



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
JUNE 2, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Division II Previously Approved Waiver Checklist.**

- a. Recommendation. To update the previously approved waiver checklist, as specified. [See Attachment.]
- b. Effective date. Immediate.
- c. Rationale. Expanding the checklist to include scenarios where the certifying institution is unable to certify that a student-athlete has satisfied NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.3.5-(b) because of the institutional closure of the student-athlete's previous institution will reduce the burden on compliance administrators and allow student-athletes who are transferring from an institution that has closed to be immediately eligible upon transfer. Additionally, the certifying institution must confirm that the transfer student-athlete was not under academic probation or suspension at the time of the institutional closure.
- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Estimated student-athlete impact. Student-athletes who attend an institution that has closed will have an opportunity to be immediately eligible upon transfer.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Discussion regarding Division II seasons of competition and period of eligibility legislation.** The NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee continued its discussion regarding seasons of competition and period of eligibility legislation. Specifically, the committee received an overview of the conversations that have occurred since the May 6, 2026, videoconference. The committee reviewed potential implementation examples of an age-based model similar to the Division I eligibility concept. The committee shared feedback on the concept and implementation examples, which will be shared with the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee at its June 16-17, 2026, videoconference.
- 2. Review of initial-eligibility requirements.** The committee continued its review and

discussion regarding Division II initial-eligibility requirements. Specifically, the committee reviewed data regarding the academic performance and retention of first-year student-athletes identified by their qualifier status. It was noted that Division I will be conducting a similar review of its initial-eligibility requirements in the near future. The committee agreed to continue to track and monitor the conversations occurring in Division I, but determined that changes to the Division II initial-eligibility requirements were not necessary at this time.

3. **Review of NCAA Division II Federal Graduation Rates and NCAA Division II Academic Success Rates.** The committee received an update on trends in current graduation rates. The national four-year Academic Success Rate remained consistent at 77%. The federal graduation rate for student-athletes decreased one point to 58%, while the general student body remains at 53%. Scores are based on the 2015-2018 entering cohorts.
4. **Update on Graduation Passport.** The committee received an update regarding the graduation passport. NCAA staff will continue to monitor its progress and will provide the committee with an update at a future meeting.
5. **Review of the 2026-27 previously approved waiver checklist.** The committee reviewed the previously approved waiver checklist, as amended. Specifically, the committee approved the inclusion of a scenario that will allow the certifying institution to self-apply waiver relief when they are unable to confirm that a student-athlete would satisfy Bylaw 14.3.5-(b) due to the closure of the student-athlete's previous institution. [See Nonlegislative Action Item.]
6. **Review of the 2026-27 Academic Requirements Committee policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved updates to its policies and procedures.
7. **Review of the 2026-27 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 2026-27 academic year.
8. **Review of the 2026-27 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 2026-27 academic year. Specifically, the committee incorporated language in the directives to provide clarity for NCAA staff when processing cases with misadvisement assertions.
9. **Review of the 2026-27 Academic Requirements Committee Academic Interpretations Subcommittee policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the Academic Interpretations Subcommittee policies and procedures for the 2026-27 academic year.

10. **Review of the 2025-26 initial-eligibility waiver statistics.** The committee received an update on initial-eligibility waiver statistics from the 2025-26 academic year.
11. **Review of the 2026-27 initial-eligibility waiver directives.** The committee reviewed and approved the initial-eligibility waiver directives for the 2026-27 academic year.
12. **Review of the 2026-27 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 2026-27 academic year.
13. **Review of the 2026-27 NCAA International Student Records Committee policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the International Student Records Committee's policies and procedures for the 2026-27 academic year.
14. **Review of the NCAA High School Review Committee April 21-22 in-person meeting report.** The committee reviewed the report from the High School Review Committee's April 21-22, 2026, in-person meeting.
15. **Review of the 2026-27 High School Review Committee policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the High School Review Committee's policies and procedures for the 2026-27 academic year.
16. **Review of the NCAA Division II Degree Completion Award Committee March 3, 2026, in-person meeting and May 4, 2026, videoconference reports.** The committee reviewed the reports from the Degree Completion Award Committee's March 3 in-person meeting and May 4 videoconference. Specifically, it was noted that the Degree Completion Award Committee discussed the current structure of the Division II Degree-Completion Award Program and strongly advocated for the program to remain unchanged. Members emphasized that the existing model ensures funds are allocated directly to student-athletes, allowing the committee to clearly see and document the program's positive impact on academic success and degree-completion. The committee expressed concern that reallocating funds to other programs would dilute this impact, making it more difficult to track outcomes and assess academic progress in a meaningful and measurable way. As a result, the committee affirmed its support for maintaining the program in its current form to preserve accountability, transparency and demonstrated academic benefits for Division II student-athletes.
17. **Update on the Academic Portal.** The committee received an update on the Academic Portal. Specifically, it was noted that the integration of the Academic Portal into Compliance Assistant 2.0 will occur June 6-7 and will be available for the membership to access Monday, June 8.
18. **Update on Division II educational initiatives.** Staff provided an update on the 2025-26 educational initiatives. Specifically, it was noted that the NCAA Regional Rules Seminar

