



# **NCAA ACCELERATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM**

## ***GRANT APPLICATION BROCHURE FOR 2019-20***

- **SECTION 1: Selection Committee Composition**
- **SECTION 2: Comprehensive Grant (multiyear) Information**
- **SECTION 3: Initiative Grant (single-year) Information**

If you have questions regarding the Accelerating Academic Success Program or application process, please contact:

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## **CHANGES TO THE ACCELERATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM**

Given the impact of the program for the first class of grant recipients, the NCAA has added funds to the Accelerating Academic Success budget through 2020-21. This budget allocation will allow us to open only the Initiatives Grant for the 2019-20 academic year. The structure of the Initiatives Grant remains the same.

Additional information about the requirements and application process are contained in this brochure.

## SECTION 1: SELECTION COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

<b>SELECTION COMMITTEE COMPOSITION</b>	The AASP selection committee includes members of the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics, HBCU and Limited-Resource Institutions Academic Advisory Group, conference representation, public member and NCAA national office staff.
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## SECTION 2: COMPREHENSIVE GRANT (MULTIYEAR) INFORMATION (FUNDING IS EXPECTED TO RESUME FOR THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR)

<b>PURPOSE</b>	<p>To provide funding for the purpose of further developing systems and enhancements that assist institutions in meeting the requirements of the APP, including increasing the graduation rates and academic success of student-athletes.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Grant award period is four years. The grant recipient will receive grant funding the first three year of the grant. In the fourth year, the institution will fully fund the grant initiatives and the NCAA will monitor the continuation of the grant initiatives.</p>
<b>GRANT ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS</b>	<p>Eligible institutions are:</p> <p>Those <u>non-FBS institutions in the bottom 15 percent of resources of active Division I members</u>, as determined by per capita institutional expenditures, per capita athletics department funding, and per capita Pell Grant aid for the student body.</p>
<b>JOINT GRANT PROPOSALS</b>	Eligible institutions are permitted to partner with other eligible institutions and submit a joint grant proposal. If a joint proposal is submitted, the oversight committee, as described in Section 4, should have representatives from all involved institutions; and a signature page, as described in Section 4, from each involved institution is required.
<b>AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTS</b>	Institutions are eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$300,000 per year for three years (subject to a yearly renewal assessment).

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of possible use of the dollars include, but are not limited to, summer bridge program, summer school, fifth year of aid, staffing, equipment and facilities. Click [HERE](#) to see other initiatives implemented by grant recipients.

<b>GRANT AWARD PERIOD</b>	<p>The four year grant award period will be the following academic years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 2020 – July 2021 (grant funding provided)</li> <li>• August 2021 – July 2022 (grant funding provided)</li> <li>• August 2022 – July 2023 (grant funding provided)</li> <li>• August 2023 – July 2024 (sustainability monitoring)</li> </ul>
<b>CASH AND IN-KIND MATCH</b>	<p>Institutions that are awarded a comprehensive grant are required to match (cash and in-kind) grant dollars during the first three years of the grant award period <sup>2</sup>. Matching means that a percentage of the total cost of initiative(s) must be provided by your institution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year One - institution commits 25 percent match of dollars allocated;</li> <li>• Year Two - institution commits 50 percent match of dollars allocated;</li> <li>• Year Three - institution commits 75 percent match of dollars allocated.</li> <li>• Year Four – no match required the institution is fully funding the grant initiatives, no grant funds provided.</li> </ul> <p><b>What is a cash match?</b> A cash match means actual dollars that are provided by your institution from other than AASP grant.</p> <p><b>What is an in-kind match?</b> In-kind gifts are contributions of goods or services, other than cash. Includes in-kind match includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goods, like computers, software, furniture, and office equipment, for use by your organization to implement and complete initiative(s);</li> <li>• Use of existing facilities or space;</li> <li>• Services, like meeting space, photocopy and mail services, and administrative/financial support;</li> <li>• Time of individuals within the institution (e.g., experts in a specific area) spent in providing direction and participating in initiative(s); and</li> <li>• Waived financial aid or fees.</li> </ul>

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<sup>2</sup> Institutions are not required to use the in-kind match option. The institution's match may be fulfilled with cash match only.

If a portion of the in-kind contribution (e.g., facilities, space) is used by individuals or groups that are not part of the initiative(s) being implemented under the grant, that only the percentage attributable to the individuals or groups part of the initiative(s) may be applied as an in-kind contribution.

