“The most challenging class I have taken at Fresno State would most definitely be Business Law. This was a hard class, as I am a foreign student and the class involved terms and laws which were completely different, although it really helped me learn about the various laws in business.”
Fresno State student-athletes recorded a 3.11 cumulative grade-point average in the fall 2013 semester and landed 132 Bulldogs on the list of Academic All-Mountain West honorees.

“I talk about academics and athletics rising together, and that’s my vision for Fresno State, that we continue to see success in the classroom and in the community,” university President Joseph I. Castro says.

“That’s leadership — leading in the classroom, leading in community service and leading on the field or court.”

The six Fresno State “scholar athletes” featured here embody those qualities, attacking their fields of study with the same tenacity as their sports.

Vonnie Martin
Senior, Softball

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Third base</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hometown</td>
<td>Plano, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career goal</td>
<td>Design jets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accolades</td>
<td>All-Mountain West (2013)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Academic All-Mountain West (2013)</td>
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<td>Second-team All-WAC (2012)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Academic All-WAC (2012)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WAC All-Tournament Team (2012)</td>
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“I have always enjoyed learning. My parents and grandparents enforced a good work ethic for my classes at a young age, and it just stuck with me all these years.”
Charles Washington
Redshirt Sophomore, Football

Position: Strong safety
Hometown: Encino
Major: Criminology-Corrections
Career goal: Correctional officer
Accolades: Academic All-Mountain West (2012, 2013)

“My mom and grandmother have always pushed me to be my best not only on the field but off the field and get a degree. That would be a major thing for my family. Not too many people in my family even made it to college. For me to graduate in four years, that would be something big.”

Uniform courtesy of Correctional Officer J.M. Rodrigues, Avenal State Prison.

Kayla Kret
Senior, Soccer

Position: Defense
Hometown: Newhall
Major: Biology-Human Anatomy and Physiology
Career goal: Research and development
Accolades: Academic All-Mountain West (2013)
CoSIDA Academic All-District VIII (2011)
Academic All-WAC (2011)

“In Systematics Biology, we designed our own projects to look at genes and how they have mutated through species. I researched a collagen gene through 20 different mammals to see how the gene has evolved.”

Uniform courtesy of Correctional Officer J.M. Rodrigues, Avenal State Prison.
“There’s a satisfaction I get in studying for a test and getting a good grade, as well as in athletics. You practice, and when you go out there and perform in front of others it’s kind of the same rush. Inside your head there almost is a crowd cheering.”

Marcy Levatino
Junior, Lacrosse

Position: Attack
Hometown: Laguna Hills
Major: Nursing
Career goal: Nurse practitioner

“Coordination between my professors and coaches has been essential, and I am extremely fortunate to be surrounded by people who want to help me reach my goals.”

Jake Alvarez
Senior, Baseball

Position: Second base
Hometown: Fresno
Major: Communication
Career goal: Sports broadcasting