

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Wesley DiGiorgio



Graduation Semester & Year: Spring 2025

Semester & Year of Internship: Spring 2024

Major: Communication

Hobbies: Weight Lifting, Sports, Wrestling (WWE), Golf

Campus Activities: Communications National Honors Society

Future Plans/Career Goals: I plan on graduating with a Communications Degree in the Spring of 2025, and I am looking to pursue a job in Sports Communication or Athletic Directing,

Minor: N/A

Hometown: Elizabeth, PA

- **Internship (company/your title):**

South Allegheny High School/Middle School, Sports Communication/Athletic Director Intern

- **How did you find your internship?**

I went to high school here, and reached out to the Dean of Students/Superintendent

- **What were your duties?**

To help plan events, supervise track meets/basketball games. I also helped schedule softball, baseball, cross country, and other sporting team's schedules. I also created visual effects images that represented players on the basketball team. These images were posted on South Allegheny's social media pages.

I also worked under the dean of students, so I got valuable training on how to handle disciplining students.

- **How many hours per week were you at your internship site?**

I worked approximately 8-9 hours per week.

- **What did you enjoy most about your internship?**

I think getting to learn about what goes into being an athletic director and helping student-athletes be the best versions of themselves.

- **What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?**

I think the most difficult aspect was trying to plan a schedule. I say this because sometimes the other school district, that you are trying to get on the schedule, have games on certain days when you are trying to schedule a game with them. You could also say, trying to manage all of student-athletes and what they want to get out of their specific sport is challenging. For example, some players on the team got into discipline trouble at the school, a few days before a major game. As athletic director and the dean of students, my supervisor had to make a difficult decision and discipline the student-athletes.

- **How did your experience at UPG and in the Communication Department prepare you for your internship?**

I think working in groups for projects and learning how to listen to others during these projects, helped me understand how to talk and react to student-athletes. I also think being up in front of a full class presenting, helped me communicate with the administration and the student-athletes. I would also say that presenting made it easier to deal with some parents and fans that were at the games.

- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**

It showed me what the day to day duties of an athletic director/dean of students looks like. My supervisor told me we are just big party planners, at the end of the day, and he was not wrong. We work hard to make sure everyone is where they need to be and to keep everyone safe at our hosted events.

- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**

Be ready to listen and learn. Listening is key in learning how to properly do the specific tasks you are asked. Being a part of a team that you are interning for, makes the job a lot more fun and worthwhile.

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