Welcome and congratulations, you are on your way to successfully completing this Counseling 112 course. My name is Albert Loaiza and I will be your instructor this semester for “Transition Strategies for Intercollegiate Student-Athletes”. This section of COUNS 112 is a Hybrid course and you must have access to a computer and the internet throughout the 8 weeks of the semester. We will meet every Monday night in the classroom. This orientation letter will cover all aspects of the course and how to be successful in it.

This course is designed for current COC Student-Athletes. Throughout the semester this course will
- Explore current topics and challenges relevant to student-athletes
- Help develop academic success skills such as life management, goal setting, note taking, career decision-making, transfer information, and major exploration among other topics to help your progress here at COC and future
- Address the unique transitional needs of student-athletes
- Review NCAA/NAIA transfer rules and requirements
- Prepare you for any future endeavor you may choose

As mentioned, this is course is a Hybrid format. You will be required to log into Blackboard various times throughout the week in order to complete each assignment. You can access COC Blackboard through: http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Distance_Learning/Blackboard_login.html

You will be required to login no later than April 15th 11:59pm. Failure to login by the time listed will result in being dropped from the course. I highly recommend that you take a look at the online tutorials provided by the COC Blackboard website to better familiarize yourself with Blackboard 9: http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Distance_Learning/Blackboard_login.html

To help your success in this Hybrid course it is recommended to purchase the textbook needed to complete the readings:
- Becoming A Master Student-Athlete, by David Ellis
The book is available at the COC Bookstore for purchase, however you may choose to purchase the book through a different vendor if you’d like.

Along with course readings, you will be asked to participate in weekly discussion board topics. There will be at least 2 topics posted weekly. Typically these topics will be posted on Mondays and Thursdays. You will have to respond to these topics within a certain time frame that will be included in the posts. In addition to the topic responses, you will be asked to be an active participant in the discussion with a minimum number of replies to your fellow classmate’s posts. Lastly, all quizzes will have a time limit and will also have to be completed through Blackboard.

As you can see, this course requires constant access to the internet and Blackboard. This orientation letter does not serve as the course syllabus; that will be found once you log into the class. This letter serves as a breakdown of how this course is comprised. I highly recommend you complete the online tutorials mentioned and ask yourself “am I ready for online learning?”

If you have any additional questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me

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