



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
FEBRUARY 6-7, 2023, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Final report and recommendations from the comprehensive review of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program and the return to normal Academic Performance Program operations.** The Committee on Academics concluded its in-depth review of the APP in its entirety to determine if the program continues to facilitate academic success and address academic underperformance, given the changing landscape of intercollegiate athletics. In addition, the committee finalized the details for the restart of the APP. [Informational Item No. 1]
2. **Update from the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee and feedback on referrals to the Committee on Academics.** The Committee on Academics provided feedback on three referrals from the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. The referrals are related to Division I membership expectations in the area of academic support, the development of a transfer graduation metric and an examination of the progress-toward-degree requirements for transfers. [Informational Item No. 2]

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative.**
 - a. **NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.5.5.2.10 Four-Year College Transfers – Exceptions for Transfers from Four-Year Colleges – One-Time Transfer Exception – Fulfillment of Percentage-of-Degree Requirements at the Previous Institution.**
 - (1) Recommendation. The Committee on Academics recommends the NCAA Division I Council introduce a proposal into the 2023-24 legislative cycle to require a student-athlete to meet all eligibility requirements, including percentage-of-degree requirements, at the previous institution at the time of transfer in order to be eligible to use the one-time transfer.
 - (2) Effective date. August 1, 2024; applicable to transfer student-athletes seeking eligibility during the 2024-25 academic year and thereafter.
 - (3) Rationale. Student-athletes making meaningful progress toward graduation is one of the goals of NCAA progress-toward-degree requirements. All student-athletes should be making such progress, regardless of their intent to transfer. Requiring student-athletes to meet all progress-toward-degree requirements, including percentage-of-degree benchmarks, will help to ensure that student-athletes continue to focus on academics after they have decided to transfer. Also, when a student-athlete leaves an institution meeting all progress-toward-degree requirements except the percentage-of-degree benchmark, the institution they are leaving loses the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate eligibility point and the Academic Progress Rate retention point because they are not leaving the institution eligible. This has

an adverse effect on the leaving institution while the student-athlete is currently permitted to use the one-time transfer exception and compete during the first year at the new institution. Requiring completion of the percentage-of-degree benchmark would eliminate this inconsistency. Lastly, this was a referral from the Division I Board of Directors.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. A student-athlete who is not meeting percentage-of-degree requirements at the previous institution will be required to serve an academic year-in-residence prior to competing at the next institution.

b. **Request to remove NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2022-6 Recruiting – Contact Restrictions at Specified Sites – Prospective Student-Athlete’s Educational Institutions – No Contact When Classes Are in Session – Sports Other Than Basketball from the table and vote on the proposal.**

- (1) Recommendation. The Committee on Academics recommends the council remove NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2022-6 from the table and vote on the proposal.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate; for the request to remove the proposal from the table and vote on it.
- (3) Rationale. This proposal aligns all sports with the current legislation applicable to basketball in prohibiting otherwise permissible contact at a prospective student-athlete's educational institution when classes are in session. This proposal was identified by the NCAA Division I Legislative Committee Modernization of the Rules Subcommittee as a rule for which the utility of national oversight is outweighed by the monitoring and enforcement burden. In addition, the rationale put forth by the sponsor noted that this change would eliminate the disruptive impact contact with a coach can have on a prospective student-athlete's class time while reducing incidental contact violations that can occur at educational institutions under the existing rule. The Committee on Academics agreed with the proposal's rationale and noted the benefits this proposal would have on prospective student-athletes in other sports. The rule has been in place in basketball since 2016 and continues to reinforce the need to minimize distractions that may negatively impact the academic performance of prospective student-athletes and other students at the high school and has reduced incidental contact violations that can occur at educational institutions. Lastly, this legislation protects the academic well-being of prospective student-athletes.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Reduction in missed class time and adverse impact on academic performance for prospective student-athletes being contacted by coaches while classes are in session.

