



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 23 AND MARCH 6, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCES**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

a. Noncontroversial Legislation -- NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.2.8.2.1 -- Eligibility -- Academic Eligibility -- Freshman Academic Requirements -- Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition -- Qualifiers and Partial Qualifiers -- Qualifier-- Elimination of Natural or Physical Science Lab Course Requirement Offered by High School.

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the natural or physical science lab course requirement from the qualifier core-course requirements.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, the initial-eligibility certification of a prospective student-athlete must include a lab course requirement if it is offered by their high school. The NCAA High School Review Committee reviewed initial-eligibility data related to the science lab requirement and noted the application of this requirement results in different certification processes solely based on what is offered by a high school. Additionally, the committee noted that the science lab requirement is no longer necessary, given that the existing criteria used to review science courses are sufficient for determining whether a course is college preparatory or not.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 14.2.9.3.7.1 -- Eligibility -- Academic Eligibility-- Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements -- Eligibility for Competition -- Exceptions to Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements -- Missed Term Exception -- Partial Qualifiers Not in Initial Year of Collegiate Enrollment.

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to permit a partial qualifier, that is in their initial year of enrollment at the certifying institution but is not in their initial year of collegiate enrollment, to have access to the missed term exception.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. Current legislation does not permit a partial qualifier to have access to the missed term exception during their initial year of enrollment at their current institution. The NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee believes that restricting access to the missed term exception for partial qualifiers who are beyond their initial year of collegiate enrollment but are within their initial year of enrollment at their current institution is overly restrictive and unfairly penalizes a student-athlete that is otherwise eligible to use the exception. The remaining requirements of the legislation would still need to be satisfied in order for a partial qualifier that is beyond their initial year of collegiate enrollment to use the missed term exception. Finally, the immediate effective date would permit student-athletes that were partial qualifiers during the 2025-26 academic year and who were in their first year of enrollment at their current institution but not in their initial year of collegiate enrollment to use the missed term exception.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Update on NCAA Division II Academic Performance Census data submissions.** The committee reviewed Academic Performance Census data submissions for the 2025-26 academic year. Twenty-five institutions either failed to submit their data or submitted their data after the deadline. The committee reviewed 21 waiver requests from institutions that triggered the penalty for failure to submit. The waiver requests from Bemidji State University; Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania; Caldwell University, California State University, Monterey Bay; California State University, San Bernardino; Chowan University; East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania; Flagler College; Johnson C. Smith University; LeMoyne-Owen College; Lincoln University (Missouri); Newman University; Roberts Wesleyan University; Southern New Hampshire University; St. Mary's University (Texas); and University of Charleston (West Virginia) were approved due to the totality of the circumstances, while the waiver requests from California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt; Franklin Pierce University; Sonoma State University; West Liberty University; and Western New Mexico University were denied due to a lack of mitigating circumstances.

[NOTE: Robert Coleman, director of athletics, St. Mary's University (Texas), recused themselves from the discussion and voting on the waiver requests from St. Mary's University (Texas) and Western New Mexico University. Eric Gobiell, director of athletics, Assumption University, recused themselves from the discussion and voting on the waiver

requests from Franklin Pierce University and Southern New Hampshire University. Liz Jorn, faculty athletics representative, Truman State University, recused themselves from the discussion and voting on the waiver request from Lincoln University (Missouri). Ryan Quann, registrar, Goldey-Beacom College, recused themselves from the discussion and voting on the waiver request from Caldwell University.]

2. **Review of the guidelines for progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer waivers for misadvisement assertions.** The committee discussed the misadvisement guidelines and directives for progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer waivers. Specifically, the committee reviewed previous cases in which the applicant institution attested that misadvisement or a lack of advisement led to the student-athlete's deficiency. The committee provided feedback on how misadvisement or lack of advisement assertions should be considered and directed staff to update language in the directives for the committee to consider at its June 2, 2026, videoconference.
3. **Referral from the Division II Eligibility Review Working Group regarding initial-eligibility requirements.** The committee reviewed a referral from the Eligibility Review Working Group and considered feedback from the membership survey that was conducted in spring 2025 that pertained to initial-eligibility requirements. The committee requested data that would be helpful to review as part of this referral, which will be shared with the committee at a future videoconference.
4. **Discussion regarding NCAA Division II Degree-Completion Award Program.** The committee began a review of the Degree-Completion Award Program as part of the Division II Operating Plan. The committee provided initial feedback on the overall impact and direction of the program and will engage in further discussions at a future meeting.
5. **Review of the transferable grade-point average calculation educational resource.** The committee reviewed and approved an educational resource regarding the application of the transferable grade-point average calculation for two-year college transfer student-athletes, which will be shared with the membership in spring 2026.
6. **Legislative referral from the NCAA High School Review Committee regarding science lab core-curriculum requirements.** The committee reviewed a referral from the High School Review Committee regarding the natural or physical science lab requirement and recommended noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the requirement from the qualifier core-course requirements. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1a.]
7. **Update on initial-eligibility certification data for the 2025-26 academic year.** The committee received an update on current data related to initial-eligibility certifications.
8. **Update regarding the Division II Operating Plan.** Staff provided an overview of the Division II Operating Plan that was released in January 2026 and highlighted the items that fall under the committee's purview.

