

Criterion #1- Academic Excellence Student Success

Average Score- 6.33

Retention rates are above institution rates- Score 5

The standard retention rate for the University is at 56% while the program is at 63.4%. This is an increased retention rate from 51% in 2016 (Update to the president's cabinet, 2018). This significant increase was met as the new Head Coach was hired. In addition, the program has 13 Juniors that are set to graduate in the Spring of 2019. This will be the largest graduating class in the program's history.

Team GPA between 2.6 and 3.0- Score 7

The team's overall GPA for the 2016-2017 academic year was 2.96 (Update to the president's cabinet, 2018). This was an increase from the GPA average in 2015-2016 which was 2.52 (Update to the president's cabinet, 2018). The school average GPA for 2016-2017 was 2.58 and the NCAA Lacrosse GPA average was 2.85 (Update to the president's cabinet, 2018). This shows that the standard for the Men's Lacrosse program was higher than the institution's and the governing body of the NCAA's standards.

Student Athletes receive RMAC academic and institutional recognition- Score 7

During the 2016-2017 campaign the program received five Academic Honors from the RMAC (RMAC, 2017). In the 2015-2016 season the program received four Academic Awards from the RMAC and also received Student Academic Athlete of the Year from Adams State University (RMAC, 2017).

Criterion #2- Access and Student Athlete AffordabilityAverage Score- 5

Roster sizes are at the RMAC and NCAA average- Score 4

The program is currently listed with 38 student athletes while the NCAA average is sitting at 39 and the RMAC is at 41.6 (Update to the president's cabinet, 2018). This places the program right within the range of the average roster size. In addition, the program is expanding with 15 players signed for the 2018 class and adding five additional transfer student athletes; while also securing nine verbal commitments for the 2019 class. These additions are pushing the program to reach a 50-student athlete roster moving forward.

Equivalencies are below the RMAC and NCAA average- Score 1

The average equivalency for an NCAA Division 2 Men's Lacrosse program sits at six while the RMAC average equivalency holds at three (NCAA, 2017). This shows a large discrepancy within the Adams State Men's Lacrosse Program operating with only one equivalency (Update to the president's cabinet, 2018). The program does this successfully as the program has shown success continuously with its back to back RMAC tournament appearances (RMAC, 2017).

Number of Student Athletes receiving aid is high- Score 10

With the equivalency being at one, the Men's Lacrosse program has made a decision to impact as many student athletes as possible by spreading the money between 16 athletes out of the 38 student athletes on the roster (Update to the president's cabinet, 2018). The program does this to be competitive, as the NCAA average is 6 and the RMAC average is 3, this allows the program to bring as many student athletes in as possible on National Letters of Intent (NCAA, 2017).

Criterion #3- Institutional Affordability

Average Score- 10

Total athletic expense in relation to peers is low- Score 10

The average NCAA Division 2 Men's Lacrosse program has an overall budget of \$357,017 and the RMAC overall average budget is \$229,160 (NCAA, 2017). This is at a much higher rate than what the Adams State Men's Lacrosse program has been operating at with \$168,092 (NCAA, 2017). This shows that the program has been operating at a significantly disadvantaged lower budget than its peers in-conference and nationally.

Tuition and fees vs expenses is significantly positive- Score 10

The amount of money that the Men's Lacrosse program generates for Adams State University far outweighs the expense of the program. The \$427,419.58 is money the program generates in tuition and fees after removing all expenses of the program. This places them in the top 3 programs in the athletics' department with money generated through tuition and fees.

Percent of tuition given in general funds athletic aid is low- Score 10

The equivalency that is given to the Men's Lacrosse program sits at one; this is spread amongst 16 of 38 student athletes. While the program is able to spread the money to make it impactful as possible it still sits well below the NCAA average of six (Update to the president's cabinet, 2018) and below the RMAC average of three (NCAA, 2017). This low amount of funding does make a significant negative impact on the ability to recruit higher quality student athletes.

Criterion #4- Community RelationsAverage Score- 5

Regional and Valley high schools do not offer the sport- Score 1

Men's Lacrosse is now the fastest growing sport for over two decades (USL, 2016). While this is significant and largely impactful, it has not quite made it to the San Luis Valley as of yet. The surrounding areas of New Mexico, Durango, Pueblo, and overwhelmingly through the state of Colorado have seen the growth of the game. The program is devoted to bringing new growth of the game to the Valley and has seen recently increased interest from the community, due to positive community engagements.

Community interest and/or fan/student-body attendance is moderate- Score 4

The program has seen continuous support from the community and student body with its strong attendance at games. Men's Lacrosse has also seen overwhelming support from its social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter with a combined 1,000 plus followers. These followers include local, regional, and international followers that continually show their support through the social media. In addition, Adams State University Men's Lacrosse is very well respected throughout the lacrosse community as a whole and strives to have an even larger presence as the sport continues to trend upward in growth.

Hours of community service in relation to peers is high- Score 10

The Adams State University Men's Lacrosse program devotes itself to the community and it is seen through a constant community service effort. In the 2016-2017 academic year the program saw an estimated 850 hours of community service with five plus community events bringing an average of 25-30 student athletes at each event (Update to the president's cabinet, 2018). This is significant because the athletic department average was 394 hours of community service and the next closest program settled in with 600 hours of community service (Update to the president's cabinet, 2018).

