



**NCAA DIVISION I**  
**ACCELERATING ACADEMIC**  
**SUCCESS PROGRAM**  
***2026-27 GRANT APPLICATION***  
***INSTRUCTIONS***

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

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# THE ACCELERATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

## GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The NCAA is accepting applications for Accelerating Academic Success Program Single-Year Grants to be distributed for use in the 2026-27 academic year. Information about the requirements and application process is included in this document.

### SECTION 1: EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

**SELECTION COMMITTEE COMPOSITION** The Education and Engagement Working Group of the Division I Academic Eligibility Committee is charged with reviewing and selecting AASP grant recipients. The working group includes members of the AEC and staff from Division I member institutions and conferences (including representatives from institutions that previously received an AASP Grant). NCAA national office staff serve as liaisons to the working group.

### SECTION 2: SINGLE-YEAR GRANTS

**PURPOSE** A single-year grant is designed to fund initiative(s) that support the institution's student-athletes' academic success 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>1</sup>.

**Requests for full-time staff positions may not be part of a single-year grant application.**

**GRANT-ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS** Eligible institutions are:

- Historically Under-Resourced Institutions: 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**

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the working group will give priority to applications with requests related to equipment/furniture, technology, professional development and/or direct student-athlete development.

Any institution, regardless of resources, classified as a Historically Black College or University.

**AND**

- Those institutions that have not more than two teams with a multi-year Academic Progress Rate (APR) below 930;

If an institution has three teams with an APR below 930 **AND** the institution has **NOT** been subject to Level Two Academic Performance Program penalties in the last two years.

<b>AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTS</b>	Institutions are eligible to receive up to \$100,000.
<b>GRANT AWARD PERIOD</b>	The grant award period will be August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027.
<b>CASH MATCHING</b>	Institutions awarded a single-year grant must 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. VIK is not considered cash.
<b>DISTRIBUTION GRANT FUNDS</b>	Payments will be made to single-year 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 academic performance (e.g., eligibility, retention and/or grade-point averages, fewer failed courses).
<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>• Use of NCAA dollars and rationale demonstrating how such expenditures will meet the grant program's expected outcomes.</li> <li>• Demonstrated sustainability of proposed initiative(s)/programs(s) beyond the grant period as appropriate.</li> <li>• Assessment of the impact of the initiative(s)/program(s).</li> <li>• Historical overview and assessment of APR, Graduation Success Rate or other performance metrics.</li> </ul>

- Review of any previously received grant funds from the NCAA.
- The circumstances surrounding an institution's involvement in a major enforcement investigation and/or a recent finding of lack of institutional control involving academic legislation or requirements made against the institution by the Division I Committee on Infractions, if applicable.
- The institution's ability to provide a 20 percent **cash** match of grant funds.

**REQUIRED SINGLE-YEAR GRANT INTERACTIONS AND MEETINGS**

- Active participation in a midyear check-in.
- At minimum one end-of-year campus visit. Opportunity for NCAA national office campus liaisons to review the activities that have occurred on campus; assist in the institution's oversight and implementation as they are preparing their end-of-year report.
- Grant administrator(s) attendance at AASP Summit.
- Completion and submission of a final report.

**GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE**

February 9, 2026	Application period opens.
May 29, 2026	Grant application deadline.
Late July 2026	Grant recipients notified.
August 2026	Initial grant payment submitted for disbursement.

**GRANT IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE**

January/February 2027	Midyear check-in (via conference call).
August to October 2027	Final report due.
August to December 2027	End-of-year campus visits.

**ONLINE APPLICATION**

The online application is now available in Program Hub through NCAA Apps. [NCAA Applications](#).

**TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Log into Program Hub via My Apps on NCAA.org.

2. Under Applications, select the 2026-27 NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program (AASP) Single-Year Grant.
3. Complete the grant application questions. Note there are several questions that request uploading a document or letter to complete that step. This includes the required signature page.
4. Submit the application.

**QUESTIONS**

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

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