



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS  
FEBRUARY 10, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **Return to normal NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program operations following the COVID-19 suspension of APP penalties and loss of access to postseason competition.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics continued its discussion on how and when to restart the APP, as many operations were on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee recommended a continued one-year pause as it continues a comprehensive review of the metric, including the penalty structure. [Nonlegislative Action Item]
2. **Recommendations from the NCAA Standardized Test Score Task Force.** The committee was presented with the NCAA Standardized Test Score Task Force's final recommendations and voted to move forward the recommendation to eliminate the test score (ACT/SAT) from NCAA Division I initial eligibility requirements and approved a one-year extension of the alternative initial-eligibility standards blanket waiver. [Legislative Action Item and Informational Item No. 1]
3. **Update on the work of the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee.** The committee received an update on the work of the Transformation Committee and offered its assistance and expertise to the committee in its work related to the student-athlete academic experience. [Informational Item No. 2]

**ACTION ITEMS.**

1. **Legislative items.**
  - **Freshman Academic Requirements – Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition – Removal of Standardized Test Score Requirement.**
    - (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Council introduce legislation into the 2022-23 legislative cycle to remove the standardized test score requirement from initial-eligibility requirements and establish the following standards:
      - a. Qualifier – core-course progression before starting the seventh semester of high school, proof of high school graduation, 16 core units in the required subject areas and a 2.3 core-course GPA;
      - b. Early academic qualifier – 14 core units in the required subject areas and a 3.0 core-course GPA before the start of the seventh semester of high school; and

- c. Academic redshirt – proof of high school graduation, 16 core units in the required subject areas, and a 2.0 core-course GPA.

In addition, the committee requests the Council vote on the proposal in January 2023.

- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2023, for student-athletes initially enrolling for fall 2023.
- (3) Rationale. The NCAA Standardized Test Score Task Force was formed as a result of the NCAA's eight-point plan to advance racial equity. The specialized group made up of Division I and Division II members worked over the last 18 months to examine whether standardized test scores should continue to be used as part of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. During its work, the task force reviewed historical perspectives, discussed the current landscape regarding standardized test scores and received insights from researchers, third-party organizations, thought leaders and the NCAA membership. This work led the task force to determine that test scores should not continue to be a part of the initial-eligibility requirements. This recommendation aligns with the trend among institutions of moving away from requiring standardized test scores for admissions purposes. The committee also requested the Council vote on this proposal at its January 2023 so that it aligns with the vote on the same concept being taken in Division II and will provide prospects sufficient notice.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

## 2. Nonlegislative items.

- **One-year extension of the suspension of APP penalties and loss of access to postseason competition and other related operational APR areas.**
  - (1) Recommendation. The Committee on Academics recommends the NCAA Division I Board of Directors suspend APP penalties and loss of access to postseason competition for the 2021-22 APR data collection due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing review of the APP structure and approve the following APR operational processes for the one-year suspension:
    - (a) No penalties and loss of access to postseason competition based on the four-year APR in 2023.
    - (b) No public release of the four-year and single-year APRs in 2023.

- (c) No public recognition of teams with the highest academic performance in 2023.
  - (d) No public release of head coaches' APR in 2023.
  - (e) Continue the data collection for both APR and Graduation Success Rate.
  - (f) Continue the public release of GSR.
  - (g) Continue APP Data Reviews.
  - (h) Continue the use of single-year APRs to determine eligibility for the NCAA Division I Academic Unit.
  - (i) Continue to allow institutions to access their data in the NCAA Academic Portal.
- (2) Effective date. Fall 2022 (i.e., for APR data submitted fall 2022 from the 2021-22 academic year).
- (3) Rationale. During the two-year suspension of APP penalties and loss of access to postseason competition, the committee has been engaged in a comprehensive review of the metric and its impact on teams, especially Historically Black Colleges and Universities, limited-resource institutions, and other schools and student-athletes that may have experienced unique or difficult challenges during the pandemic. This review will continue over the next several months and may result in changes to certain aspects of the program. During this time, institutions will still be required to submit APR data from the 2021-22 academic year. The normal verification, correction and adjustment processes will also continue. The collection of the data will allow for continued analysis of academic trends and continued data driven decision-making. It is important to note that, after completing its review, the committee is committed to restarting this important program while ensuring the framework is structured to effectively and equitably facilitate program objectives related to academic success.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Teams falling below the penalty benchmarks will be able to access postseason competition and have no restrictions on in-season and out-of-season hourly limitations.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Update from the NCAA Standardized Test Score Task Force.** The committee received the final recommendation from the task force and agreed to move the recommendation forward as a legislative proposal to be introduced into the 2022-23 legislative cycle by the Division I Council. The recommendation, if adopted, would eliminate the standardized test requirement from NCAA initial-eligibility requirements and make permanent the alternative initial-eligibility requirements that are currently in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Legislative Action Item]

The committee also discussed and approved a one-year extension of the alternative initial-eligibility standards that have been in place for 2020-21 through 2022-23. These standards, which do not include the standardized test score requirement, will be in effect through the 2023-24 academic year. The alternative standards will require the following: qualifier (graduation, 16 core units, 2.3 GPA); early academic qualifier (14 core units, 3.0 GPA); and academic redshirt (graduation, 16 core units, 2.0 GPA). Notification and education will be provided to the membership and prospects once Division II considers similar action in April.

