Regional Rules

NCAA Division I Advanced Progress Toward Degree

Overview

- Eligibility updates.
- 2021-22 enrollment requirements.
  - Less than Full-Time Waiver directive.
- Missed term exception and application.
- Postgraduate enrollment options.

Previously Approved Waiver Checklist

- COVID-19 was removed from the checklist.
- What does that mean?
  - Certification for fall 2021 moving forward, COVID-19 cannot be used to self-apply previously approved waiver to rectify a deficiency.
  - Institution should file a Progress-Toward-Degree waiver on the student-athlete's behalf.

Less than Full-time Blanket Waivers

- 2020-21 Blanket waivers:
  - Financial aid for Less Than Full-Time students.
  - Virtual nonphysical activities.
  - Enrollment after 2020 fall graduation.

Were only applicable to the 2020-21 academic year. Not applicable moving forward.

Final Term Exception

- 2021-22 Regular Application of Final Term Exception.
  - 2020 Spring and Fall relief from normal application has expired.
  - For example:
    - Spring 2021 student-athlete enrolled less than full time using final term exception.
    - Student-athlete does not graduate spring 2021.
    - Regular application of NCAA Bylaw 14.2.2.1. Final Semester/Quarter (e.g., SA forfeits eligibility).

Enrollment Requirements

Practice	=	Full time
Compete	=	Full time

Less Than Full-Time Waivers

- Must present mitigation per the current directive:
  - Education-impacting disability;
  - Financial hardship; and
  - Compelling mitigating circumstances.

Financial Hardship vs. Financial Burden

Financial Hardship:

- A singular event has occurred (e.g., layoff) experienced by the student-athlete or by an individual on whom the student-athlete is legally dependent.
- Requires objective documentation (e.g., decree of bankruptcy, proof of termination).

Financial Burden:

- Not expecting to continue for another year.
- Not sufficient mitigation.

Compelling Mitigating Circumstances

- **Documented** compelling mitigating circumstances.
- Returning for fifth year due to COVID-19 clock extension (alone) is **NOT** compelling mitigating circumstance.
- Unexpected cost of additional year is **NOT** compelling mitigating circumstance.

Waiver Guidance for Postgraduate Student-Athletes in 2021-22

- NCAA Division I Committee on Progress-Toward Degree guidance: Does being enrolled less than full time provide opportunity for meaningful academic or career development pursuits during that term.
- Analysis:
  - If not enrolled full time, what will the student-athlete be doing?
    - Working?
    - Internship?
  - Is there documentation?

Waiver Guidance for Student- Athlete Graduating During 2021-22

Less than full-time waiver can be approved to enroll in no less than six hours provided:

- Student-athlete enrolled in all available degree-applicable courses fall 2021;
- Student-athlete will complete degree by end of academic year;

Compelling Mitigation:

- Institution verifies that student-athlete is in all degree-applicable courses;
- Student-athlete is using the time saved to participate in meaningful academic or career development related pursuits.
- Demonstrate how pursuits and course work is roughly equivalent to a full-time course load for the student-athlete.

Student-Athlete Example

- Student-athlete received clock extension due to COVID-19.
- Student-athlete has 15 hours left to complete degree.
- Student-athlete will graduate at conclusion of 2021-22 academic year.

Fall 2021.	Spring 2022
Nine degree-applicable hours + research project	Six degree-applicable hours
Waiver required	Final Term Exception

- Institution will need to confirm that student-athlete can only enroll in nine degree-applicable hours fall 2021.

- Institution will need to demonstrate that what the student-athlete plans to do fall 2021 is roughly equivalent to a full-time course load for the student-athlete.

Remember...

Documentation

Documentation

Documentation

Missed Term Exception

Overview of the Exception

Examples

COVID-19 flexibility

Missed Term Exception (Contd.)

- One-time exception to the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement.

To meet the exception:

- Student-athlete cannot attend class during the term as a full-time student.
- No outside competition.
- Student-athlete meets all progress-toward-degree requirements for the terms in actual attendance.

