

On-Campus Employment (Intramural Referee)

In the summer of 2021, I applied for a job I saw listed on ODU Handshake. The job I saw listed was an available position for Intramural Sports referee. Intramural Sports is a sports department that falls under recreation and wellness at ODU. The goal of Intramural Sports is to host or establish a list of different sports that students can compete in, have fun, and meet a wide variety of people. My job as an intramural referee was to preside over intramural games to ensure standard of plays were being met. This means that I would make calls during intramural games and issue penalties if an infringement has occurred. My job also included making sure participants of Intramural Sports removed jewelry before participating and ensuring that participants have proper equipment in order to enforce safety.

I would consider myself a person who enjoys and watches sports on a regular basis. This is the reason why I was interested in the Intramural Sports position when I came across it on Handshake. I also had some experience in refereeing in which I often refereed at local Sunday Leagues games in my community. I believed with my love for sports in general and the experience I had in refereeing, I would be a perfect candidate for this role.

Working as an intramural referee on campus has provided me with many benefits in terms of flexibility in which balancing school and maintaining a job was easy. The ability of being able to travel to and from work without worrying about a means of transportation was also another blessing. Furthermore, as a referee, I had the opportunity to interact with a lot of different people from various cultures and backgrounds and this is what I valued the most during my time in the department. Being a referee has taught me many skills such as attention to details, problem-solving, and how to approach a problem. These are skills I have developed which are

vital for my cybersecurity major. After some time on the job, I realized that many people used intramurals as a stress-free environment. People often partake in intramurals to reduce stress where they can take their mind off academic work and focus on having fun.

The most powerful moment I have taken away from my time as intramural referee was my ability to improve on my weakness of public speaking. Since I was one of the most experienced staff specifically in soccer, I was tasked with leading soccer training. This opportunity gradually made me feel more comfortable speaking in a room filled with people. Just like any other off-campus and on-campus jobs, there will be challenges that one has to face. I had to develop authority as a referee so participants in intramurals are aware that I am the one who is in charge of the game and whenever I come to a decision: it is final. At the beginning of my employment, I would allow participants to have influence on decisions, but as I gained more experience, I have effectively learned how to separate inputs from participants and referees. As a whole, my experience of working on campus has been very positive. I would recommend students weigh their options of on campus employment before searching outside that scope. On campus jobs provide many benefits such as convenient locations, the ability to choose your own availability, and flexibility.

Overall skills that I have gained from being an Intramural Sports referee are decision making, attention to details, problem-solving, and well-developed communication skills. These are skills that are frequently required for an individual to perfect or properly control a game. I have also gained experience of effectively working in a team and addressing problems as they arrive. Learning how to become a leader was another important experience I have encountered. With 20 months of skills and experiences I have acquired or gained from Intramural Sports; I can then transfer those skills in my career in law enforcement.