

Integration Institutes: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an Integration Institute?

Integration Institutes provide an opportunity for presidents, academic and athletic administrators, faculty, and coaches to share ideas and objectives about an intercollegiate sports model that celebrates an appropriate balance between academic and athletic goals. Institutes typically bring together a number of college/university “teams” with the primary goals being to:

- introduce or acquaint participants with key integration principles
- engage participants in considering the integration process in all its various forms
- develop and share integration strategies (best practices)
- build or strengthen a community of like-minded institutions that embrace common goals regarding the appropriate place and mission of athletics at a Division III college/university
- encourage and support communication among all the campus ‘stakeholders’ of athletics and student athletes

2. What does the term “integration” mean in a college sports context?

The integration effort is best described as a focused and deliberate effort to encourage the academic, athletic, and student life dimensions of colleges and universities to work intentionally and collaboratively in attempting to align athletic programs with educational missions.

3. How are Integration Institutes different than similar programs sponsored by other organizations?

First and foremost, Integration Institutes promote the active involvement of all “educational partners” who are critical to the development and maintenance of athletic experiences that will celebrate educational goals. Secondly, the curriculum is carefully designed so that presentations offered by presidents, faculty, and athletic administrators lead to focused breakout sessions/discussions. Carefully planned pre-Institute self-studies and post-Institute follow-up help encourage the implementation of integration activities on individual participant campuses. Finally, the participation of like-minded institutions has proven to be empowering to those who hold integration principles primary.

3. Do you have to be a College Sports Project (CSP) school in order to participate in an Integration Institute?

No. While the Integration Institute concept was developed by members of the College Sports Project Coordinating Committee, all Division III schools are encouraged to consider any initiatives that may serve to promote the integration of athletic programs within the educational life of colleges and universities.

4. Have Integration Institutes already taken place?

There have been five Integration Institutes. The first was sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the College Sports Project and hosted by Washington University (St. Louis). The Institute included ten schools from various regions throughout the country including; Allegheny College, Carleton College, Pomona College, SUNY-Geneseo, Rhodes College, Southwestern University, Ursinus College, Washington & Lee University, Washington University, and Wesleyan University.

Other institutes have been conducted by the following conferences:

- Landmark Conference
- New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC)
- Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC)
- Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC)

5. How are Integration Institutes funded?

Some Division III conferences have received grant support from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Tier II of the Division III Strategic Initiative Grants Program specifically allocates funds annually under the broad umbrella of Social Responsibility and Integration.

6. How do you get speakers and facilitators to participate in Integration Institutes?

The CSP can provide Division III institutions and conferences with a list of potential speakers, many who have been intimately involved in discussions and deliberations surrounding various integration concepts. In addition, we may be able to be helpful in making initial contacts with these potential presenters.

7. Does CSP plan and make arrangements for the Institute?

Not necessarily. However, the CSP Coordinating Committee has been an active participant in the planning of all Integration Institutes and stands ready to help conferences or other groups of schools in ways they may deem appropriate.

8. Do all Institutes have to follow the same format?

No. Not only have various conferences developed different Institute formats, but individual institutions may want to consider internal campus Institutes. Schools and conferences should choose the kind of format which best meets their needs and desired outcomes.

9. Who can I speak with about the effectiveness of Integration Institutes?

We would encourage you to speak with colleagues who have planned and participated in previous Integration Institutes.

Brad Bankston, Commissioner	Old Dominion Athletic Conference brad@odaonline.com
Mike Clary, Director of Athletics	Rhodes College clary@rhodes.edu
John Reeves, Commissioner	Landmark Conference jreeves@drew.edu
Andrea Savage, Executive Director	New England Small College Athletic Conference Andrea.Savage@trincoll.edu
John Biddiscombe	Wesleyan University jbiddiscombe@wesleyan.edu
Marilyn Moore	SUNY Geneseo moorem@geneseo.edu

10. How can I get more information about Integration Institutes?

You can access the College Sports Project webpage at www.collegesportsproject.org where you will find an Integration Institutes link. In addition, you should feel free to contact Amy Campbell or Bob Malekoff, both members of the CSP Coordinating Committee.

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