



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I ACADEMICS AND ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE
JULY 28, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Exception to the NCAA Transfer Windows when a student-athlete's academic program is discontinued.** The NCAA Division I Cabinet has requested the NCAA Division I Academics and Eligibility Committee consider whether an exception to the NCAA Transfer Windows should be permitted when a student-athlete's academic program is discontinued. The current legislation permits a student-athlete to initiate the notification of transfer process outside the legislated transfer windows in the following instances:
 1. The head coach departs the institution;
 2. The student-athlete's aid is reduced, cancelled or not renewed;
 3. The student-athlete's sport is discontinued; or
 4. The student-athlete is seeking to compete as a postgraduate transfer (except in football).

The Academics and Eligibility Committee initially supported the creation of an exception that would permit a student-athlete to enter the Transfer Portal outside the legislated windows if their academic program is discontinued at their institution and requested the NCAA staff develop models for consideration at its next meeting for possible legislative introduction.

2. **Requests for legislation from the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee's Legislative Task Force.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee has been asked to consider two requests from the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee's Legislative Task Force related to practice criteria and the receipt of prize money by student-athletes training for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Academics and Eligibility Committee has legislative authority over the NCAA bylaws that would need to be amended if the concepts were introduced into the legislative cycle and ultimately adopted. The following are the two concepts for the committee's consideration:

Concept No. 1: To specify, the receipt of funds, awards, benefits, prize money or expenses provided directly by a country's national Olympic and/or Paralympic governing body (equivalent to the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee) or the sport-affiliated national governing body (or, for international student-athletes, the equivalent organization of that nation) is permitted.

Concept No. 2: To revise the current exception for individuals to participate in organized practice sessions with an institution's sport program in preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, as specified.

The Academics and Eligibility Committee will continue its discussion of these concepts at its next meeting with possible legislative introduction.

3. **Proposed playing and practice seasons model for football.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee received an overview of the proposed playing and practice season model for football that was introduced into the October 2026 legislative cycle. The proposal, if adopted, would modify the out-of-season activities, preseason practice period and written notification of transfer period. It was also noted that the Football Championship Subdivision Oversight Committee (FCSOC) recommended a change in the summer enrollment requirement for a student-athlete to engage in summer activities. Lastly, the FCSOC also proposed a concept to permit an institution to engage in a joint practice/scrimmage with another four-year institution, provided certain criteria are met. The Academics and Eligibility Committee will monitor this proposal to determine any impact on the academic performance of football student-athletes.
4. **Division I age-based eligibility model.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee received an update on the adoption of the age-based eligibility model. Education is being provided to the membership through webinars and a comprehensive question and answer document. The cabinet will continue to address implementation issues as the model continues to be implemented.
5. **Report from the NCAA Division I Academics and Eligibility Committee Academic Eligibility Subcommittee.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee received an update from the Academic Eligibility Subcommittee on the following items: (1) Approval of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP) directive for waivers and adjustments; (2) Approval of directives for NCAA Division I initial-eligibility and progress-toward-degree waivers and the previously approved waiver checklist for progress-toward-degree deficiencies; and (3) Approval of initial-eligibility waivers and High School Review and International Student Records Committees policies and procedures. The subcommittee also has been engaged in an in-depth review of the current continuing eligibility legislation in NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 (full-time enrollment, good academic standing, credit hour, percentage of degree and grade-point average requirements). Lastly, the subcommittee considered a request from a member conference that would provide a one-term grace period for tracking percentage of degree for transfer student-athletes upon their full-time enrollment at the next Division I institution. The subcommittee did not support pursuing legislation at this time and will determine if any flexibility can be provided through the waiver process.
6. **Report from the Athletics Eligibility Subcommittee.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee received an update from the subcommittee on its review and approval of updated guidelines related to student-athlete reinstatement requests. In addition, with the adoption of the age-based eligibility model, the subcommittee updated its guidelines for pre-enrollment athletics eligibility certification guidelines due to age-based legislation passing. Lastly, the subcommittee approved a policy change related to the consideration of waivers from other divisions.

