Sport Administration
Graduate Program
Prospective Student Information
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 (BallStSportAd).

Sincerely,
Dr. James E. Johnson
Associate Professor and Sport Administration Graduate Coordinator

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Welcome to Ball State University! The School of Kinesiology invites you to explore the Sport Administration graduate program. Ball State students are currently filling jobs in the areas of sport marketing, sales, development, operations, management, and other roles all over the country. Come see what you can achieve!
Application and Admission Process

Application Deadlines:
To start courses in **summer or fall** - all application materials must be submitted by **February 15**.
To start coursework in the **spring** - all application materials must be submitted by **November 1**.
To apply for a **graduate assistantship** in the School of Kinesiology (SOK), students should check the box on the school applications (step #2 below) which are due by **February 15 or November 1**.

**Note 1:** Sport Administration graduate assistants within SOK must be available on campus for the entire duration of fall and spring semesters to fulfill their responsibilities as a graduate assistant.

**Note 2:** Other graduate assistant positions on the Ball State campus will have varying deadlines. Students should contact specific departments for deadlines.

Application Process:
**Step #1:** Apply for admission to the Ball State University Graduate School*. This will require completion of the graduate school application, submission of all undergraduate transcripts, and a $60 application fee. Students should also request their GRE scores be sent to Ball State University Code 1051. Please do **NOT** include a department code. More specific information can be found at: [Graduate School Application Information](#). In the Graduate School application process, you will be required to submit the names and email addresses for 3 references.

**Step #2:** Apply for admission to SOK (you do not have to wait for a response from the graduate school before applying to SOK). The application can be found at: [SOK Graduate Program Application](#). As part of the SOK application process students should also submit the following documents:

- A statement of purpose outlining your career goals (900-1000 words)
- A current resume

These documents should be sent electronically to Amy Vold (Graduate Programs Administrative Coordinator) at avold@bsu.edu.

*Before applying, international students should contact the [Rinker Center for International Programs](#).*

Admission Process:
If cleared by the graduate school, SOK application materials will be reviewed soon after each application deadline. Only complete application files will be reviewed. Incomplete applications will be kept for two years. Admission decisions will be based on available openings within the program and quality of application materials.
Core Classes
(12 credit hours)
Core classes are required and only offered in semester listed.

SPTA 611: Sport Marketing and Promotions (fall)
SPTA 615: Sport Law (fall)
SPTA 617: Financial Principles in Sport (spring)
SPTA 676: Sport Administration Theory and Policy Development (spring)

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

Internship Option (9 hours) – MA
PEP 601: Research Applications (non-thesis)
SPTA 698: Internship in Sport Administration (6 hours)

Paper/Project Option (9 hours) – MA
PEP 601: Research Applications (non-thesis)
EDPS 641: Introduction to Statistical Methods
RES 697: Research Paper (3 hours)
Or
CRPR: 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.

Elective Course List
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)

PEP 609: Sport Psychology
PEP 630: Evaluation in Physical Education
PEP 644: Psycho-Social Processes of Sport and Physical Activity
PEP 690: Sport Sociology
PEP 699: Independent Study
EDAD 600: Introduction to Educational Leadership
EDAD 630: Human Resource Development
EDAD 640: The Educational Administrator and Public Relations
EDAD 687: Legal Aspects of Education
EDAD 688: School Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment
EDAD 698: Seminar in Theory of Educational Administration
EDFO 631: Philosophy of Education
PR 660: Public Relations Theories and Application
PR 664: Public Relations Evaluation Techniques
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.
Frequently Asked Questions

Admissions Questions

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 are the minimum GRE scores accepted for admission?
- There are no minimum GRE scores. GRE scores are used as one piece of information that is combined with all other application materials to create an applicant’s admission file.
- GRE scores should be submitted to Ball State University, Code 1051. Please make sure that you do NOT include the Department code.
- 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 applicant file to be strong. These percentiles are rough guidelines 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 acceptable in place of GRE scores.

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 rough guidelines 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.
Frequently Asked Questions
Admissions Questions (cont.)

How many students normally apply, and how many are normally admitted?
• For the February 15th application deadline (summer or fall enrollment) there are typically 40-60 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.
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Program Questions**

**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.
Frequently Asked Questions

Graduate Assistant (GA) Questions

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, Athletics, or Recreation. Check out the graduate assistantships page for even more information.

- **SOK** – Three 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.
- **Recreation** – A variety of recreation GA positions are open each year (fitness, marketing, facilities, intramurals, etc.). The sport administration program and SOK have nothing to do with the selection of these GA positions. Interested students should contact the Department of Recreation Services 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 tuition reimbursement, living stipend, and other perks. The amount of the stipend varies by department and funding cycle, but is usually enough to cover 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 SOK 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.
Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

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.
Meet the Graduate Faculty

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 Psychology from Ball State University in 2001. After two years working 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 research includes work in interscholastic, intercollegiate, and recreational sport.

Chrysostomos Giannoulakis, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor
Dr. Giannoulakis has been at Ball State since 2013. He earned his B.S. in Physical Education & Sport Science from Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece and continued on to earn a M.Ed. in Sport Management from Springfield College. In 2008, Dr. Giannoulakis obtained his Ph.D. in Sport Administration from the University of Northern Colorado. He has worked professionally in aquatic facility management and for the Special Olympics. His primary research interests include action sports, sport for development, and sport volunteer management.

Leeann Lower, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor
Dr. Lower arrived at Ball State in 2015. She earned a B.A. in Math-Economics and Business Administration at Anderson University. Dr. Lower went on to achieve her M.S. in Sport Management from Baylor University and her Ph.D. in Sport Management from The Ohio State University. Her research includes sport-for-development and organizational effectiveness.

Elizabeth Wanless, Ed.D. - Assistant Professor
Dr. Wanless earned her B.S. in Philosophy at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. After a successful career as a professional track and field athlete, she went on to earn her M.S. in Sport Administration and Ed.D. in Higher Education at Ball State University. Currently, Dr. Wanless is the Sport Administration Undergraduate Coordinator and has authored publications, presentations, and grants in revenue generation and community sport opportunity.
University Resources

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

**Benny Link:** Choose from over 400 student organizations to get involved on campus.

**Writing Center:** Drop by for some feedback on writing assignments or schedule a tutoring session.

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

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

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

**Multicultural Center:** Appreciate and promote cultural diversity.

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

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

**Event Calendar:** Keep up with all entertainment and academic events around campus.
GO CARDINALS!

Ball State Athletics

Men’s Varsity Sports
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Football
- Golf
- Swimming & Diving
- Tennis
- Volleyball

Women’s Varsity Sports
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming & Diving
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball

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
**Muncie Attractions**

The Village features housing, restaurants, and bars.

Enjoy Minnetrista’s scenic gardens and unique museums.

Walk, run, or bike Cardinal Greenway’s 62 mile trail.

Check out downtown Muncie’s charming shops and restaurants.

Treat yourself to Concannon’s award winning bakery.

Visit nearby Indianapolis or Fort Wayne.
What our Graduates Say

“The BSU Sport Administration graduate program prepared me for my job as an athletic director in many ways. What I love most about the program is the relationship that the professors build with the students….The professors care about your success not only throughout your time as a student, but continue to provide guidance after graduation.”

-Peyton Stovall (Class of 2010), Athletic Director, Lafayette Jefferson High School

“The program at Ball State gave me valuable insights into what is going on and the interworkings of how an athletic department is run.”

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

“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

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

“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

“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