The value of these services or goods is estimated based on their market value<sup>3</sup>. There is a limit on the percentage of in-kind match in Year Two and Year Three of the grant program:

- Year One – 100 percent of the amount that institution is required to provide as a match may be in-kind match.
- Year Two - no more than 50 percent of the amount that institution is required to provide as a match may be an in-kind match.
- Year Three – no more than 25 percent of the amount that institution is required to provide as a match may be an in-kind match.

For example, if an institution is awarded a grant for the award maximum (\$900,000):

	Grant Amount	Institution's Match Requirement	Maximum In- Kind Match Value	Total Required Expenditures
Year One	\$300,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$375,000
Year Two	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$450,000
Year Three	\$300,000	\$225,000	\$56,250	\$525,000
Year Four	\$0	\$0	None Required	\$525,000

#### **DISTRIBUTION AND RENEWAL OF GRANT FUNDS**

Payments will be made to grant awardees in two installments. Dollars will be awarded for a one-year period and will be renewed based on demonstration of meeting the objectives and goals of the initiative(s)/program(s) for that year. A renewal assessment will be conducted by the AASP Selection Committee.

#### **EXPECTED GRANT OUTCOMES**

The primary measurable outcome for institutions participating in the grant program is APR improvement and the development of a sustainable plan to ensure all teams meet the 930 APR benchmark.

Other specific benchmarks and outcomes should be set based on the specifics of the institution's plan and situation. Examples include:

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<sup>3</sup> The price that would be agreed to in an open and unrestricted market between knowledgeable and willing parties dealing at arm's length who are fully informed and not under compulsion to transact. The fair market value is the price an institution would normally be expected to pay in such circumstances, after normal and educational discounts.

- Progress in APRs for teams below the 930 benchmark.
- Improved individual student-athlete performances (credits earned per term, grade-point average).
- Improved APR retention of student-athletes.
- Improved APR eligibility of student-athletes.
- Improved single-year APR.
- Sustained commitment and engagement from university chancellor or president, director of athletics and other key institutional administrators.
- Implementation of APR improvement plan.
- Increased real-time graduates.
- Accountability for dollars spent – submission of accounting of all dollars and assessment of impact of dollars.
- Sustaining the funded initiatives and programs beyond the grant period.

**FACTORS  
CONSIDERED IN  
AWARDING GRANT**

- Demonstrated support and involvement of chancellor or president and director of athletics in approval, oversight and implementation of the plan.
- Involvement of head coaches of teams not meeting APR benchmarks.
- Specific request for use of NCAA dollars and rationale demonstrating how such expenditures will meet the grant program's expected outcomes.
- Demonstration of sustainability of proposed initiative(s)/programs(s) beyond the period of the grant program.
- Strategies for assessing the impact of the initiative(s)/program(s).
- Historical overview and assessment of APRs.
- Review access to and previous use of grant funds from the NCAA.
- Demonstrated success in implementation of APR improvement plans to date.
- The circumstances surrounding an institution's involvement in a major enforcement investigation and/or a recent finding of lack of institutional

control made against the institution by the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions.

- The institution's ability to provide a match (i.e., cash and/or in-kind) of grant funds during the period of award.
- Resource level of institution.
- Interview with the institutional staff members responsible for oversight of the implementation of the initiatives and/or program.

**REQUIRED GRANT  
MEETINGS AND  
REPORTS**

**Meetings:**

- Initial Orientation (part of the AASP Conference).
- Orientation/Fall campus visit (September-December) – the NCAA national office campus liaisons will visit the campus to review initiatives, plan and goal as well as gain a better understanding of the campus and its culture.
- Monthly videoconferences with NCAA national office contacts (as necessary).
- Campus visit (January, if necessary) – Opportunity for NCAA national office campus liaisons to review the activities that have occurred on campus and provide assistance to the institution oversight committee as they are preparing their midyear report.<sup>4</sup>
- Spring campus visit (April-June) – Opportunity for NCAA national office campus liaisons to review the activities that have occurred on campus; provide assistance to the institution oversight committee as they are preparing their annual report; and discuss the Yearly Renewal Assessment.
- Yearly Renewal Assessment – Institution's president, faculty athletics representative, director of athletics, senior woman administrator and the primary contact for the Accelerating Academic Success Program will meet with the Accelerating Academic Success Program Selection Committee.

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<sup>4</sup> In year two, three and four, if the grant recipient has been successful handling grant (e.g. Implementation, communication, meeting goals, etc.), the number of campus visits will be reduced to one a year in the spring.

