



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
JULY 30, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Update on the four-year college transfers.** At the request of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics had been developing academic-based transfer models to allow student-athletes to be immediately eligible for competition at the new school upon transfer. The data-driven models the committee developed included academic benchmarks such as having a certain GPA and minimum number of credits transferring to next institution. The committee has been cognizant of how it will differentially impact various subgroups (e.g., sport, gender, ethnicity), while also providing the transfer student-athlete a greater likelihood of graduating within five years.

The two data-driven models developed by the committee were:

Model No. 1:

- A student-athlete presents a 2.6 GPA at the previous institution and is academically eligible at both “leaving and receiving” institutions at the time of transfer.

Model No. 2:

- A student-athlete who transfers in the first two years of enrollment must present a 2.6 GPA at the previous institution and be academically eligible at both institutions.
- A student-athlete who transfers after the start of the third year of enrollment must present a 3.0 GPA at the previous institution and be eligible at both institutions.

A data-driven uniform academic standard that includes a minimum GPA requirement will help to mitigate the potential negative impact on the graduation timeline and provide transfer student-athletes with a greater than 50% probability of graduating within five years.

The committee received an update from the NCAA Division I Working Group on Transfers. Specifically, the committee reviewed the recommendation from the working group regarding the academic requirements for the universal one-time transfer exception. Taking into account the current environment with different external pressures and challenges, the committee supported the working group’s recommendation, which included a minimum academic standard that the student-athlete must leave academically eligible, which is generally a 2.0 GPA. The committee also concluded the receiving institution should be required to provide any aided transfer student-athlete with financial aid until the completion of the undergraduate degree. The committee also recommended that a best practice be created that would encourage institutions to create a graduation plan for each of the transfer

student-athletes that would have the student-athlete achieving graduation within the five-year clock.

The committee recognized the recommendation was the best attempt to mitigate the negative impact of transferring without restricting transfer and placing some accountability on the receiving school to graduate the transfer with guaranteed financial aid. The committee will monitor the data related to transfer student-athletes and the impact on graduation rates and is committed to revisiting the progress-toward-degree benchmarks and NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate metrics should a decline in graduation rates occur that can be connected to the anticipated adoption of new transfer legislation.

2. Alternative initial-eligibility standards for 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to COVID-19.

The committee discussed and approved the following recommendations for enhanced flexibility in the application of initial-eligibility standards during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years:

- a. 2021-22 alternative standards – remove test scores from legislated requirements.** Given the continued uncertainty due to COVID-19, along with health and safety concerns and the potential for additional ACT/SAT cancellations, test scores will be removed from legislated requirements (DI/DII qualifier, DI academic redshirt, DII partial qualifier, DI/DII early academic qualifier) for prospective student-athletes who initially enroll full time in 2021-22.
- b. 2021-22 policies – pass/fail grades, unofficial documents, core-course time limitation.** For consistency and flexibility, the current policy regarding pass/fail grades (DI/DII) will be extended through 2020-21. Also, current policies regarding unofficial documents (DI/DII) and the core-course time limitation (DI) will be extended to prospective student-athletes who initially enroll full time in 2021-22.
- c. 2020-21 application – enhanced flexibility.** Due to fairness and consistency, as well as health and safety concerns, the current application of alternative DI/DII standards will be expanded to include all prospective student-athletes (including pre-2020 graduates) who initially enroll full time in 2020-21 (as opposed to limiting such flexibility to expected spring/summer 2020 graduates).

Further, apply legislated requirements without test scores (similar to the 2021-22 recommendation) to prospective student-athletes who initially enroll full time in 2020-21.

3. College Basketball Reform – implementation of the Division I men’s and women’s basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance. The committee received a report that four of the five applicants from spring 2020 have graduated and one fund recipient is in her final courses this summer. The staff also reported that there are five

applicants for the 2020 fall term. The spring and summer 2021 application process will begin August 1, 2020.

4. Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics. The committee reviewed the reports of the June 17, July 15 and July 24 teleconferences of the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics. After reviewing the reports, the committee determined the following:

a. Suspended sport competition season. Student-athletes who wish to transfer from an institution when the sport's competitive season has been cancelled or postponed cannot use the discontinued sport exception to avoid serving a year in residence at the new institution. The committee determined that the act of cancelling a sport's competitive season does not equate to discontinuing the sport.

b. Missed-term exception. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, student-athletes will be permitted to use the missed-term exception for a term during the 2020-21 academic year without it counting as the one opportunity to use the exception. The committee also recommended that a student-athlete be permitted to participate in outside competition during a term while enrolled less than full time and still be permitted to use the missed-term exception, provided the student-athlete is not participating in any way with their collegiate team.

c. Full-time enrollment during the 2020-21 academic year. Waivers of the full-time enrollment legislation should continue to be handled on a case-by-case basis. The committee agreed with the direction the subcommittee provided when analyzing individual waiver requests. Some flexibility should be provided to student-athletes who are not permitted to enroll full time to engage in virtual team activities during the term of less-than-full-time enrollment. However, the committee recommended that student-athletes who could enroll full time in either live or virtual coursework with their institution but choose not to, should not be eligible for practice or competition while they are not enrolled full time.

5. NCAA Division I Council report. The committee received reports from the Council's June 25 and July 15 videoconferences.

6. Reports of the Committee on Academics' June meeting. The committee reviewed the report from its June 11 videoconference.

7. Future meeting dates.

a. October 21, 2020 – videoconference;

b. February 18-19, 2021 – Indianapolis; and

c. May 11-12, 2021 – Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: John DeGioia, Georgetown University

Staff Liaisons: Shauna Cobb, Academic and Membership Affairs

Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs

Binh T. Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Committee on Academics July 30, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.	
Jerry Bovee, Utah State University.	
Brynn Carlson, Kansas State University.	
Manoj Chopra, University of Central Florida.	
John E. Davidson, The Ohio State University.	
Beth DeBauche, Ohio Valley Conference.	
John DeGioia, Georgetown University.	
K. Renia Edwards, Mississippi Valley State University.	
Ursula Gurney, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Dianne Harrison, California State University, Northridge.	
Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League.	
Jessica Kumke, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.	
Karen Paisley, University of Utah.	
Kim Record, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.	
Joe Scogin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.	
Ted White, University of Virginia.	
Pamela Whitten, Kennesaw State University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
Absentees:	
Jacqueline Blackett, Columbia University – Barnard College.	
Eric Hall, Elon University.	
Lynn W. Thompson, Bethune-Cookman University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Shauna Cobb, Jennifer Henderson and Binh Nguyen.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Emily Capehart, Greg Dana, Judy Delp, Kelsey Gurganus, Brandy Hataway, Doug Healey, Michelle Hosick, Leilani Hubbard, Charnele Kemper, Jessica Kerr, Brandon Lee, Andy Louthain, Mike Massa, Tom Paskus, Todd Petr, Jennifer Smith, Nick Sproull, Carrie Leger White, Quintin Wright and Katy Yurk.	