
WHY HIRE THE SWIMMER WHO SWAM ALL FOUR YEARS OF COLLEGE?

[Ben fisher \(via LinkedIn article Published on February 11, 2017\)](#)

Search "hire a student-athlete" and within seconds you've found dozens of articles to why they can make a great addition to any organization, which is almost always true. A student-athlete is focused, organized and has a drive for excellence that can't be competed with. There is a certain breed of student-athlete though that is elite compared to others, and that is a swimmer.

Full disclosure, the swimmer I speak of is not one that swam for a handful of years, or just in high school. The swimmer being described is one that has committed not only most their life, but four years of their college career to competitive swimming.

This swimmer perseveres.

Have you ever worked hard on a project for an entire week and finally presented a seamless masterpiece to your client that brought you great recognition? What if this masterpiece only lasted twenty seconds and what if your hard work lasted 22 weeks? Would it be worth it? This swimmer has lived this scenario and has done it for most of their life. The ability to work towards a goal for such a long time is something that's not found in most people, which could be an asset for multi-year projects.

What doesn't always happen is being successful, but this swimmer comes back year after year to achieve greatness.

This swimmer knows how to work hard.

To be the best at swimming you must train outside of the 22-week season to be competitive, which turns into four years of non-stop training. Worried about this swimmer burning out? Don't forget, this swimmer made it through four years of 5 a.m. alarm clocks, Saturday

morning swims and hundreds of thousands of yards. If they made it through that, they can do anything.

What makes this swimmer even more extraordinary is that swimming wasn't the only thing they did for four years, they worked, interned and got an education. If this swimmer didn't work hard they would have failed, so working hard became such a norm it's now as much a part of them as the chlorine smell from their skin.

This swimmer is loyal without recognition.

A virtue that a lot look over today is loyalty. This swimmer has been loyal to the sport because they love it. They don't swim to be popular or rich because most people hardly know anything about it unless the Olympics are on.

There's nothing more discouraging than achieving a personal best time and sharing with friends and family to have them not understand that having a two-second drop in the 50 freestyle is great, not, "well that's good." But, because they love swimming, they stick around.

This swimmer is as equally intrinsically motivated as extrinsic.

The sport of swimming has a lot of direct correlations with the workforce. The goal is to have each employee work their hardest so that the end goal can be achieved. This swimmer tries their hardest as an individual and in relays because they want to win just as much as anyone.

This swimmer is going to have a hole.

To have something so important in their life suddenly end after graduation is going to leave a hole. Wouldn't you want to have them focus this loyalty, dedication, perseverance and motivation at your organization? If this swimmer found half the amount of passion in your organization as they did in swimming, hold onto something because they're about to take you on a ride to success.

The Bolles focus:

This article does a great job of explaining the end product the commitment to the process of swimming produces. Swimmers at all ability levels can create this outcome by commitment to making themselves the best swimmer possible. At Bolles, just like high school before college, our role is to equip student-athletes with the technical skills, the work ethic/training background, and mindset to embrace the attributes mentioned above. It is important to note that those who embody these attributes do them willingly – as a CHOICE – not a sacrifice.