



The information contained in this document is provided as a reference only. The most updated information regarding NCAA Division II rules is available on the legislative services database ([LSDBi](#)).

Title: Proposal No. 2014-16 (No. 2-13) Path to Graduation -- Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements -- Good Academic Standing-- Term-by-Term Credit Requirements -- Credits Earned During the Regular Academic Year -- Grade-Point Average Requirements (II)

Date Issued: January 15, 2014

Date Published: January 15, 2014

Type: Educational Column

Item Ref: 16

Question No. 1: Does this proposal impact Proposal Nos. 2014-17 and 2014-18 (annual credit-hour requirement proposals)?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: Will an institution have the opportunity to file a progress-toward-degree waiver if a student-athlete does not satisfy the requirements due to extenuating circumstances?

Answer: Yes.

Proposed Change No. 1: Clarify that a student-athlete must be in good academic standing to be eligible for competition.

Question No. 1: What entity determines the requirements for good academic standing?

Answer: Good academic standing is determined by the academic authorities at the certifying institution, who determine the meaning and application of such phrases for all students.

Question No. 2: Is it permissible for an institution to have a less stringent definition of good academic standing for student-athletes?

Answer: No. Good academic standing must be applied in the same manner for all students.

Question No. 3: How often must an institution certify good academic standing?

Answer: If the certifying institution's policy requires midyear certification of good academic standing for all students, the same standard would apply for student-athletes. Likewise, if an institution's policy only requires certification of good academic standing on an annual basis, then student-athletes would be held to the same standard.



Question No. 4: Does this proposal change how good academic standing is determined under the current legislation?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: If an institution permits students on academic probation (or similar status) to participate in extracurricular activities, could a student-athlete on probation participate in intercollegiate athletics?

Answer: Yes, provided the individual satisfies all conference and NCAA progress-toward-degree requirements.

Definition of Good Academic Standing

Date Issued: August 9, 1995

Date Published: August 9, 1995

Item Ref: 5-n-(5)

Interpretation: Definition of Good Academic Standing: The Academic Requirements Committee recommended that the Council issue an interpretation of Bylaws 14.01.1 and 14.02.5 to specify that the definition of good academic standing applied to student-athletes shall be a standard at least as demanding as the minimum standard applied to all students in order to participate in extracurricular activities at that institution.

It was VOTED

"That the Council issue an interpretation consistent with the committee's recommendation."

Question No. 6: May a conference office adopt a policy that is more stringent than an institution's requirements for good academic standing?

Answer: Yes.

Proposed Change No. 2: The term-by-term credit requirement increases from six credit hours to nine semester/eight quarter hours.

Question No. 1: Are the term-by-term credit hours required to be degree applicable?

Answer: During a student-athlete's first four semesters or six quarters of collegiate enrollment, the credit hours used to satisfy the term-by-term credit requirement may be applicable to any of the institution's degree programs. Beginning with the student-athlete's fifth semester or seventh quarter of enrollment, the credit hours must be applicable to the student-athlete's declared degree program.



Question No. 2: Is the term-by-term credit-hour requirement applicable to transfer students?

Answer: Yes. The nine-semester/eight quarter hours must be transferable to any of the institution's degree programs.

Question No. 3: May credit hours earned during the summer or during a part-time term be used by a student-athlete to satisfy the term-by-term credit hour requirement?

Answer: No.

Proposed Change No. 3: Student-athletes must earn 18-semester/27-quarter hours during the regular academic year.

Question No. 1: How is the regular academic year defined for the purposes of the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement?

Answer: The regular academic year is defined as the time beginning with the opening of the institution's fall term and concluding with the institution's spring commencement exercises.

Question No. 2: Do the credit hours used to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement have to be degree applicable?

Answer: During a student-athlete's first four semesters or six quarters of collegiate enrollment, the credit hours used to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement may be applicable to any of the institution's degree programs. Beginning with the student-athlete's fifth semester or seventh quarter of enrollment, the credit hours must be applicable to the student-athlete's declared degree program.

Question No. 3: May credit hours earned during an interim term (e.g., J-term, mini term) be used by a student-athlete to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement?

Answer: Yes, provided the term occurs after the start of the fall term and prior to spring commencement.

Question No. 4: May credits earned during an interim term (e.g., J-term, mini-term) be used by a student-athlete for purposes of a midyear certification to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirements?

Answer: Yes. The institution must document that the interim term credits were satisfactorily completed prior to the start of the regular academic term immediately following the interim term. In addition, such credits must be used for purposes of midyear certification of the grade-point average requirement.



Question No. 5: May credit hours earned prior to initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution (e.g., advanced placement credit, credit earned at another institution) be used to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: May credit hours earned through credit-by-examination be used by a student-athlete to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement?

Answer: Such credit may only be used if the examination is completed after the start of the fall term and prior to spring commencement.

Question No. 7: May part-time credits be used by a student-athlete to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement?

Answer: Credits earned during a term in which a student-athlete is enrolled less than full time may be used to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement only if such credits are combined with credits earned during a term that immediately precedes or immediately follows a term in which the student-athlete is enrolled as a full-time student. Credits earned during a part-time term may be completed at an institution other than the certifying institution provided the credits appear on the certifying institution's transcript.

Question No. 8: If part-time credits are used to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement, does that semester or term have to be counted toward the 10-semester/15-quarter rule?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: Is a student-athlete required to earn a specific number of credits during each academic term for purposes of the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement?

Answer: No; however, if the proposal is adopted, student-athletes will be subject to the nine-semester/eight-quarter hour requirement for any term in which the student-athlete is enrolled full time at any collegiate institution.