2. **Non-legislative.**

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Final report and recommendations from the comprehensive review of the Academic Performance Program and return to normal APP operations.** The Committee on Academics received the final report and approved the recommendations from the ad hoc group charged with conducting a comprehensive review of the APP. While elements of the APP were paused as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee on Academics took advantage of the time to gather a wide breadth of perspectives on the academic program and reviewed several identified topics before the resumption of normal APP operations scheduled for fall 2023. Since summer 2022, the ad hoc group conducted 12 videoconferences, which included a review of relevant data and heard from important stakeholder groups to help answer the essential question, which is: Is the APP, in its entirety, facilitating academic success and addressing academic underperformance while considering the changing landscape of intercollegiate athletics? Based on the final report from the ad hoc group, the Committee on Academics agreed the APP, in its entirety, has positively enhanced the academic success of student-athletes dramatically and has been successful in addressing academic underperformance. Specifically, the Committee on Academics confirmed the value of the APR formula of eligibility and retention in predicting graduation and agreed the current penalty and postseason access model is effective in addressing academic underperformance. The Committee on Academics also directed the staff to provide enhanced education to institutions with teams below the 930 penalty and postseason access benchmark, even if a filter was used to avoid penalties and loss of access to postseason competition.

The Committee on Academics also finalized the details of the return to normal APP operations after portions of the program were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The restart will include a four-year average of APR data from 2019-20 through 2022-23. The minimum score for each team to avoid penalties and to be eligible for postseason competition remains 930. The return to normal operations will include the public recognition of high-performing teams. This means program penalties and the possible loss of access to postseason competition will resume based on the four-year-cohort scores released in spring 2024. Teams that score below the benchmark will face penalties that encourage an increased emphasis on academics. Penalties and the loss of access to postseason competition will be announced in spring 2024, and both will be imposed in 2024-25.

2. **Update from the Transformation Committee and feedback on referrals to the Committee on Academics.** The Committee on Academics received an update on the work of the Transformation Committee and its final report and subsequent implementation. At this time, the Transformation Committee has referred its final recommendations to the appropriate committees for review and feedback and ultimate implementation, if appropriate. At the request of the Board of Directors, the Committee on Academics reviewed and provided its feedback on three concepts.
 - a. Membership Expectations – Academic Support. The Board of Directors referred to the Committee on Academics consideration of an APR score that could be used as a benchmark for meeting membership expectations in the area of academic support. The Committee on Academics did not support implementing a new APR score at this time and is committed to re-visiting this in the future when the athletic landscape has stabilized due to the impact of NIL, transfers and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee on Academics did support the examination of a minimum APR membership requirement for schools transitioning to Division I. Such a requirement would reinforce the importance of academics to schools aspiring to join Division I.
 - b. Transfer Graduation Metric. The Board of Directors referred to the Committee on Academics consideration of a legislative concept that would require schools to satisfy a separate graduation metric for the school's cohort of transfer students, which if not met will impact an institution's revenue distribution and/or preclude an institution from adding transfer student-athletes to its roster for a specified period of time. The Committee on Academics did not support the concept and noted the current APR metric accounts for transfer activity and movement. The Committee on Academics noted the current APR penalty structure provides the appropriate guardrails and institutional accountability for the academic success of its transfers.
 - c. Progress toward degree requirements for transfers. The Board of Directors referred to the Committee on Academics a review of the current progress-toward-degree requirements for transfers to determine whether student-athletes should be required to meet percentage-of-degree requirements at their previous institution in order to be immediately eligible upon transfer. The Committee on Academics supported this concept and will request the Division I Council to introduce a legislative proposal into the next cycle. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1-a.]

Also, the Committee on Academics strongly expressed its support for maintaining its current reporting line to the Board of Directors rather than the proposed shift in the new governance structure. The Committee on Academics would report to the Oversight Committee in the new structure. The Committee on Academics believes it is important for it to continue to the report to the Board of Directors, for this would continue to emphasize the primacy of academics.

