



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

a. 2025 NCAA Convention Legislation -- NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4.3.3 -- Eligibility -- Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements -- Eligibility for Competition -- Credit Hours Earned During the Regular Academic Year -- Elimination of the 18-Semester/27-Quarter Hours.

- (1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2025 NCAA Convention to eliminate Bylaw 14.4.3.3 (credit hours earned during the regular academic year).
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2025, for certifications of progress-toward-degree requirements for fall 2025 and thereafter.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, progress-toward-degree rules require a student-athlete to earn at least nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of academic credit during each full-time term of attendance, at least 18-semester or 27-quarter hours of academic credit during the regular academic year and at least 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit annually. Based on a review of the 2022 Academic Performance Census (APC) data, 96% of student-athletes from semester schools who satisfied the term-by-term requirement in their spring semester also satisfied the 18-semester hour requirement. Further, 98% of student-athletes from quarter schools who satisfied the term-by-term requirement in their spring quarter also satisfied the 27-quarter hour requirement. Eliminating the legislation will simplify the certification process without jeopardizing the overall academic success of a student-athlete since they would still be required to meet the term-by-term, annual credit-hour and grade-point average (GPA) requirements. Finally, this change will ease the burden on compliance administrators, as well as student-athletes.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Estimated student-athlete impact. None.

b. 2025 Convention Legislation -- Bylaw 14.5.4.3 -- Eligibility -- Transfer Regulations -- Two-Year College Transfers -- Eligibility for Competition, Practice and Athletics Aid -- All Other Qualifiers and Partial Qualifiers -- Removal of English, Math and Science Requirement for Qualifiers.

- (1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2025 Convention to eliminate

the requirement that a qualifier, who is a two-year college transfer, must earn transferrable credit hours in English, math and science.

- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2025, for student-athletes transferring to a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, two-year college transfers that do not graduate from the two-year college or who are not a final qualifier with one term of attendance at the two-year college, are required to satisfactorily complete and transfer in at least six-semester or eight-quarter hours of English, three-semester or four-quarter hours of math and three-semester or four-quarter hours of natural or physical science as part of the two-year college transfer requirements. The NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee believes that a two-year college transfer student who is a qualifier, has already displayed their academic readiness through completion of core courses while enrolled in high school, therefore, eliminating the requirement would simplify transfer certification for qualifiers. Qualifiers would still need to satisfy the remaining two-year college transfer requirements (e.g., an average of at least 12-semester or 12-quarter hours of transferable credit each full-time term, 2.20 transferable GPA) outlined in Bylaw 14.5.4.3.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Estimated student-athlete impact. None.

c. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaws 14.3.1.3 and 14.3.1.3.2 -- Eligibility -- Freshman Academic Requirements -- Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition -- Qualifiers and Partial Qualifiers -- Core-Curriculum Requirements and Nontraditional Courses -- Modernization of Core-Course Requirements.

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to modernize core-course requirements to encompass all delivery models; further, to eliminate the legislative distinction for nontraditional courses.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2024, for high school account, program or course reviews that occur on or after August 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. Current legislation prescribes separate and distinct definitions for core-curriculum requirements and nontraditional courses. In recent years, there have been an increasing number of delivery methods that are utilized in offering core-curriculum courses. Accordingly, modernized core-course requirements create a streamlined set of rules that are more broadly applicable to any delivery method but still provide guardrails for learning

environments that are more conducive to fraud or abuse. The intent to ensure initial-eligibility certifications include only courses that academically prepare prospective student-athletes for four-year college academic work would remain paramount and is not impacted by the definition change. Rather, the change prevents the definitions from becoming quickly outdated due to ever-evolving delivery methods.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Estimated student-athlete impact. None.

d. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 14.4.3.2.1 -- Eligibility -- Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements -- Eligibility for Competition -- Term-by-Term Credit-Hour Requirement -- Application of Rule to Transfer Student -- Transferable Requirement.

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the requirement that the nine-semester or eight-quarter hours must be transferrable degree credit; further, to specify that the nine-semester or eight-quarter hours shall be earned (rather than transferable) during the student-athlete's last full-time term of attendance.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2024, for student-athletes transferring to a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. Current legislation requires that transfer students must complete at least nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferable degree credit during their last full-time term. The Academic Requirements Committee noted that it is difficult for student-athletes to know which courses will transfer to their next institution when registering for the term prior to transferring. This proposal would still require transfer students to earn nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of degree credit during their last full-time term. However, this change would simplify transfer certifications by permitting the certifying institution to certify the term-by-term credit-hour requirement for a transfer student based on a review of the previous institution's transcript rather than an in-depth analysis of transferable coursework accepted by the certifying institution.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Estimated student-athlete impact. None.

e. **Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 14.5.4.1.1 -- Transfer Regulations -- Two-Year College Transfers -- Eligibility for Competition, Practice and Athletics Aid -- Graduation from Two-Year College -- Application -- Academic Degree Requirement.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 14.5.4.1.1 (eligibility for competition, practice and athletics aid -- graduation from two-year college) to clarify that a student-athlete that previously attended a four-year institution as a full-time student prior to attendance at a two-year college, shall utilize any academic degree from any two-year college(s) attended.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2024, for student-athletes transferring to a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. Current legislation specifies that if a two-year college transfer has previously attended a four-year institution as a full-time student, then only an academic degree earned at the two-year college(s) after the last full-time enrollment at a four-year institution shall be considered for purposes of meeting Bylaw 14.5.4.1 (eligibility for competition, practice and athletics aid -- graduation from two-year college) (e.g., 2-4-2-4). Being that the primary purpose of two-year college transfer requirements is to assess the academic readiness of a student-athlete for education at a four-year institution, student-athletes that have graduated from a two-year college have already displayed such academic preparation. Further, based on membership feedback, 82% of respondents supported this change, stating that the current rule is restricting access for student-athletes that have demonstrated their academic readiness. Finally, this proposal does not change the current requirement that a student-athlete must earn nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferable degree credit during their last full-time term of enrollment.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Estimated student-athlete impact. None.

