are no minimum GRE scores. If provided, GRE scores are used as one piece of information that is combined with all other application materials to create an applicant’s admission file.
• When evaluating the GRE score, the selection committee uses the percentile score more so than the raw score. The percentile score tells the committee how well the applicant did on a particular section of the test relative to everyone that took the GRE. For example, if a student is in the 42nd percentile, it means their score was higher than 42% of people that took the GRE. Therefore, the higher the score, the better.
• Typically, scores on all sections higher than the 50th percentile would be desirable. Scores between the 30th-50th percentile would be considered acceptable as long as the other application materials were relatively strong. Scores below the 30th percentile would be considered low and would require the rest of the application file to be strong. These percentiles are approximations and are relative to the number and quality of applicants in addition to the available openings in the program. The selection committee reserves the right to make subjective evaluations of all application materials.

GMAT scores are also acceptable, but not required.

How are admission decisions made?
After the application deadline, a committee of graduate faculty in the sport administration program evaluates all complete application files. The committee reviews all materials assessing strengths and weaknesses. Admission decisions are based on quality of application materials and available openings in the program.

What is the minimum undergraduate GPA accepted for admission?
• The minimum undergraduate GPA for admission to the graduate school is 2.75. The same minimum is used for admission into the School of Kinesiology.
• GPA is used as one piece of information that is combined with all other application materials to create an applicant’s admission file.
• Typically, GPAs above 3.3 are desirable. GPAs between 3.0 and 3.3 would be considered acceptable as long as other application materials are relatively strong. GPAs below 3.0 would be considered low and would require the rest of the application file to be strong. These GPAs are approximations and are relative to the number and quality of applicants in addition to the available openings in the program. The selection committee reserves the right to make subjective evaluations of all application materials.
• GMAT scores are also acceptable, but not required.
How many students normally apply, and how many are normally admitted?

- For the March 1st application deadline (summer or fall enrollment) there are typically 20-50 applicants. Approximately 15-25 students are admitted. These numbers vary annually. The number of students admitted depends on the quality of applicants and number of available openings in the program.

- For the November 1st application deadline (spring enrollment) there are typically 5-15 applicants. Approximately 3-10 applicants are admitted. These numbers vary annually. The number of students admitted depends on the quality of applicants and number of available openings in the program.

If I have a degree other than sport management/administration, can I still apply to the program?

Yes, students with any undergraduate degree can apply. There are no prerequisites for students without a sport administration degree. However, students should attempt to gain as much sport industry experience as possible before applying.

If I have a degree other than sport management/administration will I be behind other students?

Students without a sport management/administration background will have to adapt a bit faster, but concepts will be advanced for all students. There are several students currently in the program that have undergraduate degrees other than sport management/administration.
How many students are in the program?
At any given point there are 25-35 students in the program. Numbers vary from year to year based on number of students admitted and retained.

How long does it take to complete the program?
The 33-hour program is designed to be completed in a two-year period taking 6-9 credit hours (2-3 courses) per semester (including summer). It is possible to finish the program in less than two years by taking 9-12 credit hours (3-4 courses) per semester.

When are classes usually held?
During the semesters (fall and spring) each sport administration course is typically held one day a week on campus from 6:30-9:10pm. Occasionally, elective courses are held at other times depending on a variety of factors.

Are any of the courses online?
Yes. During the summer, elective sport administration courses will be available online. These online courses are designed to accommodate students who are completing internships, or are away from campus during the summer. Occasionally there are some online elective courses offered during the fall and spring semesters. Overall, students should plan to take most of their courses on-campus during the fall and spring with online courses offered mostly during the summer.
What GA positions are available?
Students in the sport administration program regularly receive GA positions in a variety of different areas on campus. Prospective students are encouraged to seek GA positions anywhere on campus. Most students with GA positions are located in SOK or Athletics. Check out the Graduate Assistantships page for more information.

- **SOK** – 3-4 GAs are assigned to faculty members in the sport administration program to assist with faculty research and help teach physical fitness and wellness courses. There are 1-2 positions open each year.

- **Athletics** – A variety of administrative (e.g., compliance, marketing) and coaching GA positions exist in athletics. The sport administration program and SOK have nothing to do with the selection of these GA positions. Interested students should contact the athletic department directly to inquire about open positions.

What are the benefits of being a graduate assistant?
GAs are expected to work 20 hours per week for their respective department in exchange for approximately 90% tuition reimbursement, living stipend, and other perks. The amount of the stipend varies by department and funding cycle, but is usually more than cost of living. GAs must pay student fees each semester.

Is there a separate application for a GA position?
No, there is not a separate GA application for SOK. When you complete the application to enter the sport administration graduate program there is a question that asks if you are interested in a GA position. If you check that box you will be considered for a GA position in SOK. If you desire a GA position in another department (e.g., athletics or recreation), you should contact those departments directly to inquire about their application process. Other GA positions on campus can be found through the Cardinal Career Link.
General FAQ

What are the job prospects for someone graduating from this program?
Most graduates immediately find jobs in the sport industry, and many find full-time employment from their internship organizations. Some students choose to continue graduate school by enrolling in PhD programs or other master’s programs. Employment placement rates are difficult to pinpoint, and vary from year to year, but it is safe to say a high majority of graduates are working in the sport industry after graduation.

Does the program help identify professional development opportunities?
Yes, students are provided access to a variety of professional development seminars, conferences, and workshops. Additionally, the department subscribes to sport-specific job-posting websites regularly utilized to find internships and jobs. Furthermore, during the spring of the first year a professional development section is included within the sport administration course and focuses on finding internships and jobs in conjunction with resume development and interviewing skills. Finally, faculty members are available to assist in all areas of professional development.

How do I set up a visit?
To set up a visit, please contact Amy Vold. Amy is the administrative coordinator for graduate programs within SOK. Amy will customize a visit based on your interests. Amy’s email is avold@bsu.edu. Her phone number is 765-285-4453.
Benny Link: Choose from over 400 student organizations to get involved on campus.

Career Center: Get help with interview skills, assistance in your job search, and network with employers.

Dining: With 14 locations across campus, a good meal is only a short trip away.

Event Calendar: Keep up with all entertainment and academic events around campus.

Financial Aid & Scholarships: Apply for aid, manage loans, or search for scholarships.

Health Center: Visit the walk-in clinic or get a prescription filled at the pharmacy.

Multicultural Center: Appreciate and promote cultural diversity.

Recreation Services: Get fit in the state of the art fitness center or sign up for intramural sports.

University Libraries: Access a massive collection of print & digital media, as well as academic journals.

Writing Center: Drop by for some feedback on writing assignments or schedule a tutoring session.
1. **Minnetrista Cultural Center:** Historic Ball Mansions, scenic gardens and unique shops and museum.
2. **Cardinal Greenway:** Walk, run, or bike Cardinal Greenway’s 62 mile trail.
3. **Downtown Muncie:** Check out downtown Muncie’s charming shops and restaurants, just a short walk or bus ride away with MITS bus.
4. **The Village:** The Village features housing, restaurants, and bars, 5 minute walk from campus.
5. **Concannons Bakery:** Muncie’s hometown award winning bakery.
6. **Indianapolis & Fort Wayne:** Big city offerings just an hour drive away.
Did you know?

- Ball State has 18 NCAA Division I athletic teams
- Worthen Arena has a capacity of 11,500 spectators, the 2nd largest arena in the MAC
- Several sport administration graduate students hold graduate assistantships or volunteer positions within athletics