



## COVID-19 RESPONSE FAQs

For Students Initially Enrolling Full Time in the 2021-22 or 2022-23 Academic Year

Given the impact of COVID-19 on the educational environment, the NCAA Eligibility Center partnered with the NCAA membership to identify the following changes to the initial-eligibility certification process for students who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution during the 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic year.

### FAQ Topics—Quick Links

[Submission of Academic Documents](#)

[Subsequent Classes](#)

[Academic Evaluations](#)

[Prior Classes](#)

### Automatic Waiver Criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 Enrollment

**Q1:** Due to COVID-19, will there be any flexibility in the initial-eligibility standard for students who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution during the 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic year?

**A1:** Yes. Students who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution during the 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic year will receive an automatic initial-eligibility waiver in the academic certification process that provides the highest level of relief for which they are eligible, per the criteria below:

COVID-19 AUTOMATIC WAIVER CRITERIA—2021-22 OR 2022-23 ENROLLMENT*		
Alternative Standard	Division I	Division II
<b>Qualifier</b> Athletics aid, practice and competition.	<b>Complete Academic Record:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Core-course progression (10/7) before starting 7th semester;**</li> <li>» 16 core-course units in the required subject areas;</li> <li>» ≥ 2.300 core-course GPA; and</li> <li>» Proof of graduation.</li> </ul>	<b>Complete Academic Record:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 16 core-course units in the required subject areas;</li> <li>» ≥ 2.200 core-course GPA; and</li> <li>» Proof of graduation.</li> </ul>
<b>Early Academic Qualifier***</b> Athletics aid, practice and competition.	<b>Pre-7th Semester:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 14 core-course units in the required subject areas; and</li> <li>» ≥ 3.000 core-course GPA.</li> </ul>	<b>Pre-7th Semester:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 14 core-course units in the required subject areas; and</li> <li>» ≥ 2.500 core-course GPA.</li> </ul>
<b>Academic Redshirt</b> Athletics aid (1st year) and practice (1st term).	<b>Complete Academic Record:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 16 core-course units in the required subject areas;</li> <li>» ≥ 2.000 core-course GPA; and</li> <li>» Proof of graduation.</li> </ul>	N/A***

\*Standardized test scores are excluded from these criteria. \*\*Students certified based solely on international credentials are exempt from the 10/7 core-course progression requirement. \*\*\*Final high school transcripts are required.

**Q2:** If students meet the [COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment](#) but also present a non-qualifying standardized test score, will they still receive the automatic waiver?

**A2:** Yes. Similar to the approach in 2020-21, standardized test scores are not included in the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment.

**Q3:** How will the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment appear in the student’s Eligibility Center account?

**A3:** For students who meet the alternative [Qualifier or Early Academic Qualifier standard](#), their Eligibility Center account will show Final Nonqualifier (Division I) or Final Partial Qualifier (Division II) status with “COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved” in the “Academic Status” field (see below):

<b>DIVISION I</b> Academic Status <b>Final Nonqualifier</b>  (COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved)	Amateur Status <b>Preliminary Reviewed</b>	<b>DIVISION II</b> Academic Status <b>Final Partial Qualifier</b>  (COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved)	Amateur Status <b>Preliminary Reviewed</b>
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<b>DIVISION I ACADEMIC STATUS</b> <b>Final Nonqualifier</b>  COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved  You are immediately eligible to receive athletics aid, practice and compete. Contact your institution’s Compliance Department for details.	<b>DIVISION II ACADEMIC STATUS</b> <b>Final Partial Qualifier</b>  COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved  You are immediately eligible to receive athletics aid, practice and compete. Contact your institution’s Compliance Department for details.
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For students who meet the alternative [Academic Redshirt](#) (Division I) standard, their Eligibility Center account will show “Final Nonqualifier” status with “Partial COVID-19 Waiver – Aid: 1st yr & Practice: 1st term” for Division I:

<b>DIVISION I</b> Academic Status <b>Final Nonqualifier</b>  (Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Aid: 1st yr & Practice: 1st term)	Amateur Status <b>Preliminary Reviewed</b>	<b>DIVISION I ACADEMIC STATUS</b> <b>Final Nonqualifier</b>  Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Aid: 1st yr & Practice: 1st term  You are immediately eligible to receive athletics aid in your first year and practice in your first term of full-time enrollment. Contact your institution’s Compliance Department for details.
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**Q4:** Will homeschool students be eligible to meet the [COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment](#)?

**A4:** Yes, similar to the approach in 2020-21.

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## Submission of Academic Documents

- Q5:** Will there be any flexibility in requiring official academic documents?
- A5:** Official academic records are necessary to ensure accurate initial-eligibility certifications and should be submitted via an [approved channel](#) whenever possible. Similar to the approach in 2020-21, if only unofficial records are available for students who initially enroll full time in the 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic year, they may be submitted to [ec-processing@ncaa.org](mailto:ec-processing@ncaa.org) directly from the email associated with the student's Eligibility Center account and should include the student's NCAA ID in the subject line.
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## Academic Evaluations

- Q6:** How will the Eligibility Center approach schools with NCAA-approved core courses that offer distance, e-learning or hybrid options for students due to COVID-19?
- A6:** The Eligibility Center will not require a separate review of distance, e-learning or hybrid programs offered by schools with NCAA-approved core courses in spring/summer 2020, 2020-21 or 2021-22 in response to COVID-19. Students may complete their NCAA-approved core courses through the channels of instruction provided or recommended by their school, district or state department of education. For parents administering home school curriculum, please review the information included in the Eligibility Center [home school resources](#).

*Note:* This policy will apply to students from all grade levels (e.g., freshmen, sophomores) who complete distance, e-learning or hybrid courses in spring/summer 2020, 2020-21 or 2021-22 at schools with NCAA-approved core courses.

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- Q7:** How will the Eligibility Center approach high schools that issue pass/fail grades?
- A7:** For NCAA-approved core courses completed in spring/summer 2020, 2020-21 or 2021-22 that have been issued a grade of pass, the Eligibility Center will apply the credit earned in these courses toward the core-course requirement in the student's certification. If the student's core-course GPA would increase by assigning a value of 2.300, this value will be assigned to the passed courses. However, if the student's core-course GPA would decrease by including the 2.300 value for passed courses, the student's core-course GPA will be calculated based only on courses with assigned letter grades from previous terms (credit from these courses will still be applied toward the student's core-course requirements).

*Note:* This policy will apply to students from all grade levels (e.g., freshmen, sophomores) who successfully complete NCAA-approved pass/fail core courses in spring/summer 2020, 2020-21 or 2021-22.

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- Q8:** Will there be any flexibility in the Division I core-course time limitation?
- A8:** Yes. Similar to the approach in 2020-21, students who initially enroll full time in 2021-22 or 2022-23 may use up to six core-course units completed after starting the seventh semester (and before full-time enrollment) in their initial-eligibility certification,

regardless of whether the student graduated on time or when the courses are completed (i.e., during the academic year or summer term).

**Note:** For Division I, similar to the approach in 2020-21, students who initially enroll full time in 2021-22 or 2022-23 may use all core courses completed before initial full-time enrollment in their academic-redshirt certification.

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**Q9:** How will the Eligibility Center approach canceled international leaving examinations?

**A9:** The Eligibility Center encourages submission of official year-by-year transcripts for evaluation of international students. For countries and/or examination boards issuing certificates/diplomas without final exams (based on other assessment methodologies), the Eligibility Center will accept the credential as acceptable proof of high school graduation, provided it is listed as an acceptable proof of graduation in the [Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#). As a reminder, the [Graduation Timeline Confirmation Form](#) may also be submitted, