



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE  
JUNE 3, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **Noncontroversial Legislation -- NCAA Division II Bylaw 7.3.1.5.12.1 -- NCAA Division II Membership and Institutional Control -- Active Membership -- Institutions -- Conditions and Obligations of Active Membership -- Academic Success Rate -- Failure to Submit Data -- Elimination of Penalty for Failure to Submit Academic Success Rate Data in Any Two Years During a Five-Year Period.**
  - (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the penalty for an active member institution that fails to submit its Academic Success Rate (ASR) data in any two years during a five-year period.
  - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
  - (3) Rationale. Currently, an active Division II institution that fails to submit its ASR data shall forfeit Division II Institutional Equal Distribution funds with the next distribution. Further, an active Division II institution that fails to submit its ASR data in any two years during a five-year period shall forfeit Institutional Equal Distribution funds with the next three distributions. Eliminating the penalty for an institution that fails to submit its ASR data in any two years during a five-year period will create consistency with the legislated penalties for institutions that fail to submit Academic Performance Census (APC) data or fail to submit the student-athlete health and safety survey. Further, recent data shows that currently no institutions have failed to submit their ASR data twice during a five-year period. This change would provide an additional incentive for institutions to submit their data. Finally, an institution will still be required to submit its ASR data annually and the penalty for failing to submit will remain intact (i.e., forfeit Institutional Equal Distribution funds with the next distribution).
  - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
  - (5) Estimated student-athlete impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Division II Previously Approved Waiver Checklist.**
  - (1) Recommendation. To update the previously approved waiver checklist, as specified. [See Attachment.]

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Expanding the checklist to permit an undergraduate transfer student-athlete to have access to the high-achieving student criteria will reduce the burden on compliance administrators and allow student-athletes who have previously transferred and display a pattern of high academic achievement to receive flexibility regarding their deficiency(ies). Further, the addition of criteria for less than full-time enrollment self-applied relief for undergraduate student-athletes with intellectual disabilities will provide relief in circumstances where student-athletes with intellectual disabilities will have access to practice and competition while enrolled in a nontraditional, nondegree-seeking program.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Estimated student-athlete impact. Undergraduate student-athletes that have previously transferred and otherwise satisfy the high-achieving student criteria will have access to the self-applied relief. Further, undergraduate student-athletes with intellectual disabilities who are enrolled in a nontraditional, nondegree-seeking program will have access to practice and competition while enrolled less than full time.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review of feedback for Bylaw 14.3.4.5.3 (determination of transferable degree credit).** The NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee continued its review regarding the calculation of transferable degree credit. Specifically, the committee reviewed feedback regarding the calculation of the grade-point average for transferable degree credit. The committee determined that a legislative change is not necessary at this time. Further, the committee directed staff to provide additional education (e.g., Regional Rules Seminar) and draft an educational column to further assist the membership with the application of the calculation of the GPA for transferable degree credit legislation. The committee will review a draft of the educational column at a future meeting.
2. **Review of the legislative history for Bylaws 7.3.1.5.12.1 (failure to submit data) and 7.3.1.5.13 (Academic Performance Census -- failure to submit).** The committee reviewed the legislative history of the penalties associated with the failure to submit ASR data and APC data. Specifically, it was noted that while the penalties for both legislated reporting requirements includes the forfeiture of Institutional Equal Distribution funds with the next distribution, the penalty for failure to submit ASR data includes a more stringent penalty if an institution fails to submit its data two times within a five-year period. The committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to align the ASR penalty with the APC data penalty and other penalties in the legislation (e.g., student-athlete health and safety survey). [See Legislative Action Item.]

3. **Discussion regarding potential effective dates on concepts developed by the NCAA Division II Eligibility Review Working Group.** The committee reviewed and provided feedback on the potential effective dates for the concepts being discussed by the working group.
4. **Referral from the NCAA Division II Management Council regarding the regional accreditation requirements for Division II membership.** The committee received an update regarding a referral from the Management Council to review the regional accreditation requirements for Division II membership in Bylaws 7.1.4.1.1 (types of institutions) and 7.1.4.1.2 (accreditation). Due to the uncertainty regarding the status of the U.S. Department of Education, it was noted that the review will be placed on hold until further clarity regarding the status of the U.S. Department of Education is known.
5. **Review of the 2025-26 previously approved waiver checklist.** The committee reviewed the previously approved waiver checklist. Specifically, the committee approved an expansion of the high-achieving student criteria to include undergraduate student-athletes who have previously transferred. Additionally, the committee approved the addition of new criteria to provide less than full-time enrollment relief for nondegree-seeking undergraduate student-athletes with intellectual disabilities. [See Nonlegislative Action Item.]
6. **Review of the 2025-26 Academic Requirements Committee policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved updates to its policies and procedures.
7. **Review of the 2025-26 NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee Subcommittee on Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the Subcommittee on Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers policies and procedures for the 2025-26 academic year.
8. **Review of the 2025-26 Division II progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer waiver directives.** The committee reviewed and approved the progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer waiver directives for the 2025-26 academic year. Additionally, the committee reviewed a progress-toward-degree waiver that was approved by staff where the student-athlete was misadvised by their previous coach. The committee confirmed that the misadvisement directives were properly applied given the circumstances of the case; however, the committee agreed to archive the case.
9. **Review of the 2025-26 NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee Academic Interpretations Subcommittee policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the Academic Interpretations Subcommittee policies and procedures for the 2025-26 academic year.

10. **Review of 2025-26 NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee Subcommittee on Initial-Eligibility Waivers policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the Subcommittee on Initial-Eligibility Waivers policies and procedures for the 2025-26 academic year.
11. **Review of 2024-25 initial-eligibility waiver statistics.** The committee received an update on initial-eligibility waiver statistics from the 2024-25 academic year.
12. **Review of the 2025-26 initial-eligibility waiver directives.** The committee reviewed and approved the initial-eligibility waiver directives for the 2025-26 academic year.
13. **Review of the 2025-26 NCAA International Student Records Committee policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the International Student Records Committee's policies and procedures for the 2025-26 academic year.
14. **Review of the NCAA High School Review Committee April 14-15 in-person meeting report.** The committee reviewed the report from the High School Review Committee's April 14-15 in-person meeting.
15. **Review of the 2025-26 High School Review Committee policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the High School Review Committee's policies and procedures for the 2025-26 academic year.
16. **Review of the NCAA Division II Degree Completion Award Committee March 10-11 in-person meeting and May 6 videoconference reports.** The committee reviewed the reports from the Degree Completion Award Committee's March 10-11 in-person meeting and May 6 videoconference.
17. **Update on the Academic Portal.** The committee received an update on the Academic Portal, which included an update regarding the anticipated merger of the Academic Portal with Compliance Assistant 2.0. The merger is expected to be ready for APC reporting for the fall 2025 term.
18. **Review of the Division II Membership Survey executive summary.** The committee received an overview of the executive summary of the membership survey that was distributed in January.
19. **Review of the NCAA Division II Executive Board and Management Council spring 2025 summary of actions.** The committee received an update on the action taken at the spring 2025 Executive Board and Management Council meetings.
20. **Review of the Academic Requirements Committee February 7 electronic vote and February 27 videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved its February 7 electronic vote and February 27 videoconference report.

- 21. Review of the committee roster and subcommittee appointments.** The committee reviewed the updated roster and appointed Jen Cole, associate athletics director for student-athlete affairs/senior woman administrator at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, to the Subcommittee on Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers and the Academic Interpretations Subcommittee, effective immediately.
- 22. Future scheduled meetings/videoconferences.**
- a. Videoconference: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern time; September 10, 2025.
  - b. Videoconference: February 2026; date and timing to be determined.

*Committee Chair:*

*Jason Jones, Catawba College*

*Staff Liaisons:*

*Jeremy Christoffels, Academic and Membership Affairs*

*Katelyn Skarr, Academic and Membership Affairs*

<b>NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee June 3, 2025, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jen Cole, University of Alabama in Huntsville.	
Paul Flores II, Azusa Pacific University.	
Eric Gobel, Assumption University.	
Jason Jones, Catawba College.	
Liz Jorn, Truman State University.	
George Knox, Shaw University.	
Deborah Narang, University of Alaska Anchorage.	
Krista Plummer, Northwood University.	
Ryan Quann, Goldey-Beacom College.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Cathy Cox, Georgia College.	
Haley Gilbert, Augusta University.	
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
<b>NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Jeremy Christoffels and Katelyn Skarr.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Terri Steeb Gronau, Doug Healey, Chelsea Hooks, Trey Jenkins, Maritza Jones, Mariah Murdock, Sarah Overpeck, Christa Palmer, Angela Red and Jenny Collins Taylor.	



NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee  
Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Subcommittee  
Previously Approved Waiver Checklist  
Revised: **June 3, 2025**

**Background.**

The intent of the following modifications to the existing progress-toward-degree waiver process is to reduce bureaucracy and permit the membership and NCAA staff to work more efficiently in limited circumstances. The waiver scenarios listed below are common circumstances where relief has traditionally been provided by staff if the student-athlete was otherwise on pace to meet the academic eligibility requirements when the unforeseen mitigation occurred.

**Process.**

An institution is only permitted to self-apply relief (waive an otherwise applicable progress-toward-degree or full-time enrollment requirement) if the institution's circumstances appear on the list of designated previously approved waivers and the circumstances satisfy the specified criteria established for the previously approved waiver. If an institution's circumstances do not appear on the list of previously approved waivers, or if the circumstances do not satisfy all established criteria for a previously approved waiver, the institution must submit a formal progress-toward-degree waiver to the NCAA national office for consideration.

An institution that grants relief of NCAA legislation based on the specific, previously approved waiver circumstances listed below must maintain the documentation used to make the determination on campus. The list of previously approved waivers will be reviewed on an annual basis by staff.

**Progress-Toward-Degree Previously Approved Waiver Scenarios.**

Institutions seeking a progress-toward-degree waiver on behalf of a student-athlete for relief of NCAA Division II Bylaws 14.2.9.3.2 (term-by-term credit-hour requirement), 14.2.9.3.2.1 (application of rule to transfer student), 14.2.9.3.4 (annual credit-hour requirement) [Bylaw 14.2.9.3.4, will be renumbered as 14.2.9.3.3 effective August 1, 2025, for certifications of progress-toward-degree requirements for fall 2025 and thereafter) and/or 14.2.9.3.5 (fulfillment of minimum-grade-point average requirements) [Bylaw 14.2.9.3.5, will be renumbered as 14.2.9.3.4 effective August 1, 2025, for certifications of progress-toward-degree requirements for fall 2025 and thereafter], **institutions seeking a less than full-time waiver on behalf of an undergraduate student-athlete for relief of Bylaw 14.2.3.1 (requirement for practice or competition)**, or institutions seeking a less than full-time waiver on behalf of a graduate student-athlete for relief of Bylaw 14.2.3.1.7.5 (practice or competition -- graduate program) may self-apply relief (waive an otherwise applicable progress-toward-degree requirement or permit the student-athlete to enroll less than full time and have access to practice and competition) if the institution's circumstances appear on the list of designated previously approved waivers and the circumstances satisfy the specified criteria established for the previously approved waiver.

Institutions are expected to maintain documentation to demonstrate the identified criteria existed at the period of time to which the previously approved waiver is applied. Additionally, an academic

recovery plan designed by the institution that demonstrates how the student-athlete's individual efforts, course schedule planning (including consideration of academics and athletics related time demands) and use of academic resources (including appropriate accommodations for any education-impacting disability) will allow them to overcome academic eligibility deficiencies. A reasonable academic recovery plan will also demonstrate that the student-athlete is likely to graduate within five years of initial full-time enrollment and should include term-by-term scheduling of courses to the greatest extent possible. The plan must be signed by both the student-athlete and an institutional representative with academic oversight for the student-athlete.

If the institution or student-athlete fail to adhere to the academic recovery plan on file and it results in a future progress-toward-degree deficiency, the institution must submit a formal progress-toward-degree waiver to the national office for consideration.

### **Personal Hardships.**

#### **Death of an immediate family or team member.**

1. The student-athlete experienced the death of an immediate family or team member during the academic year in which the deficiency occurs.
2. For purposes of relief in this scenario and others, immediate family member is defined as spouse, parent or legal guardian, child, sibling or domestic partner.

#### **Diagnosis of terminal illness or hospitalization of immediate family or team member.**

1. The student-athlete's immediate family member or team member was diagnosed and/or hospitalized with a terminal illness during the academic year in which the deficiency occurs.
2. Immediate family member is defined above.

#### **Victims of inappropriate sexual behavior.**

- The student-athlete was a victim of inappropriate sexual behavior during the academic year in which the deficiency occurred. Inappropriate sexual behavior includes, but is not limited to, sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct or sexual violence.

#### **Inpatient hospitalization.**

- The student-athlete is hospitalized for a significant amount of time (e.g., two weeks) during the term or academic year in which the deficiency occurs.

