



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.
	<p>This grant will be limited to initiatives related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(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) Renovations¹. <p>Requests for full-time staff positions may not be part of a single-year grant application.</p>
GRANT-ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS	<p>Eligible institutions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historically Under-Resourced Institutions: 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; OR

¹ 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.

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTS	Institutions are eligible to receive up to \$100,000.
GRANT AWARD PERIOD	The grant award period will be August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027.
CASH MATCHING	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.
DISTRIBUTION GRANT FUNDS	Payments will be made to single-year grant awardees in one installment.
EXPECTED GRANT OUTCOMES	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).
FACTORS CONSIDERED IN AWARDING GRANTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endorsement of the chancellor or president, as well as the director of athletics' approval, oversight and implementation of the plan.• Involvement of head coaches of teams not meeting APR benchmarks.• Use of NCAA dollars and rationale demonstrating how such expenditures will meet the grant program's expected outcomes.• Demonstrated sustainability of proposed initiative(s)/program(s) beyond the grant period as appropriate.• Assessment of the impact of the initiative(s)/program(s).• Historical overview and assessment of APR, Graduation Success Rate or other performance metrics.

- 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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