

1. N. Andrew Horton
2. Bachelor's Degree: Sports Administration (2002) and MPA (2009)
3. Senior Associate Athletic Director, External Operations
4. In my current role, I provide oversight of Athletic ticketing and sales, with a primary focus on marketing. In addition, I serve as liaison to our 3rd Party Multimedia Rights Holder, Learfield Sports. I also serve as our department liaison to the UT Office of Trademark Licensing.
5. After exploring a few options while in college, I landed in Sport Administration thanks to the guidance of a few fraternity brothers who were pursuing the same major. After taking the introductory course taught by Dr. Leroy Fanning, who would later become my advisor, I became intrigued with the major and the opportunity to work within collegiate athletics helping student-athletes to pursue their goal of obtaining a college degree.
6. There were many experiences that helped shaped my life, both personally and professionally, during my time at UTC. Personally, I met my future wife Jennifer Horton (McGinnis) while attending UTC as an undergrad. Jennifer continues to amaze me with her tremendous support for my career. Professionally, I interned as a student with Nancy Noblit who served as the Assistant Athletic Director of Development. Through this internship I was able to assist the Athletic Ticket Office where I would discover the starting point for my career in collegiate athletics. In addition to working with Nancy, I found a mentor in David Cope, a UTC Alumnus who then served as the Director of Ticket Operations. David provided me with guidance through the start of my career, and gave me my first full-time opportunity within the field as the Assistant Ticket Manager at UTC.

I must also mention that as a student, I was fortunate enough to serve as an employee of the Admissions Office. Upon graduation, and prior to becoming the Assistant Ticket Manager at UTC, I was hired as an Admissions Counselor by Yancy Freeman and Lee Pierce. These two individuals continue to teach me, through their actions and careers, how to be a great university employee and how best to serve others.

7. While at UTC, I wish I had known that our industry had the professional association known as NACDA, the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. It wasn't until a few years into my career that I discovered this great organization. NACDA provides wonderful networking opportunities and professional development for those with interest in our field. Students, current employees and those wishing to pursue a career within the industry are all welcome, and I would highly encourage all to join as members and participate fully.
8. If someone were to ask me for advice as to how they could become a Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Operations, I would offer the following:
 1. Grow your circle. Networking with others in this industry is extremely important. Join our professional organization and meet others within the field. Do not be afraid to ask for help and guidance from those who are successful at what you want to do in life.
 2. In life, nothing is promised. You must work hard for what you want. There is always someone out there who is willing to do the work we do.

Someone who wants to outwork you and believes that they can. Don't ever forget this as you progress through your career. Let it propel you to excellence!

3. Never stop learning. Whether through books, journals or industry collateral, take time to learn more about our industry and to grow, both personally and professionally. Continue to improve at all levels!
9. One of the main challenges in this industry is time management. Working in collegiate athletics is far from glamorous at times, and often requires working nights, weekends and holidays. You must have an understanding and forgiving family if you wish to pursue a long-lasting career. While working in this profession can be consuming at times, the work you do is extremely rewarding. To watch student-athletes begin their collegiate career, grow as young adults and graduate to become productive members of society provides more than enough reasons to do what we do. Student success is truly the reason why our profession exists. Serving as an Athletics Administrator is absolutely amazing, even with all the time constraints. The experiences you have in this profession are extraordinary.