### **Catastrophic events.**

- The student-athlete experienced a loss due to a catastrophic event that occurred at the student-athlete's institution or in the student-athlete's hometown during the academic year in which the deficiency occurs. A catastrophic event as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency is "any natural or manmade incident, including terrorism, which results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely impacting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale and/or government functions."

### **First Academic Deficiency.**

#### **Nontransfers experiencing their first academic deficiency.**

1. The student-athlete is a continuing, nontransfer, undergraduate student.
2. The student-athlete has not previously had a progress-toward-degree deficiency.
3. The student-athlete's institution has an academic recovery plan on file that demonstrates that the student-athlete is able to graduate within five-years from initial full-time enrollment.
4. In cases of misadvisement, the institution must complete an institutional recovery plan, and it must be kept on file.

Note: The first academic deficiency is defined as the first time a nontransfer student-athlete experiences an academic deficiency during their enrollment at the certifying institution. For example, if a freshman student-athlete does not satisfy the term-by-term requirement following their initial fall term, that would be considered their first academic deficiency. The self-applied waiver would waive all deficiencies if multiple deficiencies exist during the first progress-toward-degree deficiency (i.e., term-by-term, annual, GPA).

### **High Achieving Students.**

**Continuing undergraduate student-athlete** with a 3.5 or above cumulative grade-point-average.

1. The student-athlete is a **continuing undergraduate student** that presents a cumulative grade-point average at or above 3.50 and on an academic track to graduate within five years of initial full-time enrollment.
2. Institution has on file an academic recovery plan that shows graduation within five years.
3. In cases of misadvisement, the institution must complete an institutional recovery plan, and it must be kept on file.



**Student-athlete entering final season/semesters/quarters of competition (credit-hour deficiencies only).**

- The student-athlete is entering their final season, semesters, or quarters of competition and the following academic criteria are met for a credit-hour deficiency:
  - a. Certification that the student-athlete received a satisfactory grade in all degree-applicable courses during the academic year prior to the deficiency (two semesters or three quarters);
  - b. Certification that the student-athlete is seeking to participate in their final season, semesters, or quarters of competition during the ensuing two semesters or three quarters;
  - c. Documentation that the student-athlete will complete their degree at the end of the ensuing two semesters or three quarters;
  - d. Documentation that the student-athlete meets or exceeds the cumulative GPA required for graduation in the student-athlete's degree program;
  - e. Certification that the student-athlete had no prior progress-toward-degree deficiencies; and
  - f. Evidence that demonstrates that it is reasonable to believe, based on the student-athlete's accelerated completion of their degree requirements, that the student-athlete will earn their degree within five years of initial enrollment.

**Restrictive Degree Programs.**

- The student-athlete is enrolled in a specific degree program that, due to course sequencing, offering limitations, catalog changes or a lack of course substitutions, has resulted in credit-hour deficiencies provided the following criteria are satisfied:
  - a. The student-athlete's failure to pass a course within the degree program, or attain a requisite grade-point-average, did not inhibit their progression through the degree program or create the deficiency;
  - b. The student-athlete is completing their degree as outlined by the institution in its published policies and/or curriculum for the degree program; and
  - c. The student-athlete will graduate within the degree program's intended timeline.

**Less than Full-Time – Undergraduate Student-Athletes.**

**Nondegree seeking student-athletes with intellectual disabilities.**

- The student-athlete is enrolled in a nondegree-seeking program specifically structured for students with intellectual disabilities. The following criteria must be satisfied:
  - a. The program must be approved and recognized as a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program by the United States Department of Education;
  - b. The program requires students to make academic progress toward a previously established educational goal or outcome;
  - c. Students in the program are considered to be enrolled full time at the institution; and
  - d. Students enrolled in this program must be able to participate in clubs, organizations, events and other on-campus activities along with their degree-seeking peers per institutional policy.

**Less than Full-Time – Graduate Student-Athletes.**

**Restrictive degree program for graduate students.**

- The student-athlete is enrolled in a graduate program and due to course sequencing, is unable to enroll as a full-time student as defined by the institution for that specific graduate degree program. The following criteria must be satisfied:
  - a. An academic authority outside of the athletics department confirms that the student-athlete is following the normal sequencing for all students enrolled in that specific graduate degree program; and
  - b. The student-athlete will graduate within the graduate degree program's intended timeline.