

Practical Workflow for Calculating Equivalencies

The following steps summarize a practical approach to determining what students are counters, identifying what financial aid is countable towards the previously legislated team financial aid limits and calculating equivalencies.

RECOMMENDED STEPS

- Identify **all** students participating or who may participate in each sport, including any students at the school receiving institutional scholarships based in any degree on athletics.
- Determine whether each student meets the NCAA definition of a recruited student-athlete using Bylaw 15 as it existed during the 2024-25 academic year.
- Identify **all** forms of financial aid each student-athlete is receiving or will receive during the academic year.
- Using Bylaw 15 as it existed during the 2024-25 academic year, determine which student-athletes are counters in a particular sport, considering factors such as incapacitating injury, exhausted eligibility and permanent ineligibility.
- No further financial aid analysis is necessary for student-athletes who are not considered counters.
- For each counter, classify each permissible award received. Include all countable aid in the numerator of the equivalency fraction, unless it can be specifically excluded.
- Determine the appropriate published cost of attendance to use in the denominator based on the student-athlete's residency and enrollment.
- Determine whether to use actual or average costs for each element of financial aid, ensuring that the same method is used in both the numerator and denominator for each element.
- If any amount of book benefits is provided, use \$800 as a placeholder in the equivalency computation.
- Calculate each counter's individual equivalency value as you would convert a fraction to a decimal to the nearest hundredth. To determine the nearest hundredth, schools must truncate each equivalency to the thousandths place and use scientific rounding methods for each individual fraction accordingly.
- Calculate the sum of the individual equivalencies for the team. Throughout the academic year, monitor changes that may change equivalency computations. Remember, the legislation must be fully satisfied to use replacements and exemptions.
- At the end of the year, compare the final equivalency value against the previously legislated team financial aid limit and complete any relevant reporting.
- Document the basis for each determination of counter status and each equivalency calculation, including the cost methodology used and the classification of each aid source. This documentation supports consistent decision-making over time and provides a clear record if questions arise about compliance in future years.