

Working in TU Athletics

One thing that drew me to the University of Tulsa is that it is the smallest Division I school in the nation. This means that our class sizes are small and we have a close-knit community, but we also get to enjoy competitive sports and an incredibly spirited atmosphere! The combination of these two aspects makes Tulsa an incredibly special place.

I played volleyball and ran track in high school, but outside my own athletic endeavors, it was unlikely that I'd attend many games. I found myself missing athletics, however, when I got to college. When a friend recommended Athletic Media Relations to me, I jumped at the opportunity. Sports are incredible, particularly college sports, because they unite so many diverse individuals into a deeply emotional bond. The incredible triumph and joy of an unexpected win, the adrenaline rush of good competition, and even the crushing blow of defeat, coupled with the unrelenting loyalty of true fans; these feelings are worth preserving. What I love about working in athletics is that I get to be motivated by that type of passion every day.

The media relations department works closely with athletes and facilitates communication with the media, including organizing press conferences and interviews, distributing stat materials, and much more. This is excellent experience for someone studying public relations, like myself, and I am constantly learning.

Through my work in Athletic Media Relations, I have worked home games for Golden Hurricane football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, and softball. Each sport has its own unique needs and jobs for me. For football I am often on the phone with ESPN or a related network, confirming touchdowns and updating live scores from the busy press box. In both soccer and softball I am responsible for the scoreboard, keeping track of shots on goal and the pitch count. These are very relaxed compared to volleyball, which is very fast-paced, and I race to call out stats to the person inputting into the computer. Basketball comes with a myriad of tasks, calling and inputting stats, filling out the shot chart, running statistics, and contributing to post-game quotes and press releases.

I have met amazing people as a result of my job in athletics, and gained a new appreciation for each sport that I've worked, as well as for the student-athletes. The Media Relations and Marketing departments for TU athletics are like a family, one that I have been incredibly fortunate to be a part of. Often I am asked how I can dedicate so much time and energy to a position for which I am not paid. (This is a work-study position, but I do not qualify so I treat it as a student internship). Besides the amazing experiences I have had and their direct applications to my major, I love what I do and the people I do it with. Athletics at TU are very special. Whether you join the media relations or marketing teams, become a student-athlete yourself, or consistently cheer on your team in the stands, join in the fun of Division I at the University of Tulsa!