

# HAMPDEN- SYDNEY COLLEGE



## Tiger Tracks

Career options for  
Hampden-Sydney students  
interested in Coaching

*Don't become a coach  
because you enjoy  
watching SportsCenter  
or because you won  
your fantasy league  
last year.  
Become a coach  
because you are  
passionate  
about the game.*

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING  
WITH A DEGREE FROM  
HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

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## PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN Coaching

### GETTING STARTED

- Understanding why you want to coach is foundational. Don't enter the field because you enjoy watching SportsCenter or because you won your fantasy league last year. Become a coach because you are passionate about the game.
- Some coaches love teaching players Xs and Os, some love breaking down film and analyzing scouting reports, some excel at prepping the game plan and at game management, and others love mentoring young people on and off the playing field. Identify your passion.
- Do not become a coach because you think it will make you rich. Coaches do fine financially, but you will not be as successful if you enter the field just to make money.
- Entry positions in the coaching profession are difficult to come by and demand a long, exhausting work schedule—in the office, on the court, and on the recruiting trail. Keep the coaching lifestyle in mind as you consider your passion for the profession.
- Once you have settled on *why* you want to coach, think about *what level* you want to coach. Consider professional, NCAA Divisions I, II, and III, NAIA, junior college, high school, and recreation options.

### ACADEMICS AT HAMPDEN-SYDNEY

- Hampden-Sydney men learn how to **evaluate** problems and **think** critically. Coaches often are required to identify a problem on the playing field and provide a solution quickly. The liberal arts education prepares your mind for that agility. Soak it up and invest in learning, so you will be ready when you need to think quickly and cleverly as a coach.
- Coaches must be able to **communicate** what they are trying to teach to their players. To that end, take advantage of Public Speaking, Advanced Public Speaking, and other Rhetoric courses as your schedule permits. Also consider Economics 217: Economics of Sports to learn about pertinent economic issues in the sporting world.
- If you are interested in coaching at the high school level, **consider** what classes you would like to teach and **take** courses that will help you gain a solid understanding of those subjects, and think about getting a teacher certification (see the *Tiger Track for Education* for more information).

### SUMMER EXPERIENCE

- **Volunteering** to work at a top-recruit camp at large universities is a great opportunity to practice coaching and to meet the people who are pursuing the profession at high levels. Aggressively seek out these opportunities to demonstrate that you can coach, and stay in contact with everyone you meet.
- **Be creative.** If there is a team that you can help coach—your old AAU basketball team, your high school football team, your little brother's rec league t-ball team—do it. Experience of any kind is valuable.
- **Summer camps and clinics** hire counselors to coach a multitude of sports. This is a particularly good option for students after their freshmen or sophomore years to practice and learn from established coaches.

### GRADUATE SCHOOL OPTIONS

- **Master's in Sports Management:** The most common graduate degree for individuals pursuing careers in coaching, the MSM may require the GRE for admission (check with your specific program).
- **North American Society of Sports Management:** Check out the NASSM website as you begin your research on sports management programs around the nation. The COSMA website may also be helpful.
- **Grad Assistant:** Experience is the most valuable asset for an aspiring coach. Volunteering for a grad assistantship may allow you to meet established coaches and observe the intricacies of top-level coaching.

### ENTERING THE PROFESSIONAL CONVERSATION

- **Gain experience** helping a varsity Hampden-Sydney squad. The athletic department has opportunities for interested students to help out with almost every sport. Talk to the coaches or athletic department officials about how you can help with a specific program.
- **Volunteer coaching.** Opportunities exist at Fuqua School or other nearby schools.
- **Identify and develop a relationship** with a mentor: perhaps a high school coach you were close to or one of the Hampden-Sydney coaches. Talk to them regularly about why they chose their career and what life is like in the coaching profession.
- **Network.** Like many professions, the coaching world is a well-connected network. Take advantage of every opportunity you can to meet and learn from men and women who may be able to provide applicable career advice to you.
- **Find discreet ways to connect** to individuals who hold positions you are interested in pursuing. Use the Hampden-Sydney alumni network by contacting Career Education and Alumni Affairs to find ways to connect to coaches around the region.
- **Building meaningful relationships** is difficult to do via e-mail, so find ways to naturally connect with people in the coaching industry who you want to talk to. Attending conferences and workshops may be a helpful way to achieve this.
- **Be judicious** in the people you try to contact, and know that the head coach may not always be the most helpful person for you to talk to as a student—get to know the entire staff.
- **Be patient.** Understand that you are never “too good” for a coaching job. Be willing to take a chance on a job to gain experience. Only experience can gain you respect in the industry.

