NCAA Academic Reform: Improving the Academic Performance of Student-Athletes

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NCAA

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Session Overview

• NCAA Division I Legislative Review.
  o Initial-eligibility standards.
  o Two-year transfer standards.

• NCAA Division II Path to Graduation.

• Committee on Academic Performance update.
  o NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP) Data Collection and Data Reviews.
Timeline for Implementing New Initial-Eligibility Standards

- New initial-eligibility standards are effective for students entering any collegiate institution full time on or after August 1, 2016.
New Initial-Eligibility Standards: Three Possible Outcomes

1. **Full qualifier** = athletics aid, practice and competition in the first year.

2. **Academic redshirt** = athletics aid in the first year, practice in the first regular term, and potential to practice in subsequent regular term(s) of the first year.

3. **Nonqualifier** = no athletics aid, practice or competition in the first year.
Division I Full Qualifier

Students will need to meet the following requirements to receive **athletics aid, practice AND compete** during the first year:

- 16 core courses.
- Minimum required core-course grade point average (GPA) of **2.300** in the 16 core courses.
- 10 core courses must be completed prior to 7th semester.
- 7 of the 10 core courses must be in English, math and/or natural or physical science.
- Standardized test score that corresponds with the core-course GPA on the increased sliding scale.
Division I Full Qualifier

To compete during the first year of collegiate enrollment, students must:

• Obtain a corresponding core-course GPA and test score on increased sliding scale.
  
    o Examples of coordinates are:
      
        ➢ **2.300** core-course GPA requires 900 SAT or 75 sum ACT.
        ➢ **2.500** core-course GPA requires 820 SAT or 68 sum ACT.
        ➢ **2.950** core-course GPA requires 640 SAT or 53 sum ACT.
Division I Academic Redshirt

Students will need to meet the following requirements in order to receive *athletics aid and practice* during the first year:

- 16 core courses.
- Minimum required core-course GPA of *2.000* in 16 core courses.
- Standardized test score that corresponds with the core-course GPA on the academic redshirt sliding scale.
Division I Academic Redshirt

To receive *athletics aid and practice* during the first year of collegiate enrollment, students must:

- Obtain a corresponding core-course GPA and test score on the academic redshirt sliding scale.
  - Examples of coordinates are:
    - **2.000** core-course GPA requires 1020 SAT or 86 sum ACT.
    - **2.300** core-course GPA requires 900 SAT or 75 sum ACT.
    - **2.500** core-course GPA requires 820 SAT or 68 sum ACT.
    - **2.950** core-course GPA requires 640 SAT or 53 sum ACT.
Academic Redshirt: Requirements for Athletics Aid and Practice

• If a college-bound student meets these requirements, he/she can receive an **athletics scholarship** during his/her first year at an NCAA Division I college or university.

• If he/she meets these requirements, he/she can **practice** during his/her first term (e.g., semester, quarter) at a Division I college or university.
  
  o In order to **continue to practice** after the first semester/quarter, the student must successfully complete nine semester/eight quarter-hours each term.
What If A Student Does Not Meet Either Set of Requirements?

If a college-bound student does not meet either set of requirements, he/she will be certified as a nonqualifier.

A nonqualifier:

• Cannot receive athletics aid during the first year at a Division I college or university.

• Cannot practice or compete during the first year at a Division I college or university.
Two-Year College Transfer Standards

Academics as a First Expectation
Timeline for Implementing New Standards

- New two-year college transfer requirements become effective for students initially enrolling full time in any college on or after August 1, 2012.
Increased Standards

Two-year college transfers:

• Must have a **2.500** or better transferable GPA.
  
  o An increase from the **2.000** requirement in place for those who initially enrolled full time in collegiate institution before August 1, 2012.

• May use a maximum of two physical education activity credits in ALL sports.
  
  o Previously applied to men’s basketball transfers only.

• Must complete core curriculum (6 credits English, 3 credits math and 3 credits science) – **nonqualifiers only**.
Educational Outreach Efforts

Academics as a First Expectation
Education and Outreach

Objective: Educate parties impacted by initial eligibility and two-year transfer academic standards through a variety of methods.

