



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

KEY ITEM.

- **Division I four-year college transfer activity.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics received an update on the recent developments in the four-year college transfer landscape and continued its discussion on the academic impact on student-athletes who transfer more than once. The committee will oversee and provide guidance as the Graduation Passport and the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate for transfer student-athletes are being developed and operationalized to monitor transfer-specific graduation data and trends. [Informational Item No. 1]

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Update on Division I four-year college transfer activity.** The committee 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 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. Update on the NCAA Division I Academic Unit (academic-based revenue distribution).** The committee received an update on the Division I Academic Unit, which will be the fifth year of actual funding distribution. The Academic Unit distribution will be allocated in spring 2024. Approximately 87% of eligible Division I institutions met at least one of the three criteria to qualify for the distribution. This 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.
- 3. Update on two-year college community outreach.** The committee received an update regarding the ongoing outreach with the two-year college community. With a goal of collaborating with two-year colleges to exchange information and resources, the NCAA staff continues to meet with the leadership of the various two-year college associations to continue to grow this relationship.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.

7. **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.
8. **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.
9. **Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA) update.** The committee received an update regarding the FARA annual meeting, which will be held November 14-16 in Dallas, Texas. The sessions are being developed and more information will be shared over the summer, including registration details.
10. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals.** The committee received an update from the Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals regarding the teams potentially subject to NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program penalties and/or loss of access to postseason competition based on the submission of APR data in fall 2023. The subcommittee will continue to review and update the waiver directive for next year's submission of APR data. It is anticipated the APP waiver directive will be presented to the full committee for review and approval at its summer videoconference.
11. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data.** The committee was provided with an overview of various discussion items related to APR adjustments, including documentation standards for requests citing medically related

mitigation, grade-point average requirement for requests for student-athletes who immediately transfer to a two-year college and requests involving progress-toward-degree waivers submitted for the student-athlete. The subcommittee will update the APR adjustment directive at a future meeting and present it to the full committee for approval before the start of the 2024-25 academic year. The committee also received an update on the progress of this season's APP data reviews. Thirty-two institutions are currently undergoing a data review, and all reviews are expected to be completed by the end of August.

12. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.** The committee received an update on a blanket waiver for full-time enrollment issued by the subcommittee to an institution that will separate into two distinct universities effective fall 2024. The blanket waiver was needed for student-athletes who plan to participate in athletics at one institution while enrolled at the other institution. 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. Finally, the committee approved the 2024-25 Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Directive, 2-4 Transfer Waiver Directive, Previously Approved Waiver Checklist and the NCAA Division I Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers Committee Policies and Procedures. While most changes were editorial, the Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Directive was updated to indicate a waiver is unavailable for a student-athlete who fails to meet applicable academic eligibility requirements for competition due to an institutional policy. Additionally, the restrictive transfer directive was removed, and the restrictive degree program directive was updated to include the timeframe a student-athlete is required to rectify a deficiency.
13. **NCAA Division I Board of Directors.** The committee received a report from the most recent meetings of the Board of Directors.
14. **NCAA Division I Council report.** The committee received a report from the most recent Council meetings.
15. **Committee on Academics' strategic priorities.** The committee reviewed its strategic priorities.
16. **NCAA legal update.** The committee received an update from the NCAA office of legal affairs regarding new and ongoing litigation.

17. **NCAA research update.** The committee received an update on key research initiatives, including a preview of APR trends from the most recent cohort submitted by member institutions in fall 2023.
18. **Academic technology update.** The committee received an update on the rollout of Compliance Assistant (CA) 2.0 which is now complete. Additionally, the committee was notified that CA will absorb the NCAA Academic Portal in early 2025, which will assist with making the APP data collection more efficient as both platforms will combine into one system.
19. **Educational outreach and initiatives.** The committee received an update on the ongoing education outreach provided to NCAA institutions and conferences. The staff is providing educational updates to the membership via conference meetings, campus visits and at the 2024 NCAA Regional Rules Seminar in Las Vegas in June. Regional Rules attendees can take in various academic-related sessions and benefit from an entire day of programming dedicated to Division I academics focusing on the APP and Bylaw 14.
20. **Report of the Committee on Academics February 1 videoconference.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its February 1 videoconference.
21. **Future meeting dates.**
 - a. July 29 videoconference.
 - b. October 30-31 in-person meeting; 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 May 6-7, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University. (via videoconference)	
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.	
David Benedict, University of Connecticut.	
Jill Bodensteiner, Saint Joseph's University.	
Kevin Bostian, Northwestern State University.	
Lissa Broome, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.	
Rob Carson, Furman University.	
Robert Davies, Central Michigan University.	

Aldrich Elvambuena, American University. (via videoconference)
Jon Fagg, University of Texas at Arlington. (via videoconference)
Scott Fuess, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
Jessica Goerke, University of California, Santa Barbara.
Colleen Heimstead, North Dakota State University.
Joseph Jupille, University of Colorado, Boulder.
Jessica Kumke, Horizon League.
Genese Lavalais, Alabama State University.
Marion McClary, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.
Susan Williams, University of Kansas.
Absentees:
John Volin, University of Maine.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Jennifer Henderson, Binh Nguyen and Quintin Wright.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Mark Aiken, Drew Aldridge, Troy Arthur, Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Amanda Conklin, Judy Delp, Katie Ethridge, Michele Forte-Osborne, Saquandra Heath, Doug Healey, Leilani Hubbard, Tom Paskus, Lee Rathbun, Dave Schnase, Jennifer Smith, Kathy Sulentic, DeAnna Wiley and Katy Yurk.