

## **The Sport Management Graduate Program**

**Thank you for your interest in the Sport Management program at University of Tennessee.** We are part of the Department of Exercise, Sport, and Leisure Studies in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences on the flagship campus at Knoxville, Tennessee's oldest and largest public university, a land-grant institution that holds the Carnegie Foundation doctoral/research-extensive classification.

### **Focus of the Program**

The University of Tennessee Sport Management faculty is dedicated to the development of a cutting-edge master's degree program related to the understanding of management in a sport-related setting. Through this program, students at The University of Tennessee are offered the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for a career in sport management.

The Sport Management curriculum provides students with the opportunity to pursue a degree that combines coursework and professional experience. There is considerable flexibility in the graduate program, and within limits, the program can be designed to fit each student's interests.

Sport Management is a curricular area that has been a formally recognized program at The University of Tennessee since 1983. Sport Management is a field of study and application based upon the integration of the special nature of sport endeavors, and management theory and principles applied to sport involvement. Sport Management includes any combination of skills related to planning, organizing, leading, and evaluating within the context of an organization or department whose primary product or service is related to sport.

In addition, starting with a Fall 2006 entering class, the College of Business Administration and the College of Education, Health, and Human sciences have agreed to offer a Dual MS-MBA program that will result in conferral of a Master of Business Administration degree and a Master of Science degree with a major in sport studies (concentration in sport management).

Increasingly, sports and sports-related companies are represented by significant business enterprises. Success in these enterprises requires the application of business fundamentals, analytical techniques, and management skills within the specific context of the sports industry. The objective of the dual degree program is to train individuals in sport management and business management to integrate both sport and management and to prepare them to undertake leadership roles in this growing, dynamic, and competitive industry.

### **Degrees Available**

- M.S. in Sport Studies, with a concentration in **Sport Management**
  - **Thesis Option**—The Master's thesis should be considered as a contribution to the field of knowledge in Sport Management. Six semester hours of credit may be earned in preparation of the thesis. You must continue to register for

three hours of thesis credit even if you do not finish the thesis in the semester intended. You will continue to do this until the completion and acceptance of the thesis. The thesis should represent original research limited in scope so there will be sufficient time to complete it. The thesis experience is culminated with a formal presentation to the thesis committee with attendance open to the public.

- **Project Option**—The project is an in-depth, scholarly work that is related to the student's area of emphasis and builds upon the student's previous coursework and professional experience. It is the culminating experience for students choosing the non-thesis option. The project requires a written report in a style appropriate to the type of experience. The project is due the first day of the month of the intended graduation. All students choosing the Project Option must also pass a comprehensive examination.
- **Dual Program—MS/MBA in Sport Management**
  - The first two semesters are done in the MBA program and the second two semesters are completed in the Sport Management program. The dual degree is completed with an internship with a prominent sports-related business.
- **PhD in Exercise & Sport Sciences, with a concentration in Sport Management**
  - The PhD with a major in exercise and sport sciences offers a concentration in sport studies with areas of specialization in motor behavior, sport management, sport psychology, and sport sociology. The program stresses an interdisciplinary approach to coursework and research and expects students to become proficient in qualitative and quantitative research methods. Students are expected to obtain a significant grounding in the allied, parent disciplines. The program prepares students to obtain faculty positions in higher education and/or jobs with applied educational, business, and sport enterprises. Students must have completed all requirements for a master's degree in kinesiology, physical education, psychology, sociology, sport studies, business, or a related field prior to beginning the doctoral program. The program usually takes 3 years (2 years of coursework and 1 year for the dissertation).

## **Sport Management Faculty**

❖ **Dr. Jim Bemiller, Assistant Professor** (J.D., University of Tennessee)  
Jim teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in sport law and sport governance. Primary research interests include negligence and risk management in sport settings, gender equity and constitutional issues in sport. He earned his BS Ed. from Miami University (Ohio) in 1985, and M.S. Ed (1987) and J.D. (1993) from the University of Tennessee while coaching track and field for the Volunteers.