Target Audiences:

• Prospective student-athletes and parents.
• High school administrators.
• Two-year college administrators.
• Coaches (high school, club, amateur team).
• Coaches associations.
• Sports governing bodies.
• Professional associations.
• General public.
Education and Outreach

- On-line outreach (website, social media).

- Targeted outreach to impacted groups of prospective student-athletes (professional organizations, major events, sport camps and events, targeted regional and state education).

- Public awareness (ad agency, partner coaches and conferences, print ads, high school TV, radio and social media outlets).

- Corporate champion engagement (EA game, partnership opportunities, use of Turner and ESPN on-air talent).

- Traditional methods of outreach.
Division II
Path to Graduation

[Diagram showing various attributes related to graduation]
Initial Eligibility
Qualifier:
Above $z=-1.25$
sliding scale and
2.2 minimum GPA

Partial Qualifier:
Above $z=-1.5$
sliding scale and
2.0 minimum GPA
Effective Date

• August 1, 2018, for student-athletes initially enrolling in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2018.

• Effective date provides opportunity for education of prospective student-athletes.
Two-Year College Transfers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifier with no four-year attendance and ONLY one full-time semester/quarter at two-year institution</th>
<th>All other qualifiers, partial qualifiers and nonqualifiers</th>
<th>All other qualifiers, partial qualifiers and nonqualifiers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONLY one full-time semester/quarter</td>
<td>Two full-time semesters/three full-time quarters</td>
<td>Two full-time semesters/three full-time quarters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 12 semester- or quarter-hours of transferable degree credit | • 12-semester or 12-quarter-hours of transferable degree credit per term of attendance:  
  • Six- semester/eight-quarter hours of transferable English;  
  • Three-semester/four-quarter hours of transferable math; and  
  • Three-semester/four-quarter hours of transferable science | Graduate |
| Cumulative GPA of 2.200 | Cumulative GPA of 2.200* |  |
| Limit of two physical education activity credits for credit requirements and GPA | Limit of two physical education activity credits for credit requirements and GPA |  |

*For a student-athlete who meets all the two-year transfer requirements EXCEPT the 2.20 GPA but has a minimum 2.00 GPA, the student-athlete is eligible for practice and financial aid.
Two-Year Transfers

• Practice and financial aid available for nonqualifier who meets all the two-year transfer requirements EXCEPT the 2.20 GPA but has a minimum 2.00 GPA.

• Exception to physical education activity requirements if enrolling at four-year institution in physical education degree or degree in education with activity course requirement.
Effective Date

- August 1, 2016, for student-athletes initially enrolling in a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2016.
Progress Toward Degree
## Progress Toward Degree Completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Completion of [including summer]</th>
<th>Good Academic Standing [based on institutional policy (annually or term-by-term)]</th>
<th>Term-by-Term [cannot use summer hours to meet term-by-term requirement]</th>
<th>Regular Academic Year [Non-Summer Hours]</th>
<th>Grade-Point Average Options [can be recertified midyear to regain eligibility]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>Institutional Policy</td>
<td>Nine-semester/eight-quarter hours</td>
<td>18-semester/27-quarter hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>Institutional Policy</td>
<td>Nine-semester/eight-quarter hours</td>
<td>18-semester/27-quarter hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Designation of Degree

| Year Three | Institutional Policy | Nine-semester/eight-quarter hours | 18-semester/27-quarter hours | | 2.00 |
| Year Four | Institutional Policy | Nine-semester/eight-quarter hours | 18-semester/27-quarter hours | | 2.00 |
| Year Five | Institutional Policy | Nine-semester/eight-quarter hours | 18-semester/27-quarter hours | | 2.00 |
Rationale

• 9-semester/8-quarter hours is consistent with term-by-term credit-earning behavior of academically successful student-athletes.

• 2.0 GPA requirement reflects membership feedback gathered at the 2013 NCAA Convention and in membership feedback surveys.