3. **Update on the NCAA Division I Accelerating Academic Success Program.** The Committee on Academics received an update on the Accelerating Academic Success Program. Thirteen institutions were awarded single-year grants averaging approximately \$86,743. Over \$1.1 million was awarded to colleges and universities with limited resources to help boost academic programs and initiatives, which tie to graduation and the overall success of its student-athletes. Applications for 2023-24 single-grant funding will be made available in early spring. The Committee on Academics also expressed its support for the return of multiyear AASP grants being offered in the future, in addition to single-year grants and that funding levels return to pre-pandemic levels. The grant has been impactful to institutions receiving this funding and such support for this program should continue to be at a high level due to the impact it has on the academic performance of student-athletes at Limited-Resource Institutions and historically Black colleges and universities.
4. **Update on academic integrity activity and trends in Division I.** The Committee on Academics received an overview of academic integrity activity in Division I from members of the NCAA Academic Integrity Unit. This group in NCAA enforcement was created to serve as subject matter experts in the areas of academic misconduct and other NCAA Bylaw 14 requirements and to provide the membership with education and other resources surrounding the application of academic misconduct bylaws. It was noted that activity in the academic integrity space has increased with the prevalence of remote learning and transfer activity due to the additional flexibility in the Division I legislation.
5. **Update on the College Basketball Summer Initiative for Division I men's and women's basketball.** The Committee on Academics received an update on the working groups established in Division I to examine the College Basketball Summer Initiative for men's and women's basketball. The working groups will discuss the feasibility of creating competition opportunities in the summer for men's and women's basketball teams and will report concepts to the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Oversight Committees. Currently, basketball student-athletes may engage in required weight training, conditioning and skill-related instruction with their coaching staff for up to eight weeks in the summer. No more than four of the eight hours per week may be spent on skill-related instruction. After groups will explore whether exhibition games could be played during the summer athletics-related activities period. Many believe the initiative can provide a positive summer competition experience for student-athletes and can highlight the sport at a time of year other than during the traditional season. The working groups also will examine the overall landscape in college basketball during the summer period and may identify other opportunities to elevate the sport during the offseason. If the Division I Men's and Women's Oversight Committees want to move any of the concepts forward, both or either committee could recommend a proposal in the Division I governance cycle for approval during the 2023-24 legislative cycle. The earliest possible date for summer competition would be summer 2024.
6. **Update on the NCAA Division I Academic Unit (academic-based revenue distribution).** The Committee on Academics received an update on the state of the Division I Academic Unit. The next distribution will be allocated in spring 2023. It is estimated that over 80%

of eligible Division I institutions will meet at least one of the three criteria to qualify for the distribution. This estimate continues to be higher than the original projections made when the distribution was first approved by the Board of Directors and NCAA Board of Governors in 2016. The Committee on Academics discussed the increase in the number of institutions qualifying for the distribution as well as the outcomes for different types of institutions. The Committee on Academics will be reviewing the qualifying criteria next year once five years of data are available.

7. **NCAA Division I legislative update.** The Committee on Academics was informed that NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2022-34 Academic Eligibility – Freshman Academic Requirements – Elimination of Test-Score Requirements was adopted by the council at its January 2023 meeting. The adopted legislation, which originated from the Committee on Academics, would remove the use of any standardized test scores as part of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. A communication plan has been activated to notify institutions, high schools and prospective student-athletes and their parents/legal guardians of the change. Similar action was taken in Division II, effective August 1, 2023.
8. **Impact of name, image and likeness activity on the academic performance of Division I student-athletes.** The Committee on Academics 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 on Academics continues to be interested in examining the academic impact, if any, these types of opportunities have on student-athletes moving forward.
9. **Update on the NCAA degree completion program for basketball.** The Committee on Academics received an update on the status of applications received for 2022 fall and 2023 spring degree completion funding. This winter, two former basketball student-athletes (one men's basketball and one women's basketball) have graduated using the available funding. The Committee on Academics was informed about the creation of an advisory committee that will provide counsel and advice to the staff on the degree completion funding, including ideas to increase the fund's usage. The advisory group consists of members of the National Basketball Association, Women's National Basketball Association, current men's and women's basketball coaches and faculty athletics representatives and will meet on a quarterly basis. Lastly, applications for 2023 fall funding will be made available on April 1 through June 15 and August 1 through October 15 for 2024 spring enrollment.
10. **Update on Division I four-year college transfer activity.** The Committee on Academics 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, with the percentage of graduate transfers significantly increasing in almost every sport. The Committee on Academics 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 on Academics was charged with monitoring this activity.

11. Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data.

The Committee on Academics reviewed the reports of the Subcommittee on Data videoconferences that occurred between October 14, 2022, through January 13, 2023.