2. **Update on the work of the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee.** The committee received an update on the work of the Transformation Committee, including its five areas of focus and the timeline for its work. These areas include membership, governance, student-athlete experience, regulatory structure, and the impact of direct financial support to student-athletes. The Committee on Academics is encouraged by the emphasis on the importance of academics as an area of focus in the overall student-athlete experience. The committee offered its support to the Transformation Committee as it continues its work over the next several months and welcomes collaboration between these two committees.
3. **Review of correspondence from the National Junior College Athletic Association.** The committee reviewed a letter from the National Junior College Athletic Association regarding the academic standards incoming two-year college transfer student-athletes are required to meet to be eligible to practice, compete and receive athletically related financial aid during the first year of enrollment at a Division I institution. Specially, the NJCAA shared its concern about the transfer GPA requirement for two-year college transfers when compared to GPA requirements for four-year college transfers or continuing student-athletes at Division I institutions. The committee reviewed these requirements in 2017, five years after their adoption. The committee determined that another review of this legislation may be informative and beneficial, and it has requested that an updated analysis begin as soon as practical, with updates to be provided at future meetings.
4. **Update on the NCAA former student-athlete degree completion assistance for basketball.** The committee received an update on the continued implementation of the men's and women's basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance legislation. Based on data reported from institutions in the NCAA Academic Portal, 38 institutions provided funding to 49 former basketball student-athletes to return to complete their undergraduate degree. There is currently one former basketball student-athlete from a limited-resource institution that will be taking advantage of the degree completion funding

from the NCAA during the 2022 summer term. The committee did charge the staff with exploring ways to increase the usage of the degree completion assistance and to present these concepts at a future meeting.

5. **Update on the NCAA Division I Academic-Based Revenue Distribution.** The committee received an update on the state of the Division I Academic Unit. This initiative was approved by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and the NCAA Board of Governors in October 2016 and resulted in the distribution of a portion of the Division I revenue to member institutions based on student-athlete academic achievement. The Committee on Academics was charged with overseeing activation of the Academic Unit and continued review of the qualifying metrics. The first round of mock eligibility reports was sent to institutions and conferences offices in June 2018 and the second round was distributed in spring of 2019. The first distribution occurred in spring 2020 and the next distribution will be allocated in spring 2022. It is anticipated that this will be the first year the unit value will reach six figures. The committee charged the staff with conducting an initial review of the eligibility criteria for the Academic Unit to determine if any recalibration of the criteria and overall program is warranted to ensure it continues to align with the original vision and intent of the Board of Directors and Board of Governors.
6. **Update on Division I four-year college transfer student-athletes.** The committee received an update on current transfer trends based on data from the NCAA Transfer Portal. There was an increase in the number of student-athletes entering the Transfer Portal in 2021, with the percentage of graduate transfers significantly increasing in almost every sport. The committee will continue to receive regular updates on four-year college transfer trends and waiver requests for the year in residence for four-year college transfer student-athletes, for the committee was charged with monitoring this activity.
7. **Update on Division I legislative proposals in the 2021-22 legislative cycle.** The committee reviewed and provided feedback on proposals in the 2021-22 Division I Council-governance legislative cycle, including proposals in which the committee had already provided positions on during the 2019-20 legislative cycle. The committee did not amend any of its previous positions and provided the following feedback on select proposals recently introduced into the 2021-22 legislative cycle:
  - a. Proposal No. 2021-16 Organization – Definitions and Applications – Senior Minority Administrator – No position.
  - b. Proposal No. 2021-26 Academic Eligibility – Graduate Student/Postbaccalaureate Participation – Exceptions for Postgraduate Transfers – Support.
  - c. Proposal No. 2021-28 Playing and Practice Seasons – Women’s Beach Volleyball – Nonchampionship Segment Competition and Travel – Opposed to the elimination of the prohibition on missed class time and believes the other amendments will assist with providing meaningful competitive opportunities during the nonchampionship segment.

The committee also reviewed Proposal No. 2021-25 Academic and Athletics Eligibility – Men’s Wrestling Academic Enhancement Package, which was recommended to the NCAA Division I Council in 2019 at the request for assistance from the National Wrestling Coaches Association. The committee did not recommend any amendments to this proposal and continues to support its adoption when voting occurs later this spring by the Division I Council.

