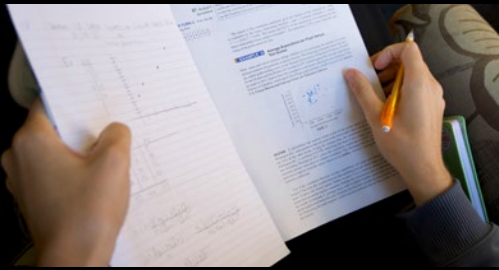




UNDERSTANDING NCAA® ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT RULES

A Guide to Promoting and Protecting Academic Integrity



INTRODUCTION

The NCAA has seen a significant increase in academic misconduct infractions in recent years. This guide is designed to help everyone who plays a role in ensuring integrity in the classroom, from athletics administrators and coaches to faculty athletics representatives, academic advisors and even college athletes themselves.

NCAA academic misconduct rules emphasize the importance of the academic misconduct policies at each college or university. These rules provide, among other things, that all schools must have published policies that apply to all students. Schools may provide an expedited academic misconduct process for student-athletes if that process is in writing, approved by the president or chancellor and composed in advance of an allegation being made — but otherwise, student-athletes should not be treated better or worse than fellow students when facing accusations of academic misconduct.

Those who work closely with student-athletes should know the campus policies on academic integrity and follow them: After all, academic misconduct cases involving student-athletes impact not only the student-athlete and the athletics department, but also can harm the academic reputation of a school.



NCAA ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT ANALYSIS

Did conduct violate the school's academic misconduct policies and procedures?

IF YES

Alteration or falsification of academic record?

OR

School staff or booster involvement?

OR

Competed or received aid while ineligible?

YES TO ANY?

Academic misconduct violation

NO TO ALL?

No NCAA violations

IF NO

Substantial academic assistance or exception?

AND

Not generally available to school's students?

AND

Not permissible under Bylaw 16.3?

AND

Provided by current or former school staff or booster?

AND

Results in certification of eligibility?

YES TO ALL?

Impermissible academic assistance violation

NO TO ANY?

No NCAA violations

ATHLETICS DIRECTORS

Athletics directors play an important role in promoting academic integrity in the athletics department. Here are some steps you can take to demonstrate both your and the athletics department's commitment to academic integrity:

- Regularly review your college or university's academic integrity policies, process and procedures. Athletics directors also should review and be familiar with NCAA rules on academic integrity.
- Regularly review the athletics department budget for student-athlete academic success.
- Meet regularly with the senior athletics academic staff member.
- Meet at least once a year with the institution's president or chancellor to ensure understanding of the president's or chancellor's commitment to the academic success of student-athletes.
- Meet regularly with your faculty athletics representative regarding academic issues concerning student-athletes. FARs can help serve as liaisons between campus officials and athletics.
- Meet regularly with the athletics academics advising staff. These individuals can encounter academic misconduct issues and must understand their roles and responsibilities.
- Meet at least annually with all head coaches and coaching staffs to communicate the expectations for compliance with the institution's academic integrity policies. Additionally, the athletics director should communicate that promoting compliance with the institution's academic integrity policies is part of each head coach's obligation under head coach responsibility legislation.
- Attend any academic misconduct training with student-athletes and emphasize the importance of academic integrity.
- Educate boosters that they should not be involved in prospective or enrolled student-athletes' academics.





FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVES

Faculty athletics representatives are often the individuals on campus who discover or help work through alleged academic misconduct involving a student-athlete. Faculty athletics representatives should be knowledgeable about both NCAA rules and the institution's academic misconduct policies. Here are some ways you can help stress the importance of academic integrity in your role:

- Serve as an important go-between for campus and athletics. When academic misconduct involving a student-athlete is suspected, faculty athletics representatives can serve a critical role in helping investigate and process these allegations. Many faculty members feel more comfortable contacting another faculty member when academic misconduct is suspected.
- Encourage your athletics department to codify your role in academic misconduct cases involving student-athletes.
- Work with department deans to discuss the importance of reporting academic misconduct involving student-athletes to athletics because of the potential impact on eligibility.
- Help the athletics director and the athletics department navigate campus academic integrity policies and emphasize their importance.
- Report any suspected academic misconduct involving a student-athlete or prospective student-athlete to your institution's NCAA compliance officer.

COACHES

The instructions for coaches are simple: Leave academics to the experts. Although you may be genuinely trying to help a student-athlete, sometimes a coach's motivations can be questioned or misunderstood. Here is how to handle some common scenarios involving coaches and academics:

- **Online coursework completed off or on campus:** If student-athletes or prospects are enrolled in online courses, remind them of the importance of performing the work themselves.
- **Applications, including entrance essays or statements:** Coaches should not write or provide essays or statements for prospective student-athletes or direct them to others who will complete the work for them.
- **Summer school or interim session work not performed on campus:** If a student-athlete is attending a summer or interim session off campus, stress the importance of doing his or her own work.
- **Family involvement in course completion:** Be aware of student-athletes commenting about parental involvement in academic coursework.
- **SAT/ACT tampering:** Do not be involved in any way in obtaining an individual to take an entrance exam on behalf of a prospect or working with a testing official to have a prospect's test altered.
- **High school transcript tampering that takes place on or off campus:** If a high school official is willing to make changes to a prospective student-athlete's academic record for him or her to gain eligibility, do not accept or encourage those changes. Report any impermissible grade changes to your compliance officer.
- **Junior college transcript tampering:** Similar to high school transcript tampering, do not accept or encourage changes to a prospective junior college transfer's academic record.
- **Coaches doing or providing work:** A coach or a member of his or her staff has no reason to perform academic work for a student-athlete.
- **Protocol to report misconduct:** If you suspect one of your student-athletes is engaging in academic misconduct, follow your school's protocol for reporting these types of violations.
- **Friends of the program are people with a close relationship to a sports program (e.g., faculty, staff or teaching assistants):** While coaches can build relationships with faculty, do not ask about a student-athlete's academic performance or request a "favor" on behalf of a student-athlete.





ATHLETICS ACADEMIC ADVISORS

Often in a position to discover alleged academic misconduct involving student-athletes or staff members, advisors have a role to play. How do they report a student-athlete for alleged academic misconduct while still maintaining a relationship with him or her and the team and coaching staff?

- If possible, include policies in the student-athlete handbook that state academic advisors must report student-athletes for alleged academic misconduct.
 - Set up a protocol in which athletics academic advisors must take specific steps in such instances, with ultimate adjudication of the academic misconduct occurring elsewhere.
- When working with student-athletes, try to be aware of some common signs of possible academic misconduct:
- **Miraculous recoveries:** The student-athlete has consistently performed poorly in class, then scores extraordinarily well on subsequent assignments/tests. This is done without corresponding tutoring or other academic assistance.
 - **Overzealous coaches:** Coaches who become increasingly demanding of athletics academic advisors and do not think the advisor is “doing enough.” Coaches who go around the appropriate individuals and speak directly to campus personnel and/or professors.
 - **Friends of the program:** Campus individuals, such as professors or administrators, who are particularly close to a sport program and are interested in helping student-athletes. They take the assistance too far and engage in academic misconduct.
 - **Proctoring:** Student-athletes who are traveling take an exam on the road, and the proctor — usually an athletics department staff person — allows the student-athlete to use outside materials for the exam or, worse, helps the student-athlete complete the exam.



STUDENT-ATHLETES

Academic misconduct comes in many forms. Student-athletes should review their college or university's academic misconduct policies or ask an academic counselor. Some examples of academic misconduct may include: plagiarism, or copying someone's paper or copying straight from a source without giving him or her credit; cheating on a test or assignment; working as a group when each person should do the assignment individually; or letting someone complete the work on behalf of someone else.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who monitors and investigates academic misconduct?

- **Your college or university:** The school has its own process for investigating and assigning penalties for academic misconduct.
- **The NCAA:** If academic misconduct involves certain factors, it could become an NCAA violation and there could possibly be additional penalties that affect you.

What happens to you if you have been found to have committed academic misconduct?

- **Your college or university:** The school has its own process to be followed and penalties that it will assess to you. Look at your institution's academic misconduct policies online or ask your academic counselor to help explain the policies and penalties to you.
- **The NCAA:** In some cases when the academic misconduct also is an NCAA violation, you will have to go through student-athlete reinstatement. This is the process that may reinstate your eligibility for competition. The withholding penalty starts with permanent ineligibility.
- There are possible long-term consequences outside of your ability to compete in your sport.
 - ▶ Professional sports (NFL/NBA/MLB/WNBA, etc.) look at your academic history.
 - ▶ Graduate schools may have a condition in which you cannot be admitted with an academic misconduct charge on your transcript.
 - ▶ Employers may hesitate to hire you if they see you have committed academic misconduct.

What should you do if someone asks you to cheat, offers to do your work for you or engages in any other academic misconduct?

- Report the incident to the appropriate individual according to your college or university's policies.

NCAA ENFORCEMENT ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT CASES

The following are a sampling of academic misconduct cases heard by the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions.

EXAMPLE 1 | A former men's basketball head coach acted unethically and failed to promote an atmosphere of compliance when he directed his staff to engage in academic misconduct. During the investigation, the former head coach fabricated a document to justify payments to student-athletes and took other actions to thwart the investigation.

Penalties in this case: Included three years of probation, a two-year postseason ban for the men's basketball team, reductions in scholarships and recruiting opportunities, as well as show-cause orders for a number of individuals, including the former head coach.

EXAMPLE 2 | A former women's basketball assistant coach, a former director of basketball operations and two women's basketball student-athletes acted unethically when they committed academic fraud to ensure the student-athletes were eligible to enroll at the institution. The former women's basketball head coach failed to monitor the two staff members' activities surrounding the two student-athletes' online coursework.

Penalties in this case: Included three years of probation and show-cause orders for a number of individuals. The institution self-imposed recruiting restrictions, scholarship reductions, a postseason ban and a prohibition of two-year college transfers in women's basketball.



EXAMPLE 3 | A former men's basketball assistant coach involved an enrolled student-athlete and several other individuals in an academic misconduct scheme centered on arranging fraudulent academic credit for a prospective student-athlete's online course.

Penalties in this case: Included two years of probation, financial penalties and a six-year show-cause order for the former men's basketball assistant coach.

PROTECT THE GAME



For more information, visit www.ncaa.org/enforcement

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