



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
DECEMBER 14, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Update on transfer activity in Division I.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics received an overview of preliminary data on the academic impact of transferring. The NCAA Division I Board of Directors had charged the NCAA Division I Council and the Committee on Academics with monitoring the impact transferring has on a student-athlete's progress toward graduation and the impact other variables, such as name, image and likeness, may have on the transfer environment.

One-year outcomes from student-athletes who transferred in 2021-22 is now available for analysis. The committee will review additional analyses in May 2024, once the second data set is available upon completion of the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate data collection process from this past fall. Prior to the availability of additional academic data (e.g., graduation rates), analysis of year-by-year progress toward degree, grade-point averages and eligibility and retention statuses may provide insights on the academic impact of transferring.

The following are some preliminary highlights of the data:

- Generally, transferring leads to academic credit loss that typically relates to the slowing of progress toward degree. The loss of academic credit is expected to compound with multiple transfers.
 - The negative academic impact of a transfer has been observed to be larger if the student-athlete's academic performance (e.g., grade-point average, credit hours) is lower prior to the time of transfer.
 - Transferring earlier in a student-athlete's academic career (i.e., freshman year, sophomore year) mitigates the negative impact of transferring to some degree.
 - A student-athlete who transfers later in their academic career (e.g., junior year, senior year) tends to face larger hurdles to keep up with progress-toward-degree expectations as it is typically easier for students to transfer electives than it is to transfer coursework required for a specific major.
2. **Division I project discussion.** The committee received an update on President Charlie Baker's recent memo on proposed changes to Division I, including details on NIL policy changes and the creation of a subset of Division I schools that will be allowed to operate within a set of rules that more accurately and equitably reflects their scale and operating model. The document was intended to be a starting point for membership discussion and will be discussed in greater detail at the January 2024 board meeting. Institutions may

submit feedback and questions through the email and contact information provided in the memo.

3. **Faculty Athletics Representative Association update.** The committee received an update on the recent FARA annual meeting, which was held November 16-18 in Indianapolis. Over 200 faculty athletics representatives from all three divisions attended 40 session offerings. An area of focus for this year's programming was student-athlete mental health and welfare. The FARs also had an opportunity to hear from NCAA President Charlie Baker and received key legal, legislative and governance updates. Joanne Bullard of Rowan University assumed the president's role for FARA and Pam Bruzina of the University of Missouri, Columbia will serve as the association's vice-president.
4. **NCAA research update.** The research staff provided an update on current research initiatives, including a student-athlete mental health study. The study suggests student-athletes are experiencing fewer mental health concerns than they did at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, but some demographics have shown more improvement than others. The data shows that mental health concerns have decreased in all three NCAA divisions. The leading cause of mental health concerns is academics-related, the survey showed, while planning for the future, financial worries, playing time and family worries were also key factors negatively impacting their mental health.

Additionally, the research staff provided an update on the Graduation Success Rate data that was released recently. Division I student-athletes are graduating at record rates, according to the latest GSR released on December 6. The overall single-cohort rate increased by one point to 91%, which is the highest rate recorded. Figures released reflect graduation numbers among student-athletes who entered college in 2016. The NCAA has tracked GSR for more than two decades, and student-athletes have surpassed the original benchmark goal of 80%, with long-term graduation rate increases being observed year after year from an overall 74% in 2002 to this year's record 91%. Since 2002, significant gains have been demonstrated within all student-athlete sport subgroups, with notable increases in baseball, football, wrestling, and men's and women's basketball. This year, all women's sports recorded a rate of 92% or better, with field hockey, gymnastics and lacrosse all earning a 98% GSR. Since the implementation of the GSR, Division I members have adopted impactful academic reforms and initiatives, including modifications of initial-eligibility requirements and progress-toward-degree standards, as well as application of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program. Those reforms have helped pave the way for exponential graduation success.

5. **NCAA Division I legislative update and discussion.** The committee reviewed the four proposals that originated from this committee:
 - a. NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2023-51 Academic Eligibility – Freshman Academic Requirements – Core Curriculum Requirements – Nontraditional Course Requirements.

- b. Proposal No. 2023-52 Academic Eligibility – Validity of Academic Credentials – Elimination of the Student Records Review Committee.
- c. Proposal No. 2023-56 Governance Structure and Committees – Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers Committee – Composition – Reduction from 14 to Nine.
- d. Proposal No. 2023-57 Governance Structure and Committees – Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee – Composition – Reduction from 20 to Seven.

No feedback was received on these proposals from the membership during this phase of the legislative process. The committee will continue to receive updates at the proposals continue through the legislative process.

- 6. **Update from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data.** The committee received an update on this year’s APP data review cycle. Twenty-three institutions were selected for a data review this cycle and to date, all reviews are now completed. The 2024 round of data reviews will begin in January.
- 7. **Preliminary update on the number of teams subject to loss of access to postseason competition and/or APP penalties.** The committee received an update on the preliminary number of teams potentially subject to loss of postseason access and/or APP penalties based on the submission of NCAA Academic Progress Rate data in fall 2023. Institutions continue to move through the APR process and will have an opportunity to submit a waiver following the adjustment and correction phases. The public release of data from this fall will occur next spring, which will include a list of teams subject to loss of postseason access and/or APP penalties to be applied to the 2024-25 academic year.
- 8. **NCAA legal update.** The committee received an update from the NCAA office of legal affairs regarding new and ongoing litigation.
- 9. **Future meeting dates.**
 - Videoconference: 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., February 1, 2024.
 - In-person meeting: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 7; 8 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, May 8; Indianapolis.

Committee Chair:

Robert Davies, Central Michigan University

Staff Liaisons:

Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs

Binh T. Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs

Quintin Wright, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Committee on Academics December 14, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University.	
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.	
David Benedict, University of Connecticut.	
Jill Bodensteiner, Saint Joseph's University.	
Kevin Bostian, Northwestern State University.	
Rob Carson, Furman University.	
Robert Davies, Central Michigan University.	
Aldrich Elvambuena, American University.	
Jon Fagg, University of Texas at Arlington.	
Scott Fuess, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.	
Jessica Goerke, University of California, Santa Barbara.	
Colleen Heimstead, North Dakota State University.	
Joseph Jupille, University of Colorado, Boulder.	
Jessica Kumke, Horizon League.	
Genese Lavalais, Alabama State University.	
Marion McClary, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
John Volin, University of Maine.	
Susan Williams, University of Kansas.	
Absentees:	
Lissa Broome, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.	
Timothy Snyder, Loyola Marymount University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Jennifer Henderson, Binh Nguyen and Quintin Wright.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Drew Aldridge, Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Amanda Conklin, Judy Delp, Katie Ethridge, Michele Forte-Osborne, Brandy Hataway, Michelle Hosick, Leilani Hubbard, Charnele Kemper, Sarah Overpeck, Tom Paskus, Jennifer Smith, Kathy Sulentic, DeAnna Wiley and Katy Yurk.	