



Summary of 2015 Fall Membership Teleconferences on NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate Data Collection

The following is a summary of the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) data collection membership teleconferences conducted in August and September 2015. APR data collection information, including frequently asked questions, may be found in the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Operating Manual. For any other questions regarding APR data collection, please contact Anne Rohlman (arohlman@ncaa.org) or Maria DeJulio (mdejulio@ncaa.org).

1. Professional Athletics Adjustment.

- a. In July 2015, after receiving feedback from the membership, the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data clarified the intended application of the professional athletics adjustment:
 - A student-athlete may qualify for the professional athletics adjustment for the fall or winter term retention point provided the student-athlete triggers any component of the professional athletics adjustment directive criteria (e.g., signed contract with a professional team, established pattern of acceptance of prize money for competition) by the institution's fifth week of class or census date, whichever is earlier, of the following academic year.
- b. For quarter institutions, a student-athlete may still qualify for the professional athletics adjustment for the fall quarter if the student-athlete does not enroll in the winter and/or spring quarters. If the student-athlete does not enroll in the winter quarter but returns for the spring quarter and triggers the professional athletics adjustment prior to the fifth week of class or census date, whichever is earlier, of the following academic year, the student-athlete may qualify for an adjustment of the lost retention point from both the fall and spring quarters if they meet all other criteria (i.e., student-athlete earns the eligibility point and institution has appropriate documentation to demonstrate the student-athlete triggered participation in professional athletics).
- c. The clarification of the professional athletics adjustment is effective immediately, with the submission of 2014-15 APR data in fall 2015. Institutions are permitted to correct previously submitted data but are not required to do so.

2. APR Cohort Definition for Track and Field.

- a. In January 2015, the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics approved amendments to the APR cohort definition for cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field, to specify:

- (1) The cross country APR cohort shall consist of student-athletes on athletics aid, enrolled full time as of the institution's fifth week of classes or official census date for that institution, whichever is earlier, and on the cross country squad list; and
 - (2) Indoor and outdoor track and field will be combined into one sport for APR purposes and shall consist of student-athletes on athletics aid, enrolled full time as of the institution's fifth week of classes or official census date for that institution, whichever is earlier, and on the indoor and/or outdoor track and field squad list.
- b. The change to the cohort definition, effective immediately, beginning with the submission of 2014-15 APR data submitted fall 2015.
 - c. The committee recommended that multiyear APRs should be calculated based on the definition that is most favorable to the team (i.e., mixed definition, old definition or new definition) through the collection of the 2017-18 APR data.

3. Exception to the APR Cohort for Former Student-Athletes.

- a. In June 2015, the subcommittee reviewed a request from the membership and approved an exception to the APR cohort for individuals who receive institutional financial aid per NCAA Bylaw 15.01.5.2 (exception – former student-athletes).
- b. The April 24, 2015, staff interpretation clarified that, for purposes of NCAA financial aid legislation, a former student-athlete is a student-athlete who has exhausted his or her five years of eligibility. Additionally, the interpretation clarified that a student-athlete who is permanently ineligible to participate in intercollegiate competition due to a violation of NCAA amateurism and athletics eligibility regulations (e.g., signed an agreement with a professional organization, secured the services of an agent, exhausted eligibility due to delayed-enrollment penalties) but is still within his or her five-year period of eligibility, who returns to the institution with no intent to participate in athletics, shall also be considered a former student-athlete.
- c. The exception shall be effective immediately with the submission of 2014-15 APR data in the fall 2015, retroactive to all years in the current multiyear rate (2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15). Institutions may correct previous years' data, but are not required to do so.
- d. Medical noncounters and student-athletes receiving fifth year aid are not considered former student-athletes and should continue to be included in the APR cohort.

4. Sport Sponsorship Issues.

- a. In May 2015, the subcommittee confirmed that institutions that do not meet sports-sponsorship requirements per Bylaw 20.9.6.3 (minimum contests and participant requirements for sports sponsorship) for a particular team are not required to report NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP) data for that squad.
- b. If an institution fails to sponsor a sport for at least three consecutive years, but chooses to add it again later, the sport would be considered a new sport for purposes of APP policy.

5. Continuation of Filters for Limited-Resource Institutions.

- a. The committee agreed to extend, for one year, the filters for limited-resource institutions (LRI) that were set to expire with the submission of the 2014-15 data in the fall 2015.
- b. The filters are available to any team from an LRI that does not sponsor NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) with a four-year APR below the 930 benchmark required to avoid APP penalties and the loss of access to postseason competition.
- c. The current filters include the longer transition to the 930 APR benchmark (a four-year average of at least 920), an improvement filter (a two-year average of at least 940 in the two most recent years) and an "improvement plus" filter (a single-year average of at least 930 in the most recent years, plus meeting one of five improvement tests). All three filters require the institution have an APR Improvement Plan that meets the criteria established by the committee.
- d. The short-term extension of the current filters will provide the committee one year to develop long-term solutions regarding LRI and the APP penalty structure.

6. Academic Portal.

- a. The new academic portal is expected to be released in time for the collection of 2015-16 APR data in fall 2016.
- b. Highlights of the new portal include:
 - (1) The combination of multiple systems (e.g., Graduation Success Rate, APP, APR Improvement Plans, etc.) into one interface.

- (2) Year-round APR data entry.
- (3) Year-round APR adjustment processing.
- (4) Nonrate-related corrections may be completed by the membership.
- (5) Ad hoc reporting.