

Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation

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The Carnegie Mellon University Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation provides a transformative and inclusive educational experience that nurtures competitiveness, wellness, belonging and resilience, and provides students with a leadership framework to live healthy and impactful lives.

Intercollegiate Athletics

Carnegie Mellon emphasizes excellence in its intercollegiate athletic programs, as well as in its classrooms. The university strongly believes that academic and athletic excellence can successfully coexist. Intercollegiate athletics are important in student life and make a positive impact on the educational experience. Experience as a student-athlete additionally provides benefits in professional and social endeavors following graduation.

Carnegie Mellon sports teams have competed intercollegiately since the early 1900s. In the past 16 years, the program has experienced extensive success. The Tartans have won 92 conference championships and competed in over 165 national championships since 1976. This success has been achieved while meeting all of the academic requirements of demanding programs and without athletic scholarships.

In 1986, Carnegie Mellon became a charter member of the University Athletic Association (UAA), an eight-team league of similar institutions with regard to academic and athletic programs. The UAA, a national association which geographically reaches as far north as Massachusetts, as far south as Atlanta and as far west as St. Louis and Chicago, sponsors intercollegiate competition in 23 sports including 10 for men and 10 for women. UAA members include Brandeis University, Case Western Reserve University, Carnegie Mellon University, Emory University, New York University, the University of Chicago, the University of Rochester and Washington University in St. Louis.

Carnegie Mellon, like the other seven UAA members, is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Its intercollegiate teams compete on the Division III level, which prohibits athletic scholarships and operates under the true meaning of amateurism. Student-athletes who play at the varsity level are students first and athletes second. All students, both athletes and non-athletes, are treated equally with regard to admission and financial aid policies. Carnegie Mellon fully supports a policy of equity in resources and opportunities for women and men.

The university fields competitive teams in 19 sports. The Tartans compete in football, men's and women's golf, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross-country, men's and women's tennis, women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field, and softball.

Carnegie Mellon's intercollegiate programs have consistently produced winners. The men's golf team won the university's first national championship in 2023 after placing sixth in 2022 and fourth in 2021. At the conclusion of the 2022 season, senior William Knauth was named the recipient of the Byron Nelson Award for his achievement in the classroom, on the course, and in the community, and a finalist for the Jack Nicklaus National Player of the Year Award.

The Tartans' football team has won 19 conference championships, the latest coming in 2022, had a string of 35 consecutive winning seasons from 1975-2009, and has appeared in the NCAA Division III Championship playoffs seven times. The Tartans have also played in seven ECAC Bowl games. In 1979, Carnegie Mellon was awarded the Lambert Trophy as the best small college team in the northeast. In 2019, senior defensive lineman Michael Lohmeier became the fifth Tartan named as a finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy, an award that recognizes an individual as the absolute best scholar-athlete in the nation amongst all divisions.

The men's cross country team won its most recent conference championship in 2021 and has had a student-athlete or team compete at nationals for 21 straight seasons. In 2022, the women's cross country team made its fifth straight appearance and eighth overall at the national meet. The 1998 team placed fourth nationally, the highest in program history.

The volleyball team has made five trips to the NCAA Tournament in the past six seasons and reached their highest AVCA national ranking in program history when they held the sixth spot for two weeks during the 2017 season.

The women's soccer team has appeared in the NCAA tournament nine of the last 10 years. In 2019, the Tartans advanced to the NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship semifinals becoming the first women's team in Carnegie Mellon history to reach the semifinals of an NCAA tournament. The men's soccer team has competed in postseason play 16 times since 2000, including 14 trips to the NCAA tournament. Jon Hall was named CoSIDA Men's Soccer Academic All-America of the Year in back-to-back years (2008 and 2009).

In 2015-16, the women's basketball team advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history. The following season, 2016-17, senior Lisa Murphy was selected as the Jostens Trophy award winner. The award is a symbol of excellence for the Division III student-athlete; it is an honor given to the top women's basketball player for their excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community. The 2021-22 team returned the program to postseason play and won the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championship for the second time in program history.

The men's basketball team had played in seven postseason tournaments since 2004-05 with the 2022-23 team playing in the ECAC Championship tournament after tying for fourth place in the UAA.

Kayvon Fatahalian, a freshman computer science major on the men's tennis team, won the NCAA National Singles Title in 2000 with a sophomore Abhishek Alla claiming the ITA National Small College Championship title in 2013. The women's tennis team also produced an ITA National Small College Champion when sophomore Amy Staloch won the singles title in 2006. The women's program has played in the NCAA Tournament in 16 of the last 17 years while the men's program has played in nine NCAA Tournaments, the latest in 2021.

