



**STRATEGIC REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS  
MAY 6-7, 2024, MEETING  
FOR THE NCAA DIVISION I BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Update on Division I four-year college transfer activity.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics received an update on current transfer activities in Division I. At its April 2024 meeting, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors ratified the adoption of NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2024-5 (Recruiting and Academic Eligibility – Four-Year College Transfers), effective immediately. The proposal eliminated the default year of residence for undergraduate transfer student-athletes and aligns transfer eligibility with existing academic eligibility requirements for all student-athletes. Specifically, a student-athlete must leave the previous institution academically eligible (except percentage of degree) and in good standing and meet all progress-toward-degree requirements at the new institution. The proposal also revised the notification of transfer process for a four-year college transfer student-athlete noting that a student-athlete may be entered into the NCAA Transfer Portal only during their sport-specific transfer window, and the transfer window closing date for postgraduate transfer student-athletes will align with undergraduate transfer window dates. The NCAA research staff provided information and preliminary modeling of the referrals from the Board of Directors to develop a Graduation Passport and an NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate for transfer student-athletes (Transfer APR). The committee provided guidance to the staff as they work on operationalizing the two new initiatives and will address any operational issues that arise as the staff begins to develop the Graduation Passport and the Transfer APR. An update on the development of both initiatives will be provided to the committee at its July videoconference and future meetings. Lastly, the committee received an update on transfer trends based on the latest data from the Transfer Portal. The committee will continue to closely monitor the impact of transfer on student-athlete academic performance and graduation and will review the APR data submitted this fall and graduation rates data to inform any future policy or legislative actions.
2. **Broad-based review of baseball legislation and policies by the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee (SAEC).** The Committee on Academics received an update regarding a broad-based review of baseball-specific legislation and policies. Over the past several years, the baseball community has requested consideration of various blanket waivers and rule changes, primarily focused on roster and counter limits, official visit limitations and financial aid limits. The SAEC recognized that many of the baseball-specific rules are interconnected, and any changes may have unintended consequences in other areas of the legislation. Therefore, a holistic review is necessary. The SAEC will work with various stakeholders, including the Committee on Academics, on the broad-based review over the next several months with the possibility that any legislative changes could be voted on by the NCAA Division I Council in January 2025.
3. **Comprehensive review of membership requirements by the NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee (SVPC).** The Committee on Academics received an update regarding the comprehensive review of the membership requirements being conducted by the Strategic Vision and Planning Committee. SVPC has continued its review

of the reclassification process for institutions moving from Division II or III to Division I based on objective standards. SVPC will continue to discuss the transition process for reclassifying institutions from Division II to Division I and from Division III to Division I with the possibility to accelerate the timeline if elevated objective benchmarks are achieved. SVPC is in the process of forming a working group to develop detailed processes and categories of focus, which will develop initial concepts later this summer. A member of the Committee on Academics will serve on this working group to provide expertise on academic benchmarks under consideration. Updates will be provided to the Committee on Academics as this review continues throughout the summer and into the fall.

4. **Update on the NCAA Division I degree completion program for basketball.** The committee received an update on the degree completion program for former basketball student-athletes, including educational outreach to the membership. With the upcoming change to the NCAA Division I legislation based on the student-athlete holistic model effective August 1, 2024, the legislated degree completion requirements will be expanded to all sports. The NCAA staff is working to ensure a seamless transition this fall, which includes updating the educational materials and toolkits on NCAA.org, updating the application process in the NCAA Program Hub, and activating an education/communications plan for former student-athletes and the membership to make them aware of the changes. Finally, the committee discussed possible collaboration with the NCAA Division I Degree Completion Program and will revisit this opportunity at a future meeting.
5. **Impact of conference realignment on the academic performance of student-athletes.** The committee conducted an initial discussion regarding possible academic impacts of conference realignment. Over the last few years, several realignment waves have occurred with several institutions moving conferences, new institutions reclassifying to Division I and the dissolution of an autonomy conference. Several conferences now have institutions that reach from coast to coast. These changes may have far-reaching implications, affecting the student-athlete experience and their overall mental, physical and academic well-being. Moving forward, the NCAA research staff will provide an update on the GOALS (Growth, Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students in College) data in 2025. In the interim, the committee will continue to monitor the impact of conference realignment through changes in academic rates and anecdotal information from student-athletes and campus personnel.
6. **Academic impact of the expansion of the College Football Playoff.** The committee had its initial discussion on the possible academic impacts of the expansion of the College Football Playoff. Beginning with the 2024-25 college football season, the College Football Playoff will implement a 12-team playoff bracket. This 12-team format is an expansion from the four-team format in place since 2014. Due to the expanded bracket and the timing of the additional contests, potential issues may arise with academic eligibility certifications and full-time enrollment of student-athletes as the new bracket will extend competition through the month of January. The committee will continue to monitor the impacts and discuss this at a future meeting.

7. **Pre-enrollment academic integrity discussion.** The committee also heard an update regarding a discussion on the application of the pre-enrollment academic integrity legislation for postgraduate transfers. The subcommittee confirmed that fraudulent admissions materials submitted by or on behalf of prospective student-athletes, including postgraduate transfers, as part of the admissions process is a violation of academic integrity legislation (NCAA Bylaw 14.9.1). The subcommittee recommended the NCAA Division I Interpretations Committee consider whether additional clarity is necessary to reinforce the scope of the pre-enrollment academic integrity legislation by codifying this intent within the legislation.

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