- a. NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Data Reviews. On its October 14 videoconference, the subcommittee approved the “process complete” letter to an institution with academic eligibility certification issues, noting its support of staff education for this institution once it has on-boarded its new athletics certification staff.
- b. NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Data Reviews. On its October 14 videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed and acted on one data review.
- c. NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate Adjustment Appeals. On its November 11 videoconference, the subcommittee decided two APR adjustment appeals.
- d. NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Data Point Question. On its December 9 videoconference, the subcommittee considered an issue the staff identified in an APR adjustment case. A school awarded itself the 2022 spring eligibility point (E point) in a student-athlete’s 10th semester of full-time enrollment. The Committee on Academics’ policy states that “after completion of a student-athlete’s 10th full-time semester/15th full-time quarter of actual full-time enrollment, the student-athlete must graduate in order to earn the APR eligibility point for the 10th semester/15th quarter. Graduation requires the completion of all administrative and academic requirements as defined by the institution. A student-athlete who completes five years of enrollment and does not graduate will lose the eligibility point for the 10th semester or 15th quarter.” The student-athlete in this case did graduate but not from the institution in question. Instead, the student-athlete transferred the credits earned at that school back to the previous school and graduated from there in the same term. The policy does not specify which school the student-athlete must graduate from. The subcommittee discussed that the policy would not have anticipated such a scenario, though staff noted that it is seeing similar issues in the progress-toward-degree space. It requested that the Committee on Academics consider this before any change is made to the policy.
- e. NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate Adjustment Appeals. On its December 9 videoconference, the subcommittee on Academics decided two APR adjustment appeals.
- f. NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Data Reviews. On its January 13 videoconference, the subcommittee approved the list of institutions selected to participate in the 2023 data review season.

- g. NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate Adjustment Appeals. On its January 13 videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed five APR adjustment appeals.
12. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.** The Committee on Academics reviewed the reports of the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics videoconferences that occurred between November 17, 2023, through January 19, 2023.
- a. Review of restrictive transfer progress-toward-degree waiver directives. On its November 17 videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed the current progress-toward-degree waiver directive as it relates to restrictive transfer mitigation. Recently, the subcommittee added specific criteria to the waiver directive for restrictive transfer waivers that deal with institutions' transfer credit caps. These criteria were added to ensure that student-athletes understood the academic implications of transferring late in their academic career and that they were still able graduate within a five-year period. The subcommittee reviewed other types of restrictive transfers (e.g., certain credits did not transfer into the new institution, two-year college transfers after three years of enrollment, etc.) and determined those waivers should have the same criteria. The subcommittee agreed to amend the waiver directive to include the same criteria for all waivers claiming a restrictive transfer as mitigation. This addition will be effective immediately.
 - b. Review of less-than-full-time enrollment waivers for student-athletes who have graduated. On its November 17 videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed full-time enrollment waiver requests for winter sport student-athletes who graduate after fall term and want to finish their athletics season without enrolling in the following term (i.e., winter quarter or spring semester). Division I Bylaw 14.2.2.1.3.1 (eligibility following final term) permits student-athletes to complete a current season during the term after graduation without enrolling full time in that term if the postseason event begins within 60 days of end of fall term. Many of the NCAA championships begin outside that 60-day window. The subcommittee reaffirmed the intent of the legislation is to ensure that student-athletes are students while competing and that waivers should not be approved to allow for competition when a student-athlete is not enrolled in any credits. The subcommittee directed staff to review the mitigation and when appropriate, conditionally approve these waivers to allow student-athletes to compete while enrolled in at least six credits.
 - c. Review of a request for a blanket waiver for a university system due to a labor strike. On its December 15 videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed a request from two Division I conference on behalf of seven of their institutions. Specifically, the conferences have requested that student-athletes who were certified as eligible beginning 2022 fall term be permitted to continue to compete during the winter quarter or spring semester without being recertified for the term, until there are enough grades to certify each individual. The requested waiver would involve all aspects of Division I Bylaw 14.4.3 (eligibility for competition).

Currently, there was a strike occurring among postdoctoral students and academic researchers at all the university system's campuses. This has led to the possibility of classes being unfinished at the conclusion of the fall term and/or grades not being finalized. If grades for courses are not finalized, there will not be enough academic information to certify student-athletes for the winter, which would prohibit them from competing due to circumstances outside of their control.

The subcommittee reviewed the materials provided and agreed to approve a blanket waiver for these institutions for any student-athlete who meets the following criteria:

- (1) Were academically eligible for competition during 2022 fall term; and
- (2) There were insufficient grades available in order to certify student-athletes for the winter quarter/spring semester.

