



**STRATEGIC REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS  
OCTOBER 9-10, 2018, MEETING  
PREPARED FOR THE DIVISION I BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **College basketball reform -- Student-Athlete Support and Degree Completion Topical Working Group.** The committee began to develop the recommendation from the Commission on College Basketball to establish a degree completion fund for former basketball scholarship student-athletes who left their Division I institution having completed at least two years towards their baccalaureate degree. The committee discussed how the program would be funded, minimum requirements for access to funding, and how to best mandate degree completion programming across Division I. The staff will provide an initial draft of best practices for the committee to approve prior to membership distribution.
2. **Academic integrity.** The committee received an update on the concepts under development by the NCAA Division I Academic Misconduct Working Group. The working group is represented by two members of the Committee on Academics, in addition to representatives from the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions and the NCAA Division I Infractions Appeals Committee. The purpose of the review is to clarify the NCAA's collective role in addressing issues of academic integrity within the context of institutional deference and autonomy over academic matters.

The committee discussed two concepts under development by the working group that will be reviewed by the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum at its forthcoming October meeting. The committee expressed initial support for the concept of codifying annual oversight and monitoring by an institutional committee with the proper academic authority, noting that many institutions already do, or should, conduct similar processes.

The committee also discussed the concept of requiring all institutions to maintain policies and procedures that address a range of academic areas. The concept would further require that in the absence of a general policy that applies to all students in a specified area (e.g., grade changes), an institution would be required to establish a policy that specifically applies to student-athletes. The committee expressed concern with a student-athlete specific approach to core academic areas, noting that when it comes to academic matters, NCAA legislation has historically reinforced that student-athletes be subject to the same policies and processes as the general student body. The committee noted that creating additional academic policies and procedures for student-athletes would not only deviate from NCAA core principles, but likely encounter implementation challenges as well.

The committee will continue to support and provide feedback to the working group and the Presidential Forum, as needed, as it continues its refinement of Phase Two concepts designed to fortify the NCAA's approach to academic-integrity issues.

3. **Comprehensive review of the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate.** The committee began its comprehensive review of the APR, informed by the guiding principles of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program. In August, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors endorsed the committee's recommendation for a comprehensive review of the APR. Specifically, the board agreed that a comprehensive approach to the multitude of circumstances that inform the APR would best ensure that any recommended modifications maintain the validity of the APR as a predictor of graduation.

The committee received an overview of data and policy that inform the current APR, including: the APR calculation, APR cohort composition, transfer adjustment policy, postgraduate APR policy, professional sports adjustment policy, delayed graduation points, APR penalty structure and filters, public recognition program, and head coach APR policy. The committee identified particular areas of focus within the identified areas and will receive a progress report on the review at its February 2019 meeting.

4. **Academic summit.** The committee received an update from the academic summit working group on its progress in planning an academic summit focused on current and future issues facing higher education. An objective of the summit is to establish and foster a collaborative partnership with external organizations dedicated to higher education that may help the Committee on Academics and the NCAA identify and discuss trends and issues in higher education impacting the general student body and student-athletes, which may impact future strategic initiatives for the committee and the Association. The committee noted such programming would be valuable for campus provosts, noting college presidents and chancellors most commonly transition directly from the provost position. The summit is slated to be scheduled in late 2019 or early 2020 in the greater Washington, D.C., metro area.
5. **Postgraduate academic enrollment requirements.** The committee continued its review of the postgraduate academic enrollment requirements for student-athletes who progress through their undergraduate degrees with athletics eligibility remaining. Currently, a student-athlete's academic options are dictated by whether they remain at their undergraduate institution or seek to use any remaining athletics eligibility at a new institution. Specifically, student-athletes who enroll at a new institution after completing a baccalaureate degree are required to pursue a graduate or professional degree program (e.g., master's degree, law school) whereas student-athletes who remain at their undergraduate institution may pursue any post-baccalaureate or graduate enrollment option available to continuing students (e.g., second baccalaureate degree, optional minor, graduate certificate program, etc.).

The committee confirmed that while there should continue to be academic expectations for all postgraduate student-athletes, access to additional educational opportunities should be explored. While certain student-athletes are prepared for and interested in immediately pursuing graduate school, all student-athletes should have access to educational options

that best align with their interests, qualifications and future career. The committee discussed how internships and other high-impact experiential opportunities may also better prepare certain student-athletes for transitioning into life after college. The committee noted that further legislative latitude would need to be explored to accommodate access to some types of experiential opportunities that are not built into existing postgraduate curriculums.

The committee reviewed academic data associated with this growing population of Division I student-athletes and confirmed that updated data that reflects the academic trends of this group of students would be informative to further review.

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