The Intercollegiate Athletics Externship in the NIU Huskie Athletics Compliance Office seeks to provide 2L and 3L students at the NIU College of Law with the opportunity to experience the practice of law within intercollegiate athletic administration. It is the educational objective of the program to give students the opportunity to apply legal theory learned in doctrinal courses, utilizing practice skills developed in Lawyering Skills, in a manner that is professionally responsible.

Students will work 12 hours per week at their placements (20 hours per week during the eight week summer term) and earn three credits awarded on a pass/fail basis.

Requirements for Student Participation

- Successful completion of Lawyering Skills and Professional Responsibility (or concurrent enrollment with permission of the Director of Skills Training)
- Strong academic record and research and writing skills
- Successful completion of one or more of the following courses will add to the strength of the student’s application: Contracts, Administrative Law, and/or Employment Discrimination.

Enrollment

Interested students will apply for admission to the Director of Skills Training by completing an application and submitting a resume and writing sample. Those students with the most relevant academic background will be interviewed by the Huskie Athletic Office, who will make the final selection for participation in consultation with the Director of Skills Training.

Field Placement

At the field placement, students will work under the direct supervision of the Senior Associate Athletic Director, who has JD and MPA degrees. The field supervisor will provide regular feedback to the student that evaluates and reflects upon the student’s performance.

The field supervisor will be asked to perform student evaluations at mid-semester, as well as at the conclusion of the semester.

At the field placement, each student shall will receive practical experience, as well as complete research activities designed to enhance his/her knowledge in the area of sports law and intercollegiate athletic administration. The externship experience sufficient to allow the student a meaningful opportunity to utilize important legal skills and gain an appreciation for
the role of an attorney within an intercollegiate athletic department, should include the following:

- Provide interpretations of NCAA and MAC rules and maintain interpretation database
- Investigate and evaluate potential NCAA and MAC violations
- Complete self-reports and waivers of NCAA and MAC regulations
- Receive, record, and review countable athletically related activity (CARA) logs
- Review all NCAA membership services staff minutes and share relevant information with staff members
- Review all MAC interpretations and share relevant information with staff members
- Gather information and direct compliance education meetings with coaches and staff members
- Coordinate application for NCAA and MAC petitions and waivers with the Faculty Athletic Representative
- Coordinate list of ineligible student-athletes and monitor changes in student-athlete’s eligibility status
- Maintain Agent Registration program
- Assist with the Equity in Disclosure Act report for NCAA
- Other duties as assigned

Guided Reflection

Students will meet with the faculty supervisor on a periodic basis throughout the semester. Additionally, the students will be expected to keep in regular email contact with the faculty supervisor, both on an individual basis and in group discussions guided by the faculty supervisor with other externship students. In these discussions, the student should reflect upon their practice experience, the work they are doing, how the experience compares to their expectations, how they view the profession, and the professionalism they see daily at the practice experience.

At mid-semester, the faculty supervisor will communicate with the field supervisor and obtain feedback and evaluation of the student’s performance. At the conclusion of the semester, a written evaluation of the student will be completed by the field supervisor. The faculty supervisor will meet with the student and discuss the evaluation, as well as the student’s reflections of their work at the externship placement.

About NIU Intercollegiate Athletics

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at Northern Illinois University (NIU) is an NCAA Division I member institution. NIU sponsors 17 intercollegiate sports and is a member of the highly competitive Mid-American Conference (MAC). Our goal in Huskie Athletics is to enhance the regional and national reputation of Northern Illinois University by demonstrating excellence in academics and athletics while operating our program with integrity.