<b>GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE</b>	There is no current application timeline for the comprehensive grant. <b>FUNDING IS EXPECTED TO RESUME FOR THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR.</b>
<b>YEAR ONE GRANT IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE</b>	There is no current year one implementation timeline for the comprehensive grant. <b>FUNDING IS EXPECTED TO RESUME FOR THE 2020- 21 ACADEMIC YEAR.</b>



### SECTION 3: INITIATIVES GRANT (SINGLE YEAR) INFORMATION

#### PURPOSE

A single-year grant to fund initiative(s) that supports the academic success of the institution's student-athletes by increasing eligibility, retention and/or grade-point averages.

This grant will be limited to initiatives related to: (1) direct student-athlete development (e.g., financial aid, life-skills, leadership, etc.); (2) technology; (3) equipment and furniture; (4) professional development for staff; and (5) renovations<sup>5</sup>.

**Requests for full-time staff positions may only be made through the Comprehensive Grant application.**

#### GRANT ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

Eligible institutions are:

- Those non-FBS institutions in the bottom 15 percent of resources of active Division I members, as determined by per capita institutional expenditures, per capita athletics department funding, and per capita Pell Grant aid for the student body; **OR**

Any institution, regardless of resources, in conferences in which at least 60 percent of the institutions of that conference are non-FBS institutions in the bottom 15 percent of resources of active Division I members.

#### **AND**

- Those institutions that have two or less teams below 930;

If an institution has three teams below 930 **AND** the institution has **NOT** been subject to level II and III Committee on Academics penalties in the last two APR years (academic years 2016-17 and 2017-18).

**Please note that if an institution has more than three teams below the 930 benchmark, the institution is not eligible for an Initiatives Grant.**

#### AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTS

Institutions are eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$100,000.

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<sup>5</sup> Note that the selection committee will give priority to applications with requests related to equipment/furniture, technology, professional development and/or direct student-athlete development.

<b>GRANT AWARD PERIOD</b>	The grant award period will be August 1, 2019, through July 31, 2020.
<b>CASH MATCHING</b>	Institutions that are awarded an initiative grant are required to match grant dollars. The match will be 20 percent of the amount requested. For example, if the institution is awarded \$100,000, the institution match requirement is \$20,000. The total cost of the initiatives funded by the grant would be \$120,000.
<b>DISTRIBUTION GRANT FUNDS</b>	Payments will be made to initiatives grant awardees in one installment.
<b>EXPECTED GRANT OUTCOMES</b>	Successful completion of funded initiatives that support the academic success of the institution's student-athletes by showing an increase in eligibility, retention and/or grade-point averages.
<b>FACTORS CONSIDERED IN AWARDING GRANTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Endorsement of the chancellor or president as well as the director of athletics' approval, oversight and implementation of the plan.</li><li>• Involvement of head coaches of teams not meeting APR benchmarks.</li><li>• Specific request for use of NCAA dollars and rationale demonstrating how such expenditures will meet the grant program's expected outcomes.</li><li>• Demonstration of sustainability of proposed initiative(s)/programs(s) beyond the period of the grant.</li><li>• Strategies for assessing the impact of the initiative(s)/program(s).</li><li>• Historical overview and assessment of APRs.</li><li>• Review access to and use of grant funds from the NCAA (e.g., SSF and/or AASP pilot dollars, if any).</li><li>• Demonstrated success in implementation of APR improvement plans to date.</li><li>• The circumstances surrounding an institution's involvement in a major enforcement investigation and/or a recent finding of lack of institutional control made against the institution by the Division I Committee on Infractions.</li><li>• The institution's ability to provide a 20 percent cash match of grant funds.</li></ul>

- Resource level of the institution
- Institution's ability to sustain funded initiatives or programs.

**REQUIRED  
INITIATIVE GRANT  
INTERACTIONS  
AND MEETINGS**

- Midyear check-in.
- One end-of-year campus visit. Opportunity for NCAA national office campus liaisons to review the activities that have occurred on campus; provide assistance to the institution's oversight and implementation as they are preparing their end-of-year report.
- Final report.

**GRANT  
APPLICATION  
PROCESS  
TIMELINE**

December 2019	Application period opens.
March 9, 2020	Grant application deadline.
May 2020	Grant recipients notified.
September 2020	Initial grant payment submitted for disbursement.

**GRANT  
IMPLEMENTATION  
TIMELINE**

January/February 2020	Midyear check-in (via conference call).
August to October 2020	Final report.
September to December 2020	End-of-year campus visits.

**ONLINE  
APPLICATION**

The online application is currently being updated and once complete all eligible institutions will be notified and provided access to the application system.

**WHO TO CALL FOR  
QUESTIONS**

If you have questions regarding the AASP or the application process, please contact:

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