2. **Nonlegislative Items.**

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Discussion on Division II Bylaw 14 progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer requirements.** The Academic Requirements Committee continued its review

regarding the current application of the progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer requirements. Specifically, the committee reviewed the feedback received from the Division II Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators , NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and Faculty Athletics Representatives Association that was initially presented during the June 5, 2023, videoconference, along with updated APC data. As a result, the committee recommended legislative changes to certain progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer requirements. [See Legislative Action Item Nos. 1a, 1b, 1d and 1e.]

Finally, the committee discussed additional pain points (i.e., calculating the transferable GPA, self-applied one-time waiver for student-athletes that do not satisfy progress-toward-degree requirements). The committee agreed to continue the discussion during its February 20, 2024, in-person meeting.

2. **Editorial revision regarding Bylaw 14.3.2.1 (participation before certification -- recruited and nonrecruited student-athlete).** During its September 20, 2022, in-person meeting, the committee discussed the elimination of Bylaw 14.5.4.5.7 (participation before certification -- recruited and nonrecruited student-athlete) due to the elimination of the nonqualifier initial-eligibility status. NCAA staff noted that Bylaw 14.3.2.1 should have been eliminated in 2021 as a result of the change in initial-eligibility legislation, as there is no longer a restriction on access to athletics aid and practice for any incoming prospective student-athlete regardless of final academic certification. As a result, the legislation will be removed through an editorial revision.
3. **Discussion regarding the modernization of core-course legislation.** The committee reviewed the definition of nontraditional courses regarding initial-eligibility certifications. Specifically, Bylaw 14.3.1.3.2 has become outdated as a distinct rule from the definition of a core course due to the increase in delivery methods since the COVID-19 pandemic. Following input from stakeholders (including the Academic Requirements Committee), the High School Review Committee sought to consolidate key elements from the core-course requirements and nontraditional course definitions into a singular definition for all delivery methods. The Academic Requirements Committee recommended the change to streamline the legislation to be more broadly applicable to any delivery method while maintaining guardrails for learning environments that are more conducive to fraud or abuse. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1c.]
4. **Update on 2024 Convention Division II proposals.** The Academic Requirement Committee reviewed the five legislative proposals that will be voted on by the Division II membership at the 2024 Convention.
5. **Update on Academic Success Rate (ASR) data submissions.** Staff provided an update on seven institutions that successfully requested an extension of the ASR deadline for the 2022-23 academic year.
6. **Update on APC submissions.** Staff provided an update on APC data submissions.

7. **Update on initial-eligibility certification data for the 2023-24 academic year.** The committee received an update on current data related to initial-eligibility certifications.
8. **Review of the Academic Requirements Committee policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved updates to its policies and procedures.
9. **Update on Division II educational initiatives.** Staff provided an update on the 2023-24 educational initiatives. Specifically, it was noted that the NCAA Regional Rules Seminar will take place June 12-14, 2024, in Las Vegas.
10. **Review of the 2023-24 Division II Priorities.** Staff provided an update on the Division II priorities for the upcoming year.
11. **Update of the work of the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Board of Governors most recent meeting.
12. **Review of the NCAA Division II Presidents Council and Division II Management Council summer 2023 summary of actions.** Staff provided an update on the summary of actions from the Presidents Council and Management Council summer 2023 meetings.
13. **Update on the Division II 50th anniversary celebration.** The committee received an update regarding the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Division II for the 2023-24 academic year.
14. **Review of the June 5, 2023, Academic Requirements Committee videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its June 5, 2023, videoconference.
15. **Review of the Academic Requirements Committee roster.** The committee reviewed the current roster and subcommittee appointments for accuracy.
16. **Future scheduled meetings/videoconferences.**
 - a. February 20, 2024; in-person meeting, Indianapolis.
 - b. June 2024; videoconference, to be determined.
 - c. September 2024; videoconference, to be determined.

Committee Chair: Karen Hjerpe, Pennsylvania Western University, California
Staff Liaisons: Jeremy Christoffels, Academic and Membership Affairs
Robert Turick, Research

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee September 19, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Cathy Cox, Georgia College.	
Karen Hjerpe, Pennsylvania Western University, California.	
Jason Jones, Catawba College.	
Liz Jorn, Truman State University.	
Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University.	
Danny McCabe, Adelphi University.	
Deborah Narang, University of Alaska Anchorage.	
Madison Peterson, Augustana University.	
Krista Plummer, Northwood University.	
Ryan Quann, Goldey-Beacom College.	
Absentees:	
Carrie Micheals, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:	
Jeremy Christoffels and Robert Turick.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Terri Steeb Gronau, Doug Healey, Kendee Hilliard, Chelsea Hooks, Anna Lynn Houk, Maritza Jones, Becca Burchette Medel, Sarah Overpeck, Angela Red, Jenny Collins Taylor and Drea Rog.	