What is the philosophy of Hornet Golf?
Kalamazoo College Golf will provide an opportunity for student-athletes to enhance their academic experience while at K. The golf program will reflect the mission of K to "prepare its graduates to better understand, live successfully within, and provide enlightened leadership to a richly diverse and increasingly complex world." The Men's & Women’s Golf Teams will be ambassadors of this mission and demonstrate the excellence of the college they attend.

What are the student-athlete’s responsibilities to be part of Hornet Golf?
For success, it is important that any team as a whole hold each member of that team to a high standard. Peer relationships are of utmost importance in any sport, whether individual or team based. At the beginning of each season, the team will develop goals and standards around conduct, attitude, work ethic, academics, practice, and competition that they will hold themselves and each other accountable to uphold, both on and off the golf course. Captain(s) will be selected that best exemplify the team agreement. It is important that the student-athlete understand that participation in college athletics is a privilege, and they should be grateful for the opportunity.

What are the coach’s responsibilities to each student-athlete in the program?
The coaches will do everything in their power to help the student-athlete and team be successful both on and off the golf course. Student-athletes will be treated fairly, held accountable for their actions, and expectations will be clearly communicated. The coaches will provide the necessary facilities, equipment, and support so that the student-athlete will have the necessary "tools" needed to succeed. The environment for the student-athlete should be fun, yet competitive, with the emphasis of continuous improvement.

How will I develop as a student and a golfer?
The coach and athletes will always prioritize academics over athletics. It is also important to help student-athletes be balanced in their lives -- mentally, physically, and spiritually. The coach will work with each student-athlete individually to help them achieve the balance that works best for them and the team, and ultimately will benefit them after they graduate from K. A well balanced student has a better chance of being a highly successful athlete.

Each student-athlete will be committed to continuous improvement while being a member of the golf team. The quickest way to improve an athlete's golf score is a sharp mental game and improving their short game (putting, chipping, pitching, etc.), and this will be a continual emphasis of the program. Practices will be designed to focus on each athlete's specific needs, while still being competitive when appropriate. A friendly, yet competitive environment will be built for qualifying so that athletes understand how they operate under pressure. Athletes will be encouraged to "have fun, play hard, and be smart."

Is the program involved in any community service?
One of the great aspects of golf is that it is a sport that always gives back to the community. It will be part of the team's culture to determine how they want to be involved in the community outside of K's campus. The expectation is that the student-athletes on the team will spread joy to others in the community, and in return, receive a sense of fulfillment and maintain the desire to be a community advocate after they graduate wherever they are located.

How are the teams funded?
All teams and coaches at K fund raise to help defray program costs. Donations are always welcome through the Hornet Athletic Association and can be directed towards Men’s or Women’s Golf. Students are not required to pay for participating in a sport, however they are asked to assist in the fund raising process as much as possible.
**Who are the coaches and what are their roles within the college?**
Mitch Wilson is the Men’s Coach and also serves as the Director of Golf. Dean Marks is the Women’s Coach. Coach Wilson has a long history of success playing amateur golf, being involved with junior golf programs, and also coached girl’s high school golf. Coach Marks is the head PGA professional for the Kalamazoo Municipal Golf Association and has been recognized by the Michigan PGA for his junior golf program development. Their full profiles and backgrounds are available on the hornets.kzoo.edu web site. As the Director of Golf, Coach Wilson has responsibility for the overall operations of both the men’s and women’s programs, including recruiting, fund raising, and scheduling. Both Coach Marks and Coach Wilson are part-time employees of the College.

**What is the season like for the Men’s and Women’s Teams?**
K is part of the MIAA Conference (MIAA.org), which is comprised of eight NCAA Division III schools for the men, and nine for the women. Our primary MIAA season is in the fall for both sports. Both teams play a number of full league jamborees over the course of September and October. The top four teams from the jamboree season compete in the MIAA NCAA Automatic Qualifier tournament to determine the one men’s and one women’s automatic qualifying team for the NCCA National Championship.

The NCAA allows Division III colleges to have a maximum of 19 weeks and 21 tournament dates split into two seasons – fall and spring. The fall season is dominated by the MIAA jamborees and typically starts in late August and ends by the end of October (approximately 10 weeks). Student-athletes will report to campus two to three weeks prior to the start of classes for the fall season (and just play golf before school starts!). The spring season will start in March and run through early May (nine weeks). Spring tournaments are geared towards providing an opportunity to play at other courses and against non-MIAA schools, and are designed to help get players ready for their summer tournament season. As much as possible, the schedule is developed to minimize the amount of class time that is missed.

**What courses and facilities are used by the teams?**
K’s primary courses are Kalamazoo Country Club and Milham Park Golf Course. On occasion, the teams will also use The Moors Golf Club and Eastern Hills Golf Course. Indoor practice (both in and off season) is typically at the WMU Seelye Center (indoor football field) or at Year Round Golf in Schoolcraft which has both simulators and an indoor driving range.

**How many players are on the team and what scores do I need to shoot?**
Although there is no set amount of players for either team, a size of 8 to 12 players is the general guideline. For the men’s team, potential student-athletes need to have demonstrated that they can break 80 in a competitive environment. For the women, the goal is to have players that can break 90 on a regular basis. As a comparison, to qualify in the top four spots of the 2014 fall MIAA season took an individual scoring average of 77 for the men and 87 for the women. Players with a passion for the game and a strong desire to improve are always welcome!

**What are the requirements in the off season?**
As an NCAA Division III sport, coaches are not allowed to have practices, workout sessions, or require any activities outside of the 19 week golf season. Student-athletes are on their own for fitness, game improvement, and tournament scheduling during the off-season. Coaches can assist students with planning fitness, practice, and tournament activities, but cannot monitor progress. Individuals that are self-disciplined and focused on improvement will have great success in Division III golf.

**What types of athletic scholarships are available?**
As an NCAA Division III sport, no athletic scholarships are available to student-athletes. In fact, coaches are not allowed to discuss financial aid. K has a fantastic financial aid office that can help students navigate through both need and merit based financial aid.