



**STRATEGIC REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
MAY 11, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE
PREPARED FOR THE NCAA DIVISION I BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Holistic review of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program.** [Academics] [Fairness] [Organizational] The committee concluded its holistic review of the APP. This review was endorsed by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors in August 2018, with the acknowledgement that the APP involves a multitude of elements that illustrate student-athlete academic success, especially the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate. The board expressed interest in ensuring that any recommended modifications maintain the validity of the APR as a valid predictor of graduation.

The committee maintained the current application in the following areas:

- a. APR and Graduation Success Rate cohort composition.
- b. APP public recognition.
- c. Head coaches' APR.
- d. Components and calculation of the APR.
- e. Delayed graduation points.
- f. APR and GSR cohort composition.
- g. Adjustment for APR retention points lost to professional sports departures.
- h. Accounting for transfers (and the 2.600 adjustment).

The committee agreed to extend the APP filters for limited-resourced institutions. Limited-resourced teams have been able to avoid penalties and/or loss of access to postseason by meeting a standard that shows academic improvement of teams at the school. Teams will now be able to use those filters twice in a rolling, five-year period. The committee decided to limit the use of the filters in this way to better ensure teams are working toward increased academic achievement. The committee will continue to require an enhanced APR improvement plan for any team taking advantage of the filter.

The committee also amended the calculation of the APR for postbaccalaureate student-athletes. The committee determined these student-athletes will continue to be included in the APR cohort, however, the retention point will be removed as an element of the APR calculation for these student-athletes.

Both policy changes are effective with the 2020-21 APR data submitted fall 2021.

2. **Academic-based models for four-year college transfer student-athletes.** [Academics] [Fairness] During its April meeting, the Board of Directors removed the legislative moratorium on transfer legislation and reaffirmed its charge to the committee regarding the development of recommendations for academic criteria associated with a four-year college transfer exception.

The committee continued to discuss potential academic models to include in a four-year college transfer exception. The committee agreed that all student-athletes should have the same ability to use a transfer exception, regardless of sport, but also agreed it is important to mitigate any academic

risk factors to graduation through an academic-based component. The committee reviewed data that demonstrated the likelihood of graduation when considering these models in comparison to student-athletes who do not transfer. The committee also recognized the impact such models could have on certain sports or groups of student-athletes. The committee noted that some of these models can provide the appropriate flexibility for student-athletes while mitigating many of the risk factors to graduation. The committee expressed its willingness to collaborate with other governance groups to develop the appropriate academic-based and non-academic-based requirements to include in a transfer exception proposal.

3. **College Basketball Reform – implementation of the Division I men’s and women’s basketball student-athlete degree completion program.** [Academics] [Fairness] [Well-Being] The staff updated the committee on the implementation of the men’s and women’s basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance legislation. Ninety percent of the current recipients have either graduated or will graduate by the end of this summer. The number of funding recipients is still relatively low, and the committee discussed efforts to educate the membership on the availability of the degree completion program for limited-resourced institutions. The committee also received further updates on the outreach efforts over the course of this past year. Finally, the committee previewed the changes to the NCAA Academic Portal to allow for the collection of data to determine how many former basketball student-athletes are positively affected by this membership requirement for all of Division I.
4. **Update on the NCAA Division I Academic Unit (academic-based revenue distribution).** [Academics] [Fairness] The committee received an update on the status of the Academic Unit and the ongoing educational and outreach efforts surrounding the distribution. The first distribution will be allocated in early June. Approximately 85 percent of Division I institutions will meet at least one of the three criteria to qualify for the distribution.

The committee noted that educational and outreach efforts continue to ensure institutions are aware of the requirements and staff continues to assist those institutions that are not currently meeting any of the three criteria.

5. **Update on the NCAA Division I Wrestling Academic Enhancement Working Group.** [Academics] [Fairness] [Well-Being] The committee received an update on the working group established at the request of the National Wrestling Coaches Association to discuss recommendations to improve the academic performance of wrestling student-athletes. The working group met in person on February 25-26 and used that meeting to review academic extensive data on wrestling. The working group formed eligibility and retention subcommittees and will spend the next several months reviewing additional data and developing recommendations to positively impact the academic performance of wrestling student-athletes. The working group plans to provide recommendations to the Committee on Academics at its October meeting.

*Note: The associated NCAA core values are noted with each agenda item (academics, fairness, well-being, organizational).

For additional detail, the committee’s full report may be accessed on ncaa.org by clicking [here](#).