



# ASSISTANT LEARNING SPECIALIST



## WHO IS AN ALS?

- The role of an Assistant Learning Specialist (ALS) is to provide academic guidance to student-athletes. The aim is to build study skills, time management, and organizational strategies, to promote self-regulated learning.
- You will be assigned a caseload of students who you will work with through the semester. You will be scheduled to meet them once or twice a week, based on the requirement.
- The strategies used with each student vary depending on their strengths and each session is structured differently based on the goals to be accomplished.
- Overall, an ALS is there to provide students with a range of support in order to help them be successful.

## ALS EXPERIENCE

- Many individuals receive jobs within athletics but also others pursue careers outside of the field
- Being an ALS helps individuals gain transferable skills
- When working with student-athletes it is important to build rapport and develop a relation with your student



## WHAT COMES WITH BEING AN ALS?

- Every week, the full-time staff holds a training session to help the ALS group gain new insight and experiences
- As an ALS, you gain invaluable experience working alongside professionals in the field at one of the most prolific athletic departments in the country

## STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

- Student-athletes come from all over the world to compete and earn a degree from USC. Understanding that many of them hold diverse experiences and knowledge is crucial to the role.
- While many of these students are highly successful in their sport, they come from diverse educational backgrounds leading to different academic needs.



## TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

- In this role, you will learn many transferrable skills such as:
  - Interpersonal Communication
  - Organization
  - Scheduling/Planning
  - Active Listening

## PAST ALS EXPERIENCES

BEING AN ALS WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE BECAUSE IT EXPOSED ME TO MANY DIFFERENT AREAS OF STUDENT-ATHLETE SUPPORT SERVICES AND MADE ME PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING STUDENT-ATHLETES ATHLETICALLY, ACADEMICALLY, AND PERSONALLY.  
-CELESTE MAXWELL BROWN

THE ALS POSITION GAVE ME THE CONFIDENCE TO APPLY FOR ANY ROLE BECAUSE I KNEW THAT I HAD FURTHER DEVELOPED MANY TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS THAT WOULD BE USEFUL IN ANY ROLE AFTER COMPLETING MY GRADUATE STUDIES.  
- LAURA FCASNI

AS AN ALS I WAS GIVEN THE AUTONOMY TO LEAD AND DEVELOP MY OWN STYLE OF SUPPORT WHILE BEING INSTRUCTED ON PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING NCAA ELIGIBILITY, PROFESSIONALISM, AND OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS LIKE MENTAL HEALTH, NIL, AND STUDENT-ATHLETE-TO-STAFF RELATIONSHIPS.  
-LIANNA JAIME



## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

MARISA SAMANIEGO

KIMBERLY OLSON

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC ACADEMIC  
SUPPORT SENIOR LEARNING SPECIALIST**  
**EMAIL:** MSAMANIE@USC.EDU  
**CELL:** (213) 716-3701

**LEARNING SPECIALIST**  
**EMAIL:** OLSONK@USC.EDU  
**CELL:** (213) 716-0961

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW...

**HOURS:** YOU CAN WORK UP TO 20 HOURS/WEEK

**WEEKEND HOURS:** AVAILABLE IN THE FALL FOR STRUCTURED STUDY

**CASELOAD:** EACH ALS WILL HAVE 8-10 STUDENTS DEPENDING ON THE STUDENTS NEED

**DEVELOPMENT:** WEEKLY TRAININGS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET WITH STAFF  
THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

**NETWORKING:** ACCESS TO OUR EXTENSIVE LIST OF FORMER ALS WITHIN THE FIELD

# FIGHT ON!