



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 8, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Discussion regarding the application of two-year college transfer requirements for qualifiers.** Staff provided an update regarding a request from the NCAA Two-Year College Relations Panel to review the application of the two-year college transfer requirements that were adopted by the membership at the 2014 NCAA Convention. The panel requested the committee consider flexibility of the current legislation that requires qualifiers with no previous attendance at a four-year institution, and more than one full-time term of attendance at the two-year college, to earn a specific number of transferable core credits in English, math and science to be eligible for competition, practice and athletics aid upon transferring to the certifying institution. During its September 16, 2020, videoconference, the committee initially discussed the request and agreed to review any available data at its next scheduled meeting. There was no additional data available to support flexibility; therefore, the committee recommended no changes to the legislation at this time.
- 2. Review of competition in year of transfer for two-year college transfers set forth in the NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.5.8.** The committee reviewed Bylaw 14.5.4.5.8 (competition in year of transfer) as a referral from the Division II Legislation Committee regarding the application of the competition in year of transfer legislation. The committee discussed whether a legislative change is necessary to provide clarification that a transfer student-athlete shall be ineligible at the certifying institution if he or she competes during the nonchampionship segment at the previous institution when the contest(s) count toward championships selection (e.g., golf or tennis) or if a transfer student-athlete's previous institution declared the alternate playing season. The committee agreed that a legislative change is not necessary at this time.
- 3. Discussion regarding NCAA Standardized Test Score Task Force.** Staff provided the committee with an update on a new task force to review current initial-eligibility requirements related to standardized test scores. The task force will monitor institutions that have implemented test optional admission policies, as well as review the impact of standardized testing on racial equality. Staff will continue to provide updates to the committee as information becomes available. The composition of the task force will include representatives from Divisions I and II and is expected to begin meeting by the end of the 2020-21 academic year.

4. **Review of Graduation Rates and NCAA Division II Academic Success Rates.** Staff provided an annual update of trends in current graduation rates and academic success rates. Both the federal graduation rate and academic success rates increased for student-athletes since last year. The national four-year ASR average increased one point to 74 percent overall, while the entering class of 2013 increased two points to 77 percent, which is an all-time single-year high. Even when looking at the much less inclusive federal graduation rates for Division II, student-athletes are still graduating at much higher rates than the general student-body. The federal rate for the 2013 entering class of college athletes increased one point to 62 percent, while the general student-body increased to 53 percent, an overall difference of nine points.
5. **Discussion regarding national academic recognition.** At the request of the membership, the committee reviewed the possibility of expanding the NCAA Division II Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence to include a recognition of the teams with the highest ASR in their respective sport. The committee agreed that more information was needed and requested that staff provide additional data to revisit the topic during its June 2021 videoconference.
6. **Update on NCAA Division II Academic Performance Census data submission.** The committee reviewed a list of institutions that requested extensions of their APC deadline for the 2020-21 academic year. A total of 11 institutions requested extensions in 2020, which were granted, and all other institutions submitted data on time.
7. **Update on the impact of new initial-eligibility standards.** Staff provided an update on the impact of new initial-eligibility standards that took effect August 1, 2018. There was no substantial impact in the first year of data following the legislative change. It was noted that there have been improvements in first year eligibility and grade-point average of student-athletes following the second year of data; however, these increases may have been higher due to flexibility provided in initial-eligibility requirements as a result of COVID-19.
8. **Update on the impact of COVID-19 alternative initial-eligibility standards and review of NCAA Division II newly adopted legislation.** The committee received an update on the 2020-21 initial-eligibility waivers under the COVID-19 alternative standards. The committee also reviewed the application of Division II Proposal No. 2021-2 (eligibility – freshman academic requirements and two-year college transfers – elimination of nonqualifier qualification status – access to athletics aid and practice for all incoming student-athletes), which eliminates the nonqualifier status from initial-eligibility certifications and permits all incoming student-athletes who do not meet qualifier requirements to receive athletics aid and participate in practice during the first academic year in residence. Partial qualifier academic requirements will still require student-athletes to submit documentation to finalize their academic certification to continue participating in practice beyond the 45-day period for certification.

9. **Update on the NCAA Strategic Alliance Matching Grant and the Division II Academic Advising Initiative Grant Program.** Staff updated the committee on the grant program. The three institutions that received grant funding for the 2020-21 cycle include: Southern Wesleyan University; University of Mount Olive and University of Wisconsin-Parkside.
10. **Update on Division II educational initiatives.** Staff provided an update on the 2020-21 educational initiatives, including the dates of the 2021 Regional Rules Seminar that will be held virtually June 7-9.
11. **Discussion regarding the October 2020 NCAA International Student Records Committee meeting.** Staff provided an update that the committee did not meet in October 2020 and is meeting on an as-needed-basis. The committee was updated on the priorities of the committee.
12. **Approval of the Academic Requirements Committee September 2020 videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its September 2020 videoconference.
13. **Review of the 2021-22 Academic Requirements Committee Roster.** The committee reviewed the updated roster.
14. **Updates from the winter 2021 meetings of the NCAA Division II Management Council and Division II Presidents Council.** The committee received an update from the winter 2021 videoconferences of the Management Council and Presidents Council.
15. **Review of 2020-21 subcommittee appointments.** The committee approved the subcommittee appointment for Danny McCabe, director of athletics at Adelphi University.
16. **Future meeting schedule.**
 - a. June 2021; videoconference, to be determined.
 - b. September 16-17, 2021, to be determined.
 - c. February 9-10, 2022, to be determined.
17. **Other business.** Staff updated the committee on definition changes regarding APC/ASR reporting of nonscholarship students as a result of COVID-19.

Committee Chair: Jessica Swiney, King University

*Staff Liaisons: Susan Britsch, Academic and Membership Affairs
Markie Cook, Research*

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee February 8, 2021, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Timothy Briles, Georgian Court University.	
Bennett Cherry, California State University, San Marcos.	
David Haase, University of West Georgia.	
Madison Heck, Georgian Court University.	
Karen Hjerpe, California University of Pennsylvania.	
Jim Johnson, Pittsburg State University.	
Tim Ladd, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Cheryl Lovell, Adams State University.	
Danny McCabe, Adelphi University.	
Jessica Swiney, King University.	
Absentees:	
Doug Peters, Minnesota State University Moorhead.	
Kelli Peterson, Cameron University.	
NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:	
Susan Britsch, Markie Cook and Angela Red.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Jenny Collins, Alyson Grady, Haydyn Gibson, Terri Steeb Gronau, Chelsea Hooks, Doug Healey, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Mckenzie Maneggia, Felicia Martin, Corbin McGuire, Lynn Morrow, Lamarr Pottinger and Stephanie Quigg.	