7. **Division I Membership reclassification visits and academic eligibility reviews.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee received an update on the academic reviews required as a part of the membership reclassification process to Division I. Division I legislation adopted in January 2025, amended the criteria for institutions reclassifying to Division I. One requirement for institutions in the three-year reclassification process is satisfactory completion of an academic review conducted by the national office staff. This legislation was developed in collaboration with the Division I Committee on Academics.

The academic review process for reclassifying institutions is similar to the APP data review implemented for all Division I members in 2006. The purpose of the review is to ensure accuracy of APP data and student-athlete eligibility certification. It also helps institutions collect and submit accurate data, provide valuable policy feedback and offers education on the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR), Graduation Success Rate (GSR) and eligibility certification. The academic review process for a reclassifying institution includes the following steps:

1. APP education;
2. NCAA Division I Progress-Toward-Degree education;
3. Subset review;
4. APR/GSR review;
5. Policies and procedures review; and
6. Corrections.

The seven institutions have already completed an academic review conducted by the NCAA staff and four institutions are currently in the academic review process. The following issues were identified by the NCAA staff during the academic eligibility reviews: (1) Increasing the denominator when certifying for percentage of degree; (2) Incomplete certification forms; (3) Independent certification process; (4) Inconsistent APR and GSR cohort inclusion of student-athletes; and (5) Inadequate policy and procedures for academic eligibility certification and submission of APP data.

8. **NCAA Division I governance update.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee received an update on several key initiatives currently underway in Division I and upcoming topics to be discussed at the August cabinet and NCAA Division I Board of Directors meetings.
9. **NCAA legal update.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee received an update from the NCAA Office of Legal Affairs regarding new and ongoing litigation.
10. **APP policies and procedures.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee reviewed and approved the APP policies and procedures for the upcoming data collection.
11. **NCAA research update.** Due to time constraints, the Academics and Eligibility Committee will receive an update at its next meeting.

12. **NCAA Division I degree completion update.** Due to time constraints, the Academics and Eligibility Committee will receive an update at its next meeting.
13. **Report of the Academics and Eligibility Committee May 8 videoconference meeting.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee reviewed and approved the report from its May 8 meeting.
14. **Other business.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee received an update on the appointment of new committee members. Their terms will begin September 1, 2026.
15. **Future meeting dates.**
 - September 21-22, videoconference.

**Additional videoconferences will be scheduled.*

Committee Chair: Shauna Cobb, Boston College
Staff Liaisons: Jennifer Henderson, Governance and Member Services
Binh T. Nguyen, Governance and Member Services
Quintin Wright, Governance and Member Services

NCAA Division I Academics and Eligibility Committee July 28, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Kevin Bostian, Northwestern State University.	
Matt Burgemeister, Atlantic Coast Conference (alternate).	
Scott Carr, Florida International University.	
Shauna Cobb, Boston College.	
Scott Fuess, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.	
Taryn Gall, Lehigh University.	
Jessica Goerke, University of San Diego.	
Rachel Holycross, Purdue University Fort Wayne.	
Jason Leonard, University of Oklahoma.	
Maggie McKinley, University of Cincinnati.	
Kevin Melendrez, New Mexico State University.	
Quinn Millerd, Drake University.	
Ron Moses, Old Dominion University.	
Jeremy Robinett, Western Illinois University.	
Maura Smith, Sun Belt Conference (alternate).	
Susan Williams, University of Kansas.	
Eric Wood, University of Mississippi.	

Absentees:
David Benedict, University of Connecticut.
Lissa Broome, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Kim Durand, University of Washington.
Kaitlyn Flanagan, College of Holy Cross.
Ron Moses, Old Dominion University.
Caemon Scott, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Jennifer Henderson, Binh Nguyen and Quintin Wright.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Connor Bush, Katie Ethridge, Maison Hubbard, Geoff Silver, Jen Smith, Jared Tidemann, Jerry Vaughn and Katy Yurk.