# HAMPDEN- SYDNEY COLLEGE

Forming good  
men and  
good citizens  
since 1776

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## DANIEL HADRA '08

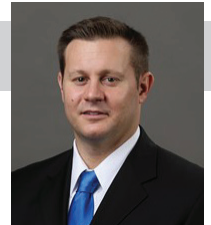
*Pitching Coach, Guilford College*

Hadra was a two-time all conference pitcher and twice captain of the Tigers' baseball team. He received the Dunnington Award for Leadership and Dedication to the sport of baseball at the Spring Convocation during his senior year. Upon graduation, he took a position as an assistant coach at Division II St. Andrews Presbyterian College for two years, before accepting his current position at Guilford College. Hadra is now responsible for the recruitment, development, and day-to-day operations of the Quakers' pitching staff.

## RYAN SILVERFIELD '03

*Offensive Line Coach, University of Memphis*

Ryan worked as a student assistant for the Hampden-Sydney Tiger's football team and then spent two years as the defensive line coach—a fulltime position—while he was still completing his degree in economics. After a post-grad year at H-SC, he became head coach at Memorial High School in Savannah, Georgia. Ryan later held positions at Jacksonville University and the University of Central Florida before joining the Vikings coaching staff, where he spent six seasons as the assistant offensive line coach. After dipping back into collegiate football at Arizona State and the University of Toledo, he joined the NFL's Detroit Lions for a brief stint in 2015. In 2016, Ryan joined another Tiger football team, this time at the University of Memphis as the offensive line coach.



## DEE VICK '94

*Head Men's Basketball Coach, Hampden-Sydney College*

Dee majored in psychology, was a brother of the Kappa Alpha Order, and played four years of varsity basketball for the Tigers. After graduating he took an assistant coaching position at Hampden-Sydney under H-SC coaching legend Tony Shaver. He subsequently served as an assistant coach at The University of South Carolina, East Carolina University, the College of Charleston, and William and Mary before returning to his *alma mater*. Coach Vick is respected as an excellent recruiter of high-character student-athletes and as a basketball-savvy coach.

## RUSSELL TURNER '91

*Head Men's Basketball Coach, University of California-Irvine*

Russell was a two time All-American basketball player who remains the school's all-time leader in points scored (2,272). He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in English and economics. Upon graduation, he taught and coached at a high school in Georgia before he became the assistant basketball coach at Hampden-Sydney under Coach Tony Shaver. Since that time he has worked at Wake Forest under coach Dave Odom (where he mentored NBA legend Tim Duncan), at Stanford University, and with the Golden State Warriors under coach Mike Montgomery and the NBA's all-time winningest coach, Don Nelson. He is currently the head coach of the UC-Irvine Anteaters.



## RICK BAGBY '79

*Managing Partner, College Advisors/New England*

Rick earned a degree in government & foreign affairs and was a two time all-league goalie for the Tiger's Lacrosse team. Since graduating he has held numerous lacrosse coaching positions. In 2003, Rick started a Division I Lacrosse program at Bellarmine University. Rick's passion includes instilling in his players respect for the game, respect for competitors, and always giving 100%—qualities exemplified by the 21 Lacrosse—Black Jacks Lacrosse Club, a high school club program which Rick founded and coaches at a nationally competitive level. His career coaching record at the high school and collegiate levels is 295-98. Rick also has 8 years of experience as a college athletics director.