



University of South Carolina Beaufort Athletic Compliance

Advisement of Student-Athletes

NCAA DII Sport Teams -

Men's: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, I/O Track & Field

Women's: Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Softball, I/O Track & Field

NCAA DII Progress Toward Degree 101 – The Basics

What is "Progress Toward Degree" (PTD)?

PTD is a bylaw in the NCAA DII Manual (Bylaw 14.4) that requires student-athlete to enroll and pass courses that fall into their degree program. The rationale behind this bylaw is to ensure student-athletes are maintaining progress toward graduation and taking courses that will aid them in ultimately achieving an undergraduate degree within five years (10 full-time semesters).

What counts as PTD?

A student-athlete's first four full-time semesters, virtually anything counts, with one exception. If a student-athlete needs to complete developmental course work then the course will only count if it is a prerequisite for a specific course acceptable for any degree program, it is given the same weight as others at USCB in determining full-time status, any noncredit courses may not exceed the maximum limit, and may not count more than 12 hours and the course must be taken in the student-athlete's first academic year of collegiate enrollment, including summer. Beginning in a student-athlete's fifth full-time semester, credits taken by the student-athlete must be towards their designated degree program. A student-athlete in their fifth full-time semester and beyond is permitted to take remaining general education requirements, courses with the student-athlete's major, and/or a student-athlete's minor (only beginning in the semester after declaration).

Additional NCAA restrictions exist in reference to how minor courses may be counted. If a student-athlete's degree program **DOES NOT** require a minor for their selected degree program, up to six credit hours may be counted for the minor per term (or in the summer). Yet, if their degree program **DOES** require a minor for graduation, an unlimited number of credit hours from a minor can be counted.

Degree Designation -

The student-athlete needs to have their major and minor declared and on their transcript before the first day of classes of the term for the compliance staff to count the credit hours for the term in which they are enrolling in. A student is permitted to be undecided during their first two years, or four full-time semesters, of college, but must officially declare their major prior to the fifth full-time semester.

What are the credit hour requirements for PTD?

For a student-athlete to compete, practice, or receive athletic aid, the student-athlete needs to be enrolled as a full-time student with a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester. During the regular academic year, a student-athlete must earn a minimum of nine PTD credit hours per regular academic semester to be eligible for the next academic semester. A student-athlete must all pass a minimum of 24 PTD credit hours during the academic year, including the summer session, to be eligible for the next academic year where a minimum of 18 of the 24 PTD hours must be earned in the fall and spring semesters.

What is the grade point average (GPA) requirement for PTD?

The NCAA requires that Division II student-athletes earn a 2.0 minimum GPA to meet satisfactory PTD. The student-athlete must have a 2.0 GPA by the end of the academic year.

Repeated Courses -

The NCAA compliance staff can only count a course once: when the student-athlete earns a satisfactory grade in that course as per degree program/general education requirements. If a student-athlete earns a deficient grade, fails or withdrawals from a course, the NCAA compliance staff would not be able to count the course as PTD as the student-athlete did not earn a satisfactory grade in their attempt.

Incomplete Grades -

Generally, with incomplete grades, the course cannot count towards PTD until a satisfactory grade has been posted.

QUICK GUIDE:

WHAT COUNTS IN PTD?	
First Two Years/First Four Full-Time Semesters	Virtually Anything*
Beginning in the Third Year/Fifth Full-Time Semester	Remaining General Education Requirements, Major and Minor^ Specific Courses

**Developmental/Remedial Courses can only be counted in a student-athlete's first year (two full-time semesters) of collegiate enrollment*

^If the student-athlete's major requires a minor the student-athlete can take an unlimited amount of minor credit hours. If the student-athlete's major does not require a minor, that student-athlete can take up to six credit hours from their declared minor per term or in the summer.

CREDIT HOUR BREAKDOWN FOR PTD	
Per Academic Term (Fall OR Spring)	9 credit hours
Per Regular Academic Year (Fall AND Spring)	18 credit hours
Per Entire Academic Year (Fall, Spring, AND Summer)	24 credit hours

INSIGHT & TIPS:

- ❖ For student-athletes with freshman or sophomore standing (traditionally matriculated or transfer) – During the certifying institution's (USCB) first four semesters following a student-athlete's initial full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution, it is vital to ensure the student-athlete is on track to earn 48-credit hours.
- ❖ The general rule of thumb to follow is that if the course falls onto the student-athlete Degree Works worksheet, then the course will count as PTD. However, it is possible for a course to over-satisfy in the general education requirements, so it is important that any course that falls into a general education area is still counting towards the general education requirements (varies) or the overall 120-hour requirement.
- ❖ Cognate and concentration courses are considered major requirements for the purposes of PTD.
- ❖ In some cases, general elective courses can count towards degree progress. If the combination of major and general education credit hours does not equal the 120-credit threshold required for graduation, we can count elective credit hours towards PTD.
- ❖ If you have a student-athlete who wishes to withdrawal from a course, please encourage the student-athlete to contact the compliance staff.

If you have any questions regarding PTD, feel free to contact Shawn Becker, Director of Athletic Compliance, via email or telephone at sb128@uscb.edu and 843-208-8061 respectively. Thank you for helping Sand Shark student-athletes remain compliant!