The waiver will be effective for the entirety of the winter quarter or spring semester. Institutions will not have to certify student-athletes during the term, even if sufficient grades are submitted during the term. The subcommittee agreed that requiring a recertification in the middle of a term could cause undue burden on institutional staff members.

The subcommittee noted if there were sufficient grades to certify a student-athlete by the first day of classes for the winter quarter or spring semester, the institution must certify the student-athlete's academic eligibility. If the student-athlete is certified as not eligible, the institution may submit a progress-toward-degree waiver if the institution believes there are extraordinary mitigating circumstances. The subcommittee also noted if a student-athlete was not eligible for the fall term and cannot be recertified as eligible at the end of the fall term due to insufficient grades, the institution must file a progress-toward-degree waiver for the student-athlete.

- d. Review of a request for a blanket waiver for an institution due to unforeseen circumstances on campus. On its December 15 videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed the staff's proposed approach to a requested blanket waiver from the institution due to a tragic event that occurred on the institution's campus. The institution has requested a blanket waiver for student-athletes seeking relief of the credit-hour requirements, additional requirements for football student-athletes, percentage-of-degree requirements and grade-point average requirements. The waiver would apply to academic deficiencies that occur during the 2022-23 academic year, including 2023 summer term(s).

The subcommittee agreed that it was appropriate to provide relief through the blanket waiver for eligibility for only the 2023 spring semester at this time. The subcommittee agreed that it was premature to provide relief for the full academic year and that doing so, could potentially have an adverse effect on student-athlete academics and could create a situation where some student-athletes fall even further behind academically. The subcommittee believed that the appropriate approach was to provide immediate

relief for the spring semester and monitor the situation through the term. If it became apparent that the event was continuing to have an adverse effect on a large number of student-athletes during spring term, the subcommittee would revisit the appropriateness of a second blanket waiver for 2023 fall term. Otherwise, individual waivers may be filed for student-athletes who continued to be impacted by these tragic events.

13. **NCAA Division I Board of Directors and NCAA Division I Presidential Forum report.** The Committee on Academics received a report from the most recent meetings of the Board of Directors and Presidential Forum and an update on the groups' future priorities.
14. **NCAA Division I Council report.** The Committee on Academics received a report from the Council's November and December 2022 meetings and January 2023 meeting.
15. **NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee on Academics report.** The Committee on Academics received a report from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's January 11-13, 2023, meeting and an update on the SAAC's priorities.
16. **NCAA research update.** The Committee on Academics received an update on key research initiatives, including a review of the NCAA Division I Graduation Success Rate data from the entering 2015 cohort.
17. **Report of the Committee on Academics October 12, 2022, videoconference meeting.** The Committee on Academics reviewed and approved the report from its October 22 videoconference meeting.
18. **Future meeting dates.**
 - In-person meeting: May 8-9, 2023, Indianapolis.
 - Videoconference: July 2023, to be determined.
 - In-person meeting: October 17-18, 2023, 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 February 6-7, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University (via videoconference).	
David Benedict, University of Connecticut.	
Jill Bodensteiner, Saint Joseph's University.	
Lisa Broome, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.	
Rob Carson, Furman University.	
John E. Davidson, The Ohio State University (via videoconference).	
Robert Davies, Central Michigan University.	
Magdi El Shawahy, University of Georgia.	
Jessica Goerke, University of California, Santa Barbara.	
Jaime Gordon, Morehead State University.	
Eric Hall, Elon University.	
Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League (via videoconference).	
Madison Hommey, Longwood University.	
Joseph Jupille, University of Colorado, Boulder.	
Jessica Kumke, Horizon League.	
Genese Lavalais, Alabama State University.	
Marion McClary, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
Lance Tatum, Troy University.	
Susan Williams, University of Kansas.	
Absentees:	
Timothy Snyder, Loyola Marymount University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Jennifer Henderson, Binh T. Nguyen and Quintin Wright.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Brynna Barnhart, Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Amanda Conklin, Greg Dana, Judy Delp, Katie Ethridge, Michele Forte-Osborne, Jenn Fraser, Brandy Hataway, Doug Healey, Saquandra Heath, Leilani Hubbard, Andy Louthain, Tom Paskus, Liv Sappington, Dave Schnase, Jennifer Smith, Kathy Sulentic, Sara Thurber, Jerry Vaughn, DeAnna Wiley (via videoconference) and Katy Yurk.	