9. **Review of NCAA Division II newly adopted legislation.** Staff provided an update on the newly adopted legislation from the 2026 NCAA Convention. The committee also discussed and provided feedback regarding the referral of NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-6 (eligibility -- athletics eligibility -- seasons of competition: 10-semester/15-quarter rule -- five seasons of competition in 10-semesters/15-quarters).
10. **Update from the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Board of Governors most recent meeting.
11. **Review of the NCAA Division II Executive Board and NCAA Division II Management Council fall 2025 and winter 2026 Summary of Actions.** The committee received an update on the action taken at the Executive Board and Management Council fall 2025 and winter 2026 meetings.
12. **Approval of the Academic Requirements Committee September 10, 2025, videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its September 10, 2025, videoconference.
13. **Review of the Academic Requirements Committee Academic Interpretations Subcommittee's December 8, 2025, and January 5, 2026, videoconference reports.** The committee reviewed and approved the subcommittee's December 8, 2025, and January 5, 2026, videoconference reports. The committee also reviewed an interpretation that was reviewed by the Academic Interpretations Subcommittee regarding the application of Bylaws 14.4.3.2 (10-semester/15-quarter rule), 14.4.3.2.1 (use of semester or quarter) and an April 28, 1993, staff interpretation.

The committee agreed to elevate the April 28, 1993, staff interpretation to an official interpretation, as follows:

Full-Time Enrollment in a Collegiate Institution with a Nontraditional Calendar.

The NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee confirmed that a student-athlete at an institution that conducts a nontraditional calendar, who enrolls in three or more terms during the institution's academic year, will use the equivalent of two semesters or three quarters of eligibility for purposes of their 10-semester/15-quarter period of eligibility.

[References: Bylaws 14.4.3.2 (ten-semester/15-quarter rule), 14.4.3.2.1 (use of semester or quarter) and a staff interpretation (04/28/1993, Item Ref No. a), which has been archived.]

Finally, the committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to permit a partial qualifier, who is in their initial year of enrollment at the certifying institution, but not in

their initial year of collegiate enrollment, to have access to the missed term exception. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1b.]

14. Review of the Academic Requirements Committee roster. The committee reviewed the current roster and approved new subcommittee appointments.

15. Future meeting dates.

- a. June 2 videoconference; timing to be determined.
- b. September videoconference; date and timing to be determined.
- c. February 2027 videoconference; date and timing to be determined.

Committee Chair: Jason Jones, Catawba College
Staff Liaisons: Jeremy Christoffels, Division II Governance and Member Services
 Katelyn Skarr, Division II Governance and Member Services

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee February 23 and March 6, 2026, Videoconferences
Attendees:
Bennett Cherry, California State University, San Marcos (Management Council chair).
Cathy Cox, Georgia College (March 6)
Jen Cole, University of Alabama in Huntsville.
Robert Coleman, St. Mary’s University (Texas).
Paul Flores II, Azusa Pacific University (February 23).
Eric Gobiell, Assumption University.
Jason Jones, Catawba College.
Liz Jorn, Truman State University (February 23).
Deborah Narang, University of Alaska Anchorage.
Krista Plummer, Northwood University.
Ryan Quann, Goldey-Beacom College (February 23).
Absentees:
Cathy Cox, Georgia College (February 23).
Paul Flores II, Azusa Pacific University (March 6).
Liz Jorn, Truman State University (March 6).
Ryan Quann, Goldey-Beacom College (March 6).
Guests in Attendance:
Rachel McCool, Ashland University (February 23).

NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:

Jeremy Christoffels and Katelyn Skarr.
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Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
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Terri Steeb Gronau, Matt Harris (February 23), Doug Healey (February 23), Chelsea Hooks, Maritza Jones (February 23), Taylor Koper, Ann Martin (February 23), Mariah Murdock (February 23), Sarah Overpeck (February 23), Christa Palmer (February 23), Angela Red and Jenny Collins Taylor (February 23).
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