Missed Term Reminders

- Does not apply to postgraduate student-athletes since they are not accountable for the 18/27-hour requirement.
- 2-4 transfer students are not eligible to use this one-time exception during the first academic year of residence at the certifying institution in order to maintain eligibility during the second year in residence.
- Hours earned while enrolled as a part-time student during the "missed term" may be used to satisfy the 24/36-hour, percentage toward degree and grade-point average requirements.

Example

	Fall	TGPA	Spring	TGPA	Summer	TGPA
2019-20	12	2.4	9	2.3	6	2.8
2020-21	Not Enrolled	2.8	9	2.6	6	2.75

Questions to consider:

- Was the student-athlete meeting all progress-toward degree requirements prior to fall 2020?
- Did the student-athlete engage in outside competition during fall 2020?*
- How is the exception applied to progress-toward degree analysis?
  - 18-hour requirement.
  - Percentage toward degree.

Does the student-athlete meet progress-toward degree requirements prior to fall 2021?

Example: Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements

	Fall	Spring	Summer
2019-20	12	15	6
2020-21	12	6	6

PTD Requirements:
- ❑ Good standing.
- ❑ 6-hour requirement.
- ❑ 18-hour requirement.
- ❑ GPA requirement.
- ❑ Percentage toward degree.

	Fall	Spring	Summer
2019-20	12	15	6
2020-21	Not Enrolled	6	6

PTD Requirements:
- ❑ Good standing.
- ❑ 6-hour requirement.
- ❑ 9-hour requirement.
- ❑ GPA requirement.
- ~~❑ Percentage toward degree.~~

Missed Term Exception – COVID-19

Outside Competition

- Student-athletes who participate in outside competition during the 2020-21 academic year while not enrolled full time can use the missed term exception during a future certification.

One-Time Use

- An institution may use the missed-term during the 2020-21 academic year if the exception was previously used to maintain a student-athlete's eligibility.

Postgraduate Enrollment Options

Postgraduate Enrollment Options

- Student-athletes who have graduated with athletics eligibility remaining, may take courses available to any regularly enrolled student whether they continue at the school from which they graduated or enroll at a new school.
- May be enrolled in:
  - Graduate or professional school;
  - Seeking a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree;
  - Enrolled full time in courses that would lead to the equivalent of major or degree.

Full-time Enrollment Requirement

All postgraduate student-athletes (continuing or transfer) must be enrolled full time to participate:

- Post-baccalaureate program: 12 credit hours.
- Graduate program: as defined by institution.

Final & penultimate term legislation and interpretations apply.

Good Academic Standing Requirement

- Defer to the institution's policy for all students.

  "…a standard at least as demanding as the minimum standard applied to all students in order to participate in extracurricular activities..."

- Good academic standing for graduate programs may be different than undergraduate programs.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.01.2.1
August 9, 1995 official interpretation

Postgraduation Progress-Toward-Degree Requirement

Credit-hour Requirement: Six hours each term.
Enrolled in a specific program of study (graduate or post-baccalaureate)? Hours must be degree applicable.
Enrolled in a nondegree seeking graduate program? Hours must be acceptable within the nondegree seeking graduate program.
Not enrolled in a specific program of study? Hours must be applicable toward any degree.

Bylaws 14.4.3.6-c & -d

Postgraduate Student-Athlete Academic Progress Rate - Implications

- All graduated student-athletes (continuing or transfer) who are enrolled full time and receiving athletics aid must be included in the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate cohort.

- Beginning with the 2020-21 APR data, postgraduate student-athletes will not be credited with a retention ("R") point but can only earn the eligibility point for a maximum of 1/1 points per term.

Reminders

- Complete the session survey.
  - In Agenda tab, select this session.
  - Click the survey link and answer the three questions.
  - Click Submit at the bottom of the survey.
  - Done!

- Join the conversation on social media using the #compliancecamp hashtag.