• 18-semester/27-quarter hours in the academic year provides incentive for student-athlete to maintain academic success during the regular academic year and the feedback indicated that the division should have an academic year (no summer) credit-hour requirement.
### Outcomes for Student-Athletes Earning Fewer Than Nine Credits in a Term, by Year in School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terms With Fewer Than Nine Credit Hours Earned</th>
<th>Percentage of Student-Athletes</th>
<th>Eligible After Following Year</th>
<th>Graduates or Likely Graduates After Year Six*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1+ terms &lt;9 cr.</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No terms &lt;9 cr.</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1+ terms &lt;9 cr.</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No terms &lt;9 cr.</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Three</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1+ terms &lt;9 cr.</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No terms &lt;9 cr.</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Four</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1+ terms &lt;9 cr.</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No terms &lt;9 cr.</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Academic Success Rate definition; quit while eligible = likely graduation.

Note: 2006-11 fall APC cohorts; analyses include only student-athletes who were present in the fall term of a given year and were retained through the end of the academic year.
## Average Term-by-Term Credit Hours Earned (Semester Schools)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th></th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th></th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sem. 1</td>
<td>Sem. 2</td>
<td>Sem. 1</td>
<td>Sem. 2</td>
<td>Sem. 1</td>
<td>Sem. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Minority</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 2006-11 APC data; Analyses include first-time fall student-athletes who were retained through the end of the academic year in question.
Progress-Toward-Degree Proposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completion of [including summer]</th>
<th>Credit Hours – End of Academic Year [including summer hours]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>24-semester/36-quarter hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>24-semester/36-quarter hours OR 48-semester/ 72-quarter hours in Years 1 and 2 combined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Designation of Degree</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Three</td>
<td>24-semester/36-quarter hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Four</td>
<td>24-semester/36-quarter hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Five</td>
<td>24-semester/36-quarter hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rationale

• Opportunity for the division to have a philosophical conversation on the number of hours that should be earned in the first two years of enrollment.

• Maintaining averaging prior to the designation of degree provides flexibility in the first two years of enrollment.

• Eliminating the averaging method following the required designation of the degree ensures progress toward a degree each academic year.
Effective Date

- August 1, 2016, for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter.

Rationale

- Effective date provides opportunity for education without requiring institutions to apply separate standards based on a student-athlete’s date of initial enrollment.
Academic Performance Program

Data Collection and Data Reviews
APP Data Collection Process

• NCAA Division I Academic Performance Census (APC).
  o Provides data about academic profiles and progress of student-athletes.
  o Head coaches' information.
  o Two-year college transfer data.

• NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR).
  o Term-by-term assessment.
  o Points awarded for eligibility/graduation and retention.
  o Includes all student-athletes who meet cohort definition.
APP Data Collection Process

• APP data collection.
  o APP submission deadline: six weeks (42 calendar days) following the first day of classes for each institution.
  o Access through single-source sign-on system.
    ‣ Username and password no longer sent to institutions.
    ‣ Contact campus single-source sign-on administrator for access.
  o Data collection system will be live early summer.
APP Data Collection Timeline

Data Submission Phase
(due six weeks after first day of classes)

Verification Phase
(NCAA staff)

Correction /Adjustment Phase
(14 calendar days to submit)

Penalty Waiver Phase
(14 calendar days to submit)

Final Submit
(email sent to chancellor or president)
APP Data Collection Process

• Submission phase.
  - Institution submits data using the APP Data Collection Program system six weeks (42 calendar days) after the institution's first day of classes.
  - Data are considered "submitted" once the user receives on-screen confirmation that data has been successfully processed.
  - Failure to submit data renders an institution and all student-athletes ineligible for postseason competition and championships.
• Delayed-graduation point criteria.
  - The former student-athlete graduates from your institution in any academic year that comprises the most recent four-year APR.
  - The former student-athlete was not included in the team's APR cohort in the term in which he or she graduated from your institution.
  - The former student-athlete lost the eligibility or retention point in his or her last term in the APR cohort or would have lost a point if the student-athlete departed prior to the implementation of the APR in 2003-04.
APP Data Collection Process

• Delayed-graduation point.
  o Point "1/0" awarded in the term when the former student-athlete graduates.
  o Restores lost APR retention or eligibility point.
  o If the lost point was adjusted, no delayed-graduation point may be awarded.
  o Point received in the sport reported.
  o Institution permitted to request delayed-graduation points for any of the academic year cohorts that comprise the multiyear APR cohort.
APP Data Collection Process

• Verification phase.
  o NCAA staff verifies completeness and accuracy of data.
    ➢ Review of institutional APR report.
    ➢ Review of validation report.
    ➢ Review of delayed-graduation point module.
  o Institution will be contacted to correct errors.
  o The correction/adjustment phase begins once your data has been verified and an email is sent to you. The adjustment phase does NOT begin the day after you submit your data.
APP Data Collection Process

- **Correction/Adjustment phase.**
  - 14 calendar-day period following verification phase to make corrections to data errors and to submit adjustments.
  - All corrections and adjustments to data will be confirmed via email.
  - Once correction/adjustment phase is completed, institution may view APR and penalty reports, then move to the penalty waiver phase.
  - First official notification of penalties when corrections have been completed.
What is a Correction?

