

**LAKER ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER**  
**(Learning, Achieving, and Keeping Everyday Responsibilities)**

The LAKER Academic Success Center's purpose is to empower student-athletes to ACHIEVE academic excellence, DEVELOP self-awareness, and EXCEL in life after sports. The lives of intercollegiate student-athletes are often "pushed to the limit" by the numerous demands placed upon them (e.g., academic, athletic, economic, social, family, career, and relationships). Dedicated to the Athletic Department's mission *of offering academic support and advisement which supports and endorses the total development of the student-athlete*, the Center promotes academic excellence and assists in student-athletes' development by providing academic support and programming. The LAKER Academic Success Center strives to enhance the opportunities available to intercollegiate athletes so that their academic & athletic experience becomes an integral and valuable component of their total educational experience at Grand Valley State University.

The LAKER Academic Success Center provides advising and academic support services to over 500 student-athletes who are participating in the 20 NCAA and GLIAC sanctioned sports at Grand Valley State University. While the primary focus is on academic advising, the LAKER Center also connects student-athletes with all of the available resources at Grand Valley. The LAKER academic staff realizes and recognizes the special demands and/or pressures that student-athletes face. These may include but are not limited to free time, competitive pressures, visibility, fear of injury, pressure to take performance enhancing drugs, social pressures, travel schedules, the need to follow orders to achieve athletic excellence, and stress created by the pressure to succeed academically and athletically.