Development, Implementation, and Evaluation of the “Orientation for International Student Athletes” (OISA)

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FSU COACH
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Purpose

• 19,617 international student-athletes in the NCAA, rising annually.
• Little support provided for international student-athletes (Baghurst et al., 2018).
• Many struggle to assimilate into a new culture, fit into a new sports program, and struggle academically (Lee & Opio, 2011).
• The primary purpose of this project was to develop, implement, and then evaluate an entry-level academic course specifically designed to educate and aid incoming international student-athletes.
The Process

• Focus group with 6 international student-athletes
• Focus group with 3 coaches of international student-athletes
• Three-person analysis of focus groups
• Interviews with 4 international student-athletes
• Development of the 3-credit hour OISA class at OSU
• 9 international student-athletes enrolled (Kenya, Czech Republic, Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Belarus) from 5 teams
• Full semester, meeting twice weekly
• Trip to a local elementary school included
General Themes of Focus

- Language, Communication, & Comprehension
- Culture, Integration, and Assimilation
- Academic/Athletic Rules, Regulations, & Policies
Evaluation

- 100% found the class very valuable and recommended it as important for international student-athletes to take
- 7 of 9 recommended it for all student-athletes (2 said maybe)
What Did You Learn?

• “Knowledge about the American culture and not to be shy even if we are international students.”
• “About plagiarism, NCAA rules, and APA, MLA and Chicago style.”
• “How to act being a student, I think.”
• “The most important thing that I learned from this class is how important academic integrity is.”
• “Plagiarism. How to cite citation correctly.”
Why is this Class Important?

• “That through this class they would be able to know more about college rules and advantages to succeed in college.”

• “everyone need help from the beginning [sic] an this class is perfect for that.”

• “I would say in this class you can learn more basic college things which is important because every country's school rule is different, so I think if you can know all the rules in the U.S. college it only going to help you go through this 4 years easier.”
How Has This Class Changed You?

• “Be more open minded.”
• “I am not scared now about my language and always trying to stay in conversation.”
• “Help you with you start in school.”
• “It has enabled me gain confidence to talk to professor or Instructors to seek for more understanding.”
• “Understand more U.S. college's rules.”
• “And I know how to use the resources [sic] of Academic Center”
Shareable Outcomes

• OSU syllabus
• 21 lesson plans for the course
• Handouts/presentation slides/resources for each lesson plan
• Data from focus groups and interviews (analyzed, but not yet published)