• Change to data due to error, change to status due to incomplete/grade change, newly discovered information.

• Corrections may be requested for any cohort year.

• Not required to submit documentation.

• MUST be requested through the APP data collection and not through email.
What is an Adjustment?

- Request to discount a lost eligibility or retention point due to special circumstances or mitigation or student-athlete does not meet all criteria for automatic adjustments.

- Must provide supporting documentation.

- Requested through the NCAA Legislative Services Database Internet (LSDBi) waiver portal.

- Can be requested for any year that comprise the institution's multiyear APR cohort.
"Adjustments" During

- Allowable exclusions.
- 2.600 GPA transfer to another four-year institution.
- Professional athletics departure.
- Medical absence waiver.
- Missed term exception.
  - Documentation is maintained on campus.
APP Data Collection Process

• Common Data collection issues.

  o Track and cross country cohorts.
  o Head coaches’ data – overlapping coaching months/years. Years run from August 1 through July 31.
  o Total credit hours vs. degree applicable credits.
  o Fall sports student-athletes who graduate and exhaust eligibility at the end of the fall.
  o Retention marked as BA/BS without student-athlete graduating.
APP Data Collection Updates

• Read-only access.
  - Available through single-source sign-on.

• NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2010-59-C.
  - Requires football student-athletes to earn nine semesters/eight quarter-hours in the fall and earn eligibility point in order to be eligible for all games following fall.
  - Awarding of eligibility point.
APP Data Collection Process

• Final submission.
  
  o Following completion of penalty waiver phase.
  
  o Institution's APR and penalty reports are considered final.
  
  o Email sent to the chancellor or president indicating completion of the submission process.
  
  o Conferences will be able to access institutions' APR and penalty reports through the LSDBi waiver portal.
APP Data Reviews

• Next data review cycle began spring 2013.
  o Up to 50 institutions will be selected.
  o GSR and APR to be reviewed at each selected institution.

• Paper review of all areas of the APP data.
  o Institutions will be required to submit supporting documentation for selected teams and/or student-athletes.

• In-person campus visits will be scheduled, if necessary.
APP Data Reviews

• Changes to selection criteria and processes.

  o Added the following criteria as one of the potential reasons for selection for the data review process. "Institutions with a team(s) with a multi year APR(s) ranging from 910 to 950".

  o Eliminated the review of contemporaneous penalties and the APR Improvement Plans from the APR data review process.

  o Selection of full teams, based primarily on current multi year APRs, to review in place of the 10 percent sample of all teams.
APP Data Reviews

• Changes to selection criteria and processes.
  
  o Combined the GSR data review with the APR data review.
  
  o Permit the selection of additional institutions for review when deemed appropriate based on APRs and GSRs.
  
  o Amended the GSR review procedures to include the opportunity to review the three most recent years of data and to review a sample of teams based on GSRs and/or inclusion in the APR data review.
APP Data Reviews

• What was discovered?
  o Lack of documentation to support awarding of points.
  o Midyear certifications/certification forms.
  o Student-athletes who leave the team/institution exhaust eligibility.
  o Missing transfers in GSR data/incorrect transfer data.
  o Multisport student-athletes listed as receiving aid in both sports.
APP Data Reviews

• What was discovered?
  o Lack of written policies and procedures for certification of eligibility/transfer student-athletes and collection of APC and APR data.
  o Little involvement from individuals outside of athletics. Example: Registrar, admissions, enrollment management, provost, institutional research.
  o Procedures and stakeholders are not similar to those for other non athletics reporting processes (National Student Clearinghouse, Veterans Affairs, IPEDS, etc.)
Questions?