Both men's and women's swimming and diving and track and field teams annually qualify a number of athletes for the national championships. Swimming has produced a combined nine national champions with the men's team finishing 11th in 2023 and the women 15th. The men's track and field team finished fourth at the 2022 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships with three athletes earning runner-up finishes in their respective events. In 2023, senior Liz Barre won the women's program's first indoor NCAA individual championship with a victory in the pentathlon while the men's program won the UAA Outdoor Championship for the fifth time.

In the spring of 2018, the women's golf team, competing in its fourth year of varsity competition, finished fifth at the NCAA Division III Championships. Then in 2020, the sixth year of the women's golf program, the Tartans landed at the top position in the final Division III national rankings by Golfstat. The number one ranking was the first for a women's team sport at Carnegie Mellon. The 2022 and 2023 team's placed fourth at the NCAA Championships.

The inaugural season of softball was in 2019. The team has produced four all-region honorees and set five team and four individual records in the 2023 season.

Carnegie Mellon has accumulated 192 Academic All-America honors given out by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) since 1973. There have been 147 that have earned the honor since the 2004-05 season. The Tartans have also produced 22 NCAA Postgraduate Scholars since 2007-08, which is a scholarship that is awarded to student-athletes who excel academically and athletically and who are in their final year of intercollegiate athletics competition.

In 2019, Carnegie Mellon Unveiled its Inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame. In October, 17 individuals and one historic team were inducted into the inaugural class.

To provide excellence throughout the athletic programs, the department employs full-time coaches in all varsity sports. Intercollegiate competition begins with the first football and soccer games in early September and ends with the NCAA track and field, golf, tennis and softball championships in late May. Students with athletic skills in any of the above mentioned sports are welcome to become members of the team. Participation is open to all students.

Physical Education

Carnegie Mellon offers several physical education classes that can be counted toward student credits. Courses are taught by the Athletics

Department staff and other experienced instructors. Below is a list of courses. To view course descriptions and to schedule courses, please proceed to the Schedule of Classes (<https://enr-apps.as.cmu.edu/open/SOC/SOCServlet>).

Recreation

In addition to providing for its more formal programs and teams, Carnegie Mellon's athletic facilities are available for use by individual students on an extensive seven-day per week schedule.

The Cohon University Center has facilities for swimming, basketball, volleyball, squash, and racquetball, as well as cardio and strength equipment. Gesling Stadium provides outdoor soccer, football and track facilities. Tennis courts, located between the University Center and Margaret Morrison, are lighted for night play. Outside basketball courts are located near Donner Hall. During the school year, they are open for use by students, faculty and staff.

These facilities are available to students, faculty and staff who have a valid Carnegie Mellon ID card. For hours, contact the Athletic Office at 412-268-5635, or visit our website (<https://athletics.cmu.edu/landing/index>).

Fitness and Wellness

The university is well aware that fitness is a vital contributor to an individual's well-being and productivity. For this reason the department is committed to providing the entire campus community with the opportunity and resources to keep fit for the new century.

The Fitness and Wellness program provides educational services, programs, workshops and seminars. The Group X program (<https://athletics.cmu.edu/recreation/groupx>) provides over 70 exercise classes per week ranging from yoga and pilates to zumba and indoor cycling. These classes are free for all full time CMU students, faculty and staff. Personal training sessions are available for cost and provide an opportunity to work one on one with a certified strength coach in our athletic facilities.

Intramurals

The goal of our program is to establish fun and inviting playing environments for all skill levels. Various leagues and tournaments are offered to the entire University community each year. Through participation in this program, students are able to remain physically fit and develop leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship and other important life skills. Intramural Sports are also a proven social networking opportunity. If you like sports, we definitely have something for you!

Check out the Intramural Sports Participant Manual (<http://athletics.cmu.edu/x/ti2xe>) to explore the program as a whole.

Club Sports

This program offers members of the Carnegie Mellon University community the opportunity to participate in non-varsity intercollegiate athletic competition and formalized group instruction. Club Sports are recognized student organizations that establish their own leadership, structure, membership requirements, competition schedules, dues, and fundraising events. The clubs provide social, competitive, instructional, and safe environments based on the common interests of the participating members.

Our mission is to provide diverse, quality sports opportunities for all students across a broad range of skill levels and experience. The Club Sports program strives to provide a dynamic learning environment while promoting sportsmanship, skill development, and camaraderie through sport and play. We aim to be a model for student leadership - in the way students conduct themselves during events and through the administration of the program.

Check out our Club Sports Participant Manual (https://athletics.cmu.edu/recreation/CMU_Club_Sports_Manual.pdf) for more details about the program.