



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I ACADEMICS AND ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE
MAY 8, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

KEY ITEM.

- **Expedited Legislative Proposal to Modify the 2-4 and 4-2-4 Transfer Requirements.** The NCAA Division I Academics and Eligibility Committee recommended the NCAA Division I Cabinet introduce a legislative proposal to modify the requirements for student-athletes that transfer from a two-year college to a four-year college. [See Legislative Action Item.]

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Legislative Item.**
 - **Two-Year College Transfer Requirements.**
 - (1) **Recommendation.** That the cabinet introduce legislative changes into June 2026, expedited legislative process to modify the requirements for student-athletes that transfer from a two-year college to a four-year college.
 - (2) **Effective date.** Immediate; applicable to two-year and 4-2-4 transfer student-athletes seeking eligibility during the 2026-27 academic year and thereafter.
 - (3) **Rationale.** This proposal amends the two-year college transfer legislation to better align eligibility standards with those applied to other student-athlete populations while maintaining key indicators of academic success. Specifically, the proposal reduces the transferable grade-point average requirement from 2.500 to 2.000, eliminates certain credit-hour accumulation thresholds (including the average of 12 hours and the 48/72-hour requirement for nonqualifiers) and removes extended term-of-residence requirements in certain cases. This proposal retains critical academic safeguards, including limits on physical education activity credit and completion of core academic coursework, as well as existing progress-toward-degree requirements that apply to all student-athletes. These changes are supported by the NCAA Division I Academics and Eligibility Committee Academic Eligibility Subcommittee and reflect a shift toward emphasizing equitable access to four-year participation opportunities while preserving academic integrity. This proposal maintains the foundational elements identified as predictors of academic success while removing requirements that have not demonstrated a clear or consistent impact on improved outcomes. Finally, this proposal includes an immediate effective date, which will allow current student-athletes, particularly those serving a year-of-residence, to benefit from the revised standards without delay. This approach maximizes access to participation opportunities while maintaining appropriate academic benchmarks and minimizing unintended consequences.

This proposal represents a measured and data-informed modernization of two-year transfer legislation. It promotes fairness and consistency across transfer pathways, enhances access to academics and athletics opportunities and aligns NCAA policy with its stated commitment to student-athlete success.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Division I Age-Based Eligibility Model.** The Academics and Eligibility Committee received an update on a proposed age-based eligibility model, in which an individual's Division I period of athletics eligibility would commence at the start of the academic year immediately following the individual's 19th birthday or high school graduation (or expected high school graduation based on the individual's first year of high school enrollment), whichever is earlier. The age-based collegiate eligibility model would eliminate seasons of competition. Existing "redshirt" exceptions in football and wrestling would no longer be relevant because student-athletes would be permitted to compete in the maximum number of contests within the five calendar years of eligibility. The model also eliminates waivers previously used to extend the period of eligibility (extensions and athletics activity waivers) or to restore used seasons (medical hardship and season-of-competition waivers). The only legislated exceptions that would remain would be those that are narrow and clearly defined (e.g., pregnancy, religious missions and active-duty military service). Further, all current rules regarding delayed-enrollment would be removed, simplifying the eligibility process for student-athletes and member institutions.¹ The committee will continue to receive updates on this concept and potential implementation details for review during future meetings.
- 2. Legislation Decentralization and Deregulation.** The committee received an update on the decentralization initiative, including modeling related to the NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 decentralization review. The NCAA staff will seek broader membership feedback with the goal of introducing a proposal for the October 2026, legislative cycle. The committee requested that it be included in any potential discussions related to any bylaw that may have an impact on the academic performance of student-athletes.
- 3. Report from the Academic Eligibility Subcommittee.** The committee heard an overview of the discussions regarding the NCAA Division Academic Progress Rate and Graduation Success Rate cohort definitions, two-year college transfer legislative recommendations and updates to waiver directives for NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program penalties

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**Note: Some elements of the age-based eligibility model were modified by the cabinet at its June 5, 2026, meeting.*

and APR adjustments. The subcommittee elected to remove the grade-point average requirement for the automatic APR adjustment to retention points lost when student-athletes immediately transfer to a two-year college. The change is effective with the submission of 2025-26 data and is not retroactive to previous years.

4. **Report from the Athletics Eligibility Subcommittee.** The committee received an update from the subcommittee on the Pre-Enrollment Athletics Certification Conditions guidelines. The subcommittee began a review of guidelines related to student-athlete reinstatement, delayed-enrollment and waivers related to athletics eligibility. Finally, the subcommittee continued its discussion on sports wagering violations and potential conditions for involved student-athletes.
5. **NCAA research update.** The committee received an update on key research initiatives, including APR trends from the most recent cohort submitted by member institutions in fall 2025, additional reports accessible through The Growth, Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students in college (GOALS) study and the focus of the SNAP surveys distributed this past year seeking student-athlete input.
6. **Division I Academic Unit update.** The committee received an update on this year's Division I Academic Unit. The next distribution will be allocated in spring 2026. Approximately 89% of all eligible Division I institutions will meet at least one of the criteria to qualify for distribution this year. The committee will continue to review the eligibility criteria and operational issues, as needed.
7. **Division I degree completion update.** The committee received an overview of the current legislation and programs offered to Division I student-athletes for undergraduate degree completion.
8. **NCAA Division I governance update.** The committee received an update on several key initiatives currently underway in Division I and upcoming topics to be discussed at the cabinet and NCAA Division I Board of Directors meetings.
9. **NCAA enforcement update.** The committee received an update from the NCAA enforcement staff on recent trends and activity regarding academic integrity.
10. **NCAA legal update.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Office of Legal Affairs regarding new and ongoing litigation.
11. **The National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals (N4A) report.** The committee received an update from the N4A, including National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) convention planning, Accelerating Academic Success Program (AASP) Grant support and professional development programming with their membership.

12. **Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA) update.** The committee received an update on the 2026 FARA Annual Meeting scheduled for November 9 to 10 in Indianapolis. The sessions are currently being developed and more information will be shared over the summer.
13. **Report of the Academics and Eligibility Committee January 13-14 meeting.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its January 13-14 meeting.
14. **Future meeting dates.**
 - Summer videoconferences: June 3, June 24, July 15, and July 28.
 - September 21-22, in-person in Indianapolis.

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 May 8, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
David Benedict, University of Connecticut.
Lissa Broome, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
Shauna Cobb, Boston College.
Kim Durand, University of Washington.
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.
Susan Williams, University of Kansas.
Eric Wood, University of Mississippi.
Absentees:
Kevin Bostian, Northwestern State University.
Scott Carr, Florida International University.
Kaitlyn Flanagan, College of Holy Cross.
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, Robert Bozick, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Connor Bush, Amanda Conklin, Katie Ethridge, Michelle Forte-Osborne, Brandy Hataway, Scott McDonald, Geoff Silver, Jen Smith, Jared Tidemann, Jerry Vaughn, DeAnna Wiley and Katy Yurk.