



### **Our Mission**

The Thornton Center fosters the pursuit of comprehensive excellence through the holistic development of each student-athlete. The department cultivates champions for life by maintaining a culture of integrity, utilizing an innovative approach, and displaying leadership while honoring and fulfilling the volunteer spirit.

### **Our Vision**

The Thornton Center is constant the pursuit of excellence through transformative programs and services that set the national standard. The department inspires greatness that transcends sport by empowering student-athletes to become self-directed learners and thinkers, developing ambassadors who embody the volunteer spirit, and preparing graduates for global success.

The Thornton Center includes the following divisions:

- Academic Services
- Student Services
- Student-Athlete Development

### **Academic Services**

In order to make a difference in the lives of the young men and women on our athletic teams, the department must provide programs, student services and tools necessary for success inside and outside the classroom. The Thornton Center encourages, empowers, and equips student-athletes to take advantage of the resources and support available and realize their full academic potential. There are high expectations for students-athletes and the department has designed strategic and individualized programs and services to build champions in the classroom.

- **Academic Counseling** – The Thornton Center’s team of full-time Academic Counselors and Young Professionals support all aspects of the student-athlete academic experience. From the early on-campus recruitment of prospective student-athletes to the development of individualized academic and graduation plans, these individuals are committed to the holistic development of each student-athlete. Within the Thornton Center, Academic Counselors are the primary point of contact for each student-athlete regarding major and course selection, NCAA progress-toward-degree requirements, faculty communication, and individualized academic support programming.



## Student Services

The Student Services unit houses full-time Learning Specialists, Young Professionals, content tutors, and academic mentors to facilitate the development of the learning process, academic success strategies, and content-based course mastery. This unit develops and administers academic screeners to assess the learning style and individual needs of each student-athlete and collaborates with campus partners such as Student Disability Services and UT Sports Medicine to ensure student-athlete needs are fully identified and supported. From there, student-athletes transition into the eVOLve program, designed to build an individualized academic success team around all first-year student-athletes to facilitate their development in the areas of time management, organization, test-taking strategies, note-taking skills, study habits, goal setting, etc. Additionally, the Student Services unit operates full-service Math and Writing Labs to provide student-athletes with expert supplemental instruction in the area of math and assistance through all stages of the writing process.

## Student-Athlete Development

The Student-Athlete Development division is responsible for providing comprehensive personal and professional development programming.

- **Career Development** – The department educates student-athletes on career opportunities and assists in obtaining jobs, internships, and/or graduate assistantships prior to graduation. Career and professional development programs include career fairs, networking nights, lunch & learns, industry specific information sessions, professional pit stops, career tours, micro-internships, and opportunities to work athletic special events such as SEC Championship games and the NFL Super Bowl.
- **Community Outreach** - Community outreach allows student-athletes to use their platform in sport to create positive change in the community on a local, national, and global level. As a Tennessee Volunteer, community outreach is an area that UT athletics takes pride in. The student-athlete development team builds meaningful partnerships with various organizations to provide opportunities for student-athletes to engage in transformational service initiatives and help meet the needs of the community.
- **Leadership Development** - Leadership and sport are two common languages throughout the world. The Thornton Center uses the frameworks of servant leadership, transformational leadership, emotionally intelligent leadership and strengths-based leadership to develop each student-athlete into a committed and effective leader. The department engages students in experiential and service-learning activities, both locally and abroad, that provide them with unique opportunities to learn, lead, and empower underserved populations through sport.

# Thornton Center Org Chart 2021-22