Question No. 10: May incomplete grades be used by a student-athlete to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement once an acceptable grade is posted to the student-athlete's record?

Answer: A student-athlete who receives an incomplete grade in a course taken during the academic year may use the course to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement provided the requirements of Bylaw 14.4.3.6 (incomplete grades) are satisfied.



Question No. 11: When must a midyear enrollee or midyear transfer student satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement?

Answer: A midyear enrollee or midyear transfer student is not subject to the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement for the fall term immediately following the student-athlete's initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution. In subsequent years, the student-athlete's completion of the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement shall be certified prior to the beginning of each academic year based on the student-athlete's record since the beginning of the previous fall term.

Question No. 12: If a student-athlete does not meet the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement at the beginning of the fall term, is it permissible to recertify that student-athlete at midyear based on credits earned in the institution's two preceding semesters or three preceding quarters?

Answer: Yes.

Proposed Change No. 4: Student-athletes must earn a grade-point average of 2.000 prior to the beginning of each fall term.

Question No. 1: How is the grade-point average calculated?

Answer: The grade-point average is based on the method of calculation used by the institution for calculating cumulative grade-point averages for all students. The calculation shall include only coursework normally counted by the certifying institution in calculating the cumulative grade-point average for graduation. (See Bylaw 14.5.4.4.3.2 - calculation of grade-point average for transferrable credit).

Question No. 2: Does the proposal require a term-by-term grade-point-average certification?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: If a student-athlete's grade-point average drops below a 2.000 during the academic year, is the institution required to declare the student-athlete ineligible?

Answer: No, provided the student-athlete maintains good academic standing as defined by the institution and satisfies other progress-toward-degree requirements (e.g., term-by-term credit requirements).

Question No. 4: When must a midyear enrollee or transfer student satisfy the 2.000 grade-point average requirement?

Answer: In the fall following his or her initial enrollment at the certifying institution.



Question No. 5: If a student-athlete does not meet the 2.000 grade-point average at the beginning of the fall term, is it permissible to recertify that student-athlete at midyear?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 6: If a student-athlete completes an eight-week course that ends in the middle of the term and raises his or her grade-point-average above the required 2.000, may the student-athlete be certified as eligible in the middle of the term?

Answer: No. Per Bylaw 14.1.9 (change in eligibility status) the earliest the student-athlete could become eligible for competition is the day after the date of the last scheduled examination listed in the institution's official calendar for the full academic term.

The following chart outlines the current rule and the proposed legislative changes included in this proposal:

	Current Rule	Proposed Rule
Good Academic Standing	To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete shall be in good academic standing, as determined by the academic authorities who determine the meaning of such phrases for all students of the institution, subject to controlling legislation of the conference(s) or similar association of which the institution is a member.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete shall be in good academic standing, as determined by the academic authorities who determine the meaning and application of such phrases for all students at the institution, subject to controlling legislation of the conference(s) or similar association of which the institution is a member.• A student-athlete shall maintain a grade-point average that places the individual in good academic standing, as established by the institution for all students who are at an equivalent stage of progress toward a degree. A student-athlete who is not in good academic standing is not eligible for competition even if the individual satisfies the progress-toward-degree requirements.



Term-by-Term Credit Hour Requirement	Six-semester/six-quarter hours of credit in last full-time term of enrollment.	Nine-semester/eight-quarter hours of credit in last full-time term of enrollment.
Hours Earned During the Regular Academic Year	<p>Must earn at least 75 percent of the minimum number of semester or quarter hours required for progress toward degree during the regular academic year.</p> <p>Must achieve a cumulative minimum grade-point average based on the student-athlete earning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-semester or 36-quarter hours: 1.800; • 48-semester or 72-quarter hours: 1.900; • 72-semester or 108-quarter hours: 2.000; and • 96-semester or 144-quarter hours: 2.000. 	<p>Must complete 18-semester or 27-quarter hours since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters.</p> <p>Must achieve a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 prior to the beginning of each fall term.</p>
Grade-Point Average Requirement		

Notice about Educational Columns: Educational columns and hot topics are intended to assist the membership with the correct application of legislation and/or interpretations by providing clarifications, reminders and examples. They are based on legislation and official and staff interpretations applicable at the time of publication. Therefore, educational columns and hot topics are binding to the extent that the legislation and interpretations on which they are based remain applicable. Educational columns are posted on a regular basis to address a variety of issues and hot topics are posted as necessary in order to address timely issues.

Legislative References

Div. Number	Title
II 14.4.3.1.4.1	Regular Academic Year.
II 14.4.3.1.4.2	Waiver Procedures.
II 14.4	Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements.
II 14.4.3	Eligibility for Competition.
II 14.4.1	Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements.
II 14.4.3.1.4	Hours Earned During Regular Academic Year.
II 14.4.3.1.4.3	Waiver or Exception -- Prorating Hours.
II 14.4.3.5	Waivers of Progress-Toward-Degree Rule.



- II 14.4.3.2 Fulfillment of Minimum Grade-Point-Average Requirements.
- II 14.4.3.2.2 Applicable Credit Hours.
- II 14.4.3.1 Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements.
- II 14.4.3.1.1 Transfer Student -- Six-Hour Requirement.
- II 14.4.3.2.1 Calculation of Grade-Point Average for Student-Athletes.
- II 14.4.3.4 Exceptions to Progress-Toward-Degree Rule.
- II 14.4.3.3.11 Cooperative Educational, Work Experience and Study-Abroad Programs.
- II 14.4.3.2.3 Application of Rule to Transfer and Continuing Student.
- II 14.4.1.1 Exchange Student.