was held May 13-15 in Atlanta.

19. **Review of the NCAA Division II Executive Board and NCAA Division II Management Council spring 2026 summary of actions.** The committee received an update on the actions taken at the Executive Board and Management Council spring 2026 meetings.
20. **Approval of the Academic Requirements Committee February 23, 2026, March 6, 2026, and May 6, 2026, videoconference reports.** The committee reviewed and approved its February 23, March 6 and May 6 videoconference reports
21. **Review of the committee roster.** The committee reviewed the current roster for accuracy.
22. **Recognition of outgoing members.** The committee recognized the service of Cathy Cox, Georgia College; Paul Flores II, Azusa Pacific University; Deborah Narang, University of Alaska Anchorage; and Ryan Quann, Goldey-Beacom College.
23. **Future scheduled meetings/videoconferences.**
 - a. September 16, 2026, videoconference; timing to be determined.
 - b. February 22, 2027, videoconference; timing to be determined.
 - c. June 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 June 2, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Bennett Cherry, California State University, San Marcos (Management Council chair).	
Jen Cole, University of Alabama in Huntsville.	
Robert Coleman, St. Mary's University (Texas).	
Cathy Cox, Georgia College.	
Paul Flores II, Azusa Pacific University.	
Eric Gobel, Assumption University.	
Jason Jones, Catawba College.	
Abbie McCants, Coker University.	

Deborah Narang, University of Alaska Anchorage.
Krista Plummer, Northwood University.
Ryan Quann, Goldey-Beacom College.
Absentees:
Liz Jorn, Truman State University.
NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:
Jeremy Christoffels and Katelyn Skarr.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
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 Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Subcommittee
Previously Approved Waiver Checklist
Revised: **June 2, 2026**

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), 14.2.9.3.3 (annual credit hour requirement) and/or 14.2.9.3.4 (fulfillment of minimum-grade-point average requirements), 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), 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), or **institutions seeking relief of Bylaw 14.3.5-(b) (four-year college transfers)** 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 fails 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:
 - 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);
 - 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;
 - Documentation that the student-athlete will complete their degree at the end of the ensuing two semesters or three quarters;
 - Documentation that the student-athlete meets or exceeds the cumulative GPA required for graduation in the student-athlete's degree program;
 - Certification that the student-athlete had no prior progress-toward-degree deficiencies; and
 - 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:
 - 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;
 - The student-athlete is completing their degree as outlined by the institution in its published policies and/or curriculum for the degree program; and
 - The student-athlete will graduate within the degree program's intended timeline.

Less than Full-Time – Undergraduate Student-Athletes.

Non-degree seeking student-athletes with intellectual disabilities.

- The student-athlete is enrolled in a non-degree seeking program specifically structured for students with intellectual disabilities. The following criteria must be satisfied:
 - The program must be approved and recognized as a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program by the United States Department of Education;
 - The program requires students to make academic progress toward a previously established educational goal or outcome;
 - Students in the program are considered to be enrolled full-time at the institution; and
 - 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:
 - 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
 - The student-athlete will graduate within the graduate degree program's intended timeline.

Four-Year College Transfers (Effective: July 22, 2026)

Previous institution unable to confirm Division II Bylaw 14.3.5-(b) due to institutional closure.

1. Due to an institutional closure, the student-athlete's previous institution is unable to confirm whether the student-athlete was academically and athletically eligible at the time of transfer;

2. The student-athlete successfully earned at least nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of degree credit during their last full-time term of enrollment;
3. The student-athlete successfully earned at least 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of degree credit since the beginning of the previous institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters;
4. The student-athlete presents a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 on the previous institution's transcript;
5. The certifying institution has obtained a copy of the student-athlete's most recent official transcript from the previous institution; and
6. The certifying institution has confirmed the student-athlete was not under academic probation or suspension at the time of the institutional closure.