Criterion #5- Program's Athletic SuccessAverage score- 6.67

Program has had moderate success in the RMAC- Score 7

The Adams State University Men's Lacrosse program has been in the RMAC as a sponsored sport for two consecutive seasons and is now entering its third. In the first two seasons (2016 and 2017) the team has been to back to back conference tournaments. This has shown that the program is able to use its resources to find post season success each year of participation in the RMAC. This has proven to be helpful in growth of the team in recruiting and retention.

Program has not had a winning record in recent past- Score 3

The program has yet to receive a season above .500 since its inception in 2011 (RMAC, 2017). This has been due to many factors but mostly due to imbalance of a continuous cycle of Head Coaches. The new Head Coach in his first season tied the single season win record while making an appearance in the conference tournament (RMAC, 2017). This shows stability as the program changed leaders and the coaching staff have been vocal about their dedication to the University and the Valley long term.

Program exceeds resources in relation to success- Score 10

Despite being the lowest funded Men's Lacrosse program in the RMAC and one of the lowest funded programs in the NCAA at the Division 2 level, the program has still found a path to success (NCAA, 2017). Not only is this a measureable task on the field, but with recent changes the program is utilizing what minimal resources they have to find success off the field. This is seen through a dramatic rise in the team's average GPA, retention, and graduation rate. On the field, the success can be felt with a recent first-time program win over #2 conference ranked RMAC Westminster College, and in addition to tying the single season win record in 2017 (RMAC, 2017).

Criterion #6- Impact

Average score- 4

Program is not a RMAC required core sport- Score 1

Adams State University is not required to sponsor Men's Lacrosse in order to be in good standing with the RMAC.

No Title IX impact if program is eliminated- Score1

Title IX would not be impacted as the ratio of male to female student would drop to within an acceptable range. If the program were eliminated the student athletes would leave to attend another University that offered the sport of lacrosse.

Additional resources would create significant success in RMAC/NCAA and create significant community support/interest- Score 10

If additional resources were allocated to the Men's Lacrosse program at Adams State University significant success could be achieved in the RMAC and the NCAA. This is seen through the ability of the current staff to manage its minimal resources to bring the program to the conference tournament year in and year out. This is done with one paid Head Coach and two volunteers that receive no income for the time they commit to the program. With additional resources the staff could be paid and maintain the long-term goals of success on and off the field. The program is striving towards a team GPA above a 3.0 and has made it their main focus off the field. The program with additional resources could do as other RMAC Men's Lacrosse programs do and travel to play or bring in nationally ranked opponents in order to make a pursuit to an eventual NCAA tournament. With an additional allocation of resources to the program, it will grow to a 50-student athlete roster and it would be obtainable and generate more students for the campus. In addition, with more funding, the program could eliminate its policy of dues for each athlete, or as many know it as "pay to play". With these goals, the program can continue with its well-established mission of community service which can be seen through its exuberant

number of hours spent every year helping those that support the program and University. A program that is reaching these levels of success attract those in the community thus bringing more support. With that the program is already actively working with the US Lacrosse Association to secure a grant to help with affordability with youth participation in lacrosse in the San Luis Valley.

Summary of findings:

The program evaluation of Adams State University Men's Lacrosse program shows an overall average quantitative score of 6.17. The purpose of this summary is to outline what the quantitative summary brought to light and perhaps what it missed in a qualitative manner. The quality of the program is something that cannot always be measured via the quantitative process.

The program has seen much success throughout the recent years of competition. Not only are student athletes finding success through academic awards, additionally many of them are finding additional success through achieving RMAC All-Conference awards. In the 2017 campaign the program saw seven student athletes receive All-Conference honors with one player being named as the co-goalie of the year. This same goalkeeper also received national recognition by finishing the season ranked #1 in the country in saves per game and in save percentage per game. This 2018 season the program has already received pre-season awards with goalie of the year and two players first team preseason all-conference. These young men are Juniors and Sophomores at the University and cast a bright light towards the program building on its previous success. The program also has seen recent success in the former student athletes as they enter the community. In 2018 the program was elated to know that an alumnus of the program was drafted to the Atlanta Blaze in the Major League Lacrosse Draft as a goalkeeper. This coming Summer another alumnus of the program will be competing internationally for France at the Federation of International Lacrosse Tournament, which is being held in Israel.

The current model for distribution of one equivalency spread through 16 student athletes has already shown to be successful in retainment and success on the field. If this model were to be followed with the addition of one to two more equivalencies the program would see growth of 16 to 32 additional student athletes. This small addition of athletic aid would bring a larger amount of tuition and fees directly to Adams State University. The addition would also bring more talent to the Men's Lacrosse program and help elevate to more RMAC success. This would in addition continue to bring more out of state students to Adams State University as the Men's Lacrosse roster constitutes a 60% out of state roster. Currently the roster develops from 13 different states and from Canada bringing a wide array of diversity to the campus.

The Adams State University Men's Lacrosse program has shown strength and stability in the recent years and shows this moving into the future. If allocated more assets and resources, the

program can develop to a more well recognized and respected program in RMAC. Lacrosse being the fastest growing sport for over 20 years now shows that the interest and players are available and obtainable with the help. With the continued support of staff like Max Ruybal the program has accelerated into a respectable GPA and will work to developing and sustaining a GPA over 3.0 moving forward. The community can benefit from the success of the program with its constant and continuous effort to be involved and help where ever possible. The program is working anywhere from moving members in the community to working with the animal shelter regularly. The program is excited about its future from the student athletes involved to the recent coaching staff that came to join Adams State University and the San Luis Valley.

Works Cited

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