8. **Update on name, image and likeness activity in Division I.** The committee received an update on recent name, image and likeness activity. There has been an increase in attention given to the types of opportunities being provided to student-athletes in this space. The committee continues to be interested in examining the academic impact, if any, these types of opportunities have on student-athletes moving forward.
9. **Graduation Success Rate data for the 2014 entering cohort.** The committee reviewed the GSR data for student-athletes who initially enrolled full time at a collegiate institution in 2014. This year’s GSR reached 90%, which is 16 percentage points higher compared to the GSR the year it was introduced, twenty years ago. This represents increases in every sport and every racial and ethnic group over that twenty-year period. The GSR for men’s basketball has increased 28 percentage points in the last twenty years with an increase of 35 points for Black men’s basketball student-athletes. The GSR for women’s basketball has increased 14 points, with the rate among Black women’s basketball players rising 22 points. Over the past 20 years, 37,450 more college athletes graduated than would have had the GSR remained at 74%, the GSR the year it was introduced.
10. **Review of APR data from the 2020-21 academic year.** The committee reviewed the most recent data on institutional APRs, teams that would have been eligible to receive public recognition and teams that would have been penalized and/or lost access to postseason competition based on the 2020-21 academic year APR data. The data is not being publicly released and penalties are not being assessed due to the two-year suspension of APR penalties. The committee also reviewed national and sport-group APR averages and trends through the 2020-21 APR data.
11. **NCAA student-athlete well-being survey – fall 2021.** The committee previewed the results of a survey conducted by the NCAA research staff in fall 2021 of Division I student-athletes regarding their well-being. This is the third survey the research staff has conducted over the last 18 months on student-athlete well-being and was designed and distributed in collaboration with the NCAA Sport Science Institute and the NCAA Division I, II and III Student-Athlete Advisory Committees. Representing nearly all conferences across all three divisions, 9,808 student-athletes completed the survey. It was noted that student-athlete mental health remains a concern during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, student-athletes expressed optimism about their academic experience and their ability to maintain progress in the coursework and pass their classes. The survey also examined factors that were raised by student-athletes who considered transferring and noted that student-athletes expressed a need for resources to assist with name, image and likeness and their

future careers. The results of this survey were shared with the membership during 2022 NCAA Convention sessions and will be released to the public in the upcoming months.

12. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data.** The committee reviewed the reports of the Subcommittee on Data teleconferences that occurred between September 23, 2021, through January 21, 2022.
  - a. **NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Data Reviews.** On its January 21, 2022, videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed and approved the list of institutions participating in data reviews this year.
  - b. **NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate adjustment appeals.** On its November 5, 2021, videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed 14 APR adjustment appeals.
13. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.** The committee reviewed the reports of the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics teleconferences that occurred between October 6, 2021, to January 12, 2022.
  - **Division I progress-toward-degree waiver directive update.** On its January 12 teleconference, the subcommittee approved a new directive for transfer student-athletes who are not able to meet percent-of-degree requirements due to an institutional policy on the number of credits that can be transferred into a degree program. The new directive will become effective August 1, 2022, for those student-athletes who transfer for the fall 2022 term and thereafter.
14. **NCAA Division I Board of Directors report.** The committee received a report from the Board of Director's October 27, 2021, and January 20, 2022, meetings.
15. **NCAA Division I Presidential Forum report.** The committee received a report from the Presidential Forum's October 26, 2021, and January 19, 2022, meetings.
16. **NCAA Division I Council report.** The committee received a report from the Council's meetings that occurred between September 15, 2021, and January 19, 2022.
17. **NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee report.** The committee received a report from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's September 30, 2021, and January 19, 2022, meetings.
18. **Report of the Committee on Academics September 22 videoconference.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its September 22, 2021, videoconference.

**19. Future meeting dates.**

- In-person meeting: Monday-Tuesday, May 9-10, 2022, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Videoconference: Noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 13, 2022.
- October 2022, Indianapolis: To be determined.

*Committee Chair:* Dianne Harrison, California State University, Northridge

*Staff Liaisons:* Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs

Binh T. Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs

<b>NCAA Division I Committee on Academics February 10, 2022, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University.	
Melissa Baumann, Xavier University.	
Jill Bodensteiner, St. Joseph's University.	
John E. Davidson, The Ohio State University.	
Robert O. Davies, Central Michigan University.	
K. Renia Edwards, Mississippi Valley State University.	
Pat Elliott, Binghamton University.	
Magdi El Shahawy, University of Georgia.	
Eric Hall, Elon University.	
Jaime Gordon, Morehead State University.	
Dianne Harrison, California State University, Northridge.	
Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League.	
Maddie Hommey, Longwood University.	
Joseph Jupille, University of Colorado, Boulder.	
Jessica Kumke, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.	
Jason Linders, Chicago State University.	
Marion McClary, Fairleigh Dickinson University.	
Timothy Law Snyder, Loyola Marymount University.	
Susan Williams, University of Kansas.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Eileen Daley, San Jose State University.	



<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Dr. David Wilson, Morgan State University.
Robin Gray, Morgan State University.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Jennifer Henderson and Binh Nguyen.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Emily Capehart, Amanda Conklin, Greg Dana, Judy Delp, Doug Healey, Saquandra Heath, Michelle Hosick, Leilani Hubbard, Charnele Kemper, Jess Kerr, Andy Louthain, Felicia Martin, Mike Massa, Karen Metzger, Sarah Overpeck, Tom Paskus, Marcos Rivera, Dave Schnase, Geoff Silver, Jennifer Smith, Kathy Sulentic, Carrie Leger White, DeAnna Wiley, Quintin Wright and Katy Yurk.