Jim has experience negotiating endorsement and marketing opportunities for professional athletes, advising multiple Olympic athletes including Olympic and World champions in Track and Field. He is the coach of the 2004 Olympic champion in the pole vault, Timothy Mack, and has coached athletes in the pole vault who have won 5 NCAA championship, 15 SEC championships, and hold the SEC, NCAA, and Olympic records. He is a member of NASSM, the Sport Lawyers Association, the Knoxville Bar Association and serves as the faculty advisor of the Sport Management Partners in Sports Program.

❖ **Dr. Joy T. DeSensi, Professor and Associate Dean of The Graduate School** (Ed.D., University of North Carolina at Greensboro) teaches graduate courses in Sport Sociology and Sport Management. Her primary scholarly interests include the sociocultural issues of sport, including all aspects of diversity and ethics in sport management. She is author of *Ethics and Morality in Sport Management (3<sup>rd</sup> ed)* along with Danny Rosenberg and has authored numerous scholarly articles and book chapters in her field. Editorships of scholarly journals include *Quest*, the *Women, in Physical Activity and Sport Journal*, and the *Journal of Sport Management*. She has served as President of the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport, the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education, the Southern Academy of Women in Physical Activity, Sport, and Health, and is a Founding Member of the North American Society for Sport Management. Awards include being named a Chancellor's Professor at UTK, the Chancellor's Award for Research and Creative Achievements, the Angie Warren Perkins Award for Administration, and the UT National Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award. She also received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

❖ **Dr. Rob Hardin, Assistant Professor** (Ph.D., University of Tennessee) Dr. Hardin teaches the graduate Media Issues and Sport class and the undergraduate Sport Communication class. He also teaches Event Management during the summer. Dr. Hardin's research interests lie within the role media play in the perception of sports and athletes. His dissertation analyzed the newspaper coverage of Bobby Jones during the 1920s. Dr. Hardin also is interested in the influence the media have over spectator motivation. He also studies volunteer motivation. Dr. Hardin assists in the men's Sports Information Department at the university in a variety of capacities including historical research and game-day operation. He earned his bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. He holds masters in both Sport Management and Communications from the University of Tennessee, and earned his doctoral degree in Communications from the University of Tennessee. He has published in the *International Journal of Sport Management*, *Sport Marketing Quarterly*, *Public Relations Quarterly*, *American Journalism* and *Journalism History* among others.

❖ **Dr. Fritz G. Polite, Assistant Professor** (Ph.D., Florida State University)

Dr. Fritz G. Polite is an assistant professor & Director of the Institute for Leadership, Ethics & Diversity (I-LEAD) in Sport. He has over 25 years of experience in sports, management, coaching, teaching and business. Polite earned his Ph.D. in Sport Management from The Florida State University . He received his master's of public administration degree from Troy State University (Alabama) and bachelor's degree in management from Simpson College (Iowa). Sports have played prominently in his career, including the following professional experience:

New York Giants, National Football League – advising, evaluating and testing (aptitude, psychological and physical) of college athletes with potential for the annual NFL draft;

General Manager, Harlem Globetrotters,  
Sport Program Manager, Walt Disney World Sports and  
National TEAM Coach-Switzerland (Football).

He has been a coach, player and administrator at the professional level.

He has presented & published Internationally in Finland, Canada, France, Germany & Switzerland. His primary research focus is in the area of socio-cultural aspects of sport to include: hiring practices, gender and diversity. His secondary line of research is in the area of brand & vertical extension. He also has presented issues related to sport agents and University/High School student-athletes. He is a member of NASSM, NASSS, AFCA, MMA, SMA & BCA.

### **Retired Professors**

- Dennie Kelley, Associate Professor (Ph.D., Georgia State)
- Buck Jones, Professor Emeritus (Ph.D.,

### **Other Supporting Faculty**

### **How to Apply**

The application process has two parts. You must apply to **both** the Department of Exercise, Sport, & Leisure Studies and the University of Tennessee Graduate School to be considered for admission.

**You must apply to the Department** through Margy Wirtz-Henry, our Admissions Coordinator. You should submit the following application materials:

- **The Exercise, Sport & Leisure Studies Departmental Application** (via email or paper copy), including the Departmental Assistantship Application (pages 3-4) if you want to be considered for a teaching assistantship in our Physical Education Activity Program (PEAP). If you do not want to be considered for our departmental assistantships, you need only fill out the first 2 pages of the application. [http://web.utk.edu/~sals/grad/masters\\_graduate\\_application.doc](http://web.utk.edu/~sals/grad/masters_graduate_application.doc)
- **Your Current Resume or C.V.** (via email or paper copy)
- **Three Ratings Forms**, University of Tennessee's recommendation forms. (These must be submitted in original form, since they are signed by your recommender.)

Two forms should be completed by a professor or someone who is familiar with your academic work and the third can be completed by a professor or someone else who can speak to your potential to succeed in a graduate degree program.  
<http://web.utk.edu/~gsinfo/ratingform.pdf>

**You must apply to the University of Tennessee Graduate School** through the Office of Graduate and International Admissions. This involves the submission of the following materials:

- **The Graduate Application for Admissions.** This application can be downloaded as an Adobe file (click this link: <http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/forms/gradapp.pdf>) or you can apply online (click this link: <https://www.applyweb.com/apply/utg/>). Your application should be submitted first, before you submit any other materials.
- **\$35 application fee.** This can be in the form of a personal check, cashier's check, money order or bank draft payable to the University of Tennessee. The fee must accompany the application. If completing the online application, the application fee must be paid online using a credit card.
- **Official academic transcripts** sent directly from all your post-secondary academic institutions. International students should submit official or attested university records with certified translations if the records are not in English, along with degree confirmation.
- **GRE scores** Must have been taken within 5 years of application date.
- **TOEFL scores** (Test of English as a Foreign Language). This is only required if you are not a native English speaker. Our institution code is 1843.
- **Financial documentation** (International Students only; contact the Graduate and International Admissions Office for more information)

PLEASE NOTE: International Students have certain deadline dates by which applications **must** be received in order to be considered for admissions. Confirm these dates with the Office of Graduate and International Admissions.  
<http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/dates.shtml>

## Who is admitted?

We usually admit 25-35 MS students total from a pool of 130 applicants. Admissions decisions are made on a number of criteria:

- On the GRE, we look for an analytical writing score of 4.0 or higher. We have no minimum score on the verbal and quantitative portions, but scoring at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile would be considered a strong score.
- Candidates must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 or above in their undergraduate work to be considered (or at least in the senior year).
- We then look at the applicant's writing ability and answers to questions on our application form (areas of interest, for one) in determining people who might be a good fit for our program.
- Ratings forms (our version of letters of recommendation) are also considered.

## Timeline and Deadlines

We admit students to start in the fall semester (August) or possibly summer (June or July), so the following will be written assuming this. If you require a spring (January) semester admission, please contact us to discuss the possibilities.

**IMPORTANT: All applicants must apply to both the Department/Degree Program and the University/Graduate School to be considered for admission. To ensure full consideration individuals are encouraged to complete both applications prior to the pertinent deadlines.**

### **The Department/Degree Program**

- Admissions are done on a rolling basis starting in January each year, so highly qualified applicants can be admitted as soon as **all application materials** (i.e., graduate school application materials, department application, ratings forms, etc.) are received.
- **For priority consideration**, as well as consideration for departmental assistantships, all materials should be received in the department and submitted to the Graduate School by **February 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- While some decisions will be made sooner, **the majority of admissions decisions are made from mid-February to the end of March**. Decisions on our limited number of departmental assistantships are made during this time.
- **Only complete application files will be considered**. It is your responsibility to confirm that all your materials have been received. You should check with both the Graduate and International Admissions Office (<http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/check.shtml>) **and** the Department of Exercise, Sport, & Leisure Studies Admissions Coordinator (Ms. Margy Wirtz-Henry, [mwirtz@utk.edu](mailto:mwirtz@utk.edu), 865-974-7154). Your status with the Graduate Admissions Office does not necessarily reflect your status with the department until the admission decision has been made at the department level and communicated with Graduate Admissions.
- Applicants applying later can be considered for admission if there are still openings in the incoming class.

### **The University/Graduate Admissions Deadlines**

The Graduate School's admissions deadlines are later than those required by the department, and therefore, please use our February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline instead of those posted by the Graduate School and have all materials in to the Graduate School and the department by then.

- There are no official deadlines for **domestic applications**, but materials should be submitted in a timely fashion for consideration at the departmental level (see above). We can only admit a certain number of students, so late applications may not even be able to be considered.
- International applicants for fall semester should complete the University/Graduate School admissions process **several months prior to the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline** to allow adequate time for the application to be forwarded to the department for

consideration. The Graduate School's official deadlines are **after** our department deadlines and therefore will not be discussed here.

**IMPORTANT:** The application process requires that students be accepted by both the Department/Degree Program and the University/Graduate School. **To ensure full consideration, both of these applications should be completed prior to the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.** International applicants should begin the University/Graduate School admissions process several months prior to the deadline to allow adequate time for the graduate school application materials to be forwarded to the department for consideration along with the Department/Degree Program materials—we recommend international application files to be complete by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Funding**

Graduate assistantships are the primary source of funding for graduate students at UT and are offered by academic departments and administrative offices of the university. An assistantship is a financial award to a graduate student for part-time work in teaching, administration, or research while pursuing an advanced degree. Appointments are normally on a one-fourth to one-half time basis, usually requiring 10 – 20 hours of service per week. The annual stipend is payable in either nine or twelve monthly installments. In addition to the stipend, Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA), Graduate Teaching Associates (GTAssoc), Graduate Assistants (GA), and Graduate Research Assistants (GRA), with appointments on a one-fourth time basis or higher, are entitled to a waiver of maintenance fees and tuition for the period of appointment in accordance with university policy. These appointments also include a benefit of health insurance for the student.

While there is no central point of contact for information on GA positions in administrative offices around the university, some positions are filled periodically in college advising centers, admission offices, residence halls, and other service offices. When announced by the administrative office, openings for the assistantships may be found at <http://gradstudies.utk.edu/asstshipfunds.shtml>.

A limited number of graduate teaching associateships are available from our department, teaching in the Physical Education Activity Program, assisting with research, and/or teaching undergraduate lab sections. Most PhD candidates are brought in with funding; very few master's students are funded through the department. However, there are many sources of funding and assistantships elsewhere on campus, as detailed above, such as through Men's Athletics, Women's Athletics, Rec Sports, Housing, Admissions, and other departments. **We highly recommend that prospective students start early looking for funding sources.** These areas/departments should be contacted directly; the Dept of Exercise, Sport, & Leisure Studies has no say in the awarding of these assistantships.

Some helpful links:

<http://gradstudies.utk.edu/fellowships.shtml>

<http://gradstudies.utk.edu/asstshipfunds.shtml>

<http://web.utk.edu/~finaid/newpage/schol-info.html>

<http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/costs.shtml>

### **Useful Links**

- Sport Management Program <http://web.utk.edu/~sals/grad/Sport.html>
- Graduate Admissions <http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/>
- About Knoxville <http://www.tennessee.edu/knoxville/>
- Future UTK Students Page <http://utk.edu/futurestudents/>
- Financial Aid <http://web.utk.edu/~finaid/>
- Center for International Education <http://web.utk.edu/~globe/>
- Admission Guide for International Students <http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/forms/intl.admission.guide.pdf>

### **Need More Information or Have Questions?**

If you are interested in learning more about the application process or the program, please contact our Admissions Coordinator, Margy Wirtz, at (865) 974-7154 or [mwirtz@utk.edu](mailto:mwirtz@utk.edu).

**Thank you for your interest in the University of Tennessee.  
Best wishes in your search for a graduate program that  
meets your needs.**