

PARALLEL UNIVERS(ITIES) Issues of Space and Place for Division I Student-Athletes

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Student-athletes report social disconnection and distance from the student body.
- Physical separation of athletic department training and academic support facilities situate student-athletes away from the academic and social core of campus.
- Social and physical distance perpetuates the separation between the student-athletes and their non-athlete peers. Student-athletes may choose to further segregate themselves as a protective mechanism, rather than attempt further integration.

We call on athletic departments and student affairs professionals to work together to ensure that student-athletes... are fully invested as members of the campus community.

Campus specific changes at the institutional level can reduce the isolation and integrate student-athletes in the campus community and student body.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

- 1. How do student-athletes negotiate time and interactions between athletic, academic, and social expectations at my campus?
- 2. Is there a physical and/or social divide between student-athletes and the general student body at my institution?
- 3. Does the location of athletic training and athletic academic support facilities foster or hinder an integrated student-athlete experience?
- 4. What initiatives would be effective at my institution to ensure student-athlete integration throughout the student body and campus?
- 5. How can the athletics department and student affairs department work together to ensure that student-athletes are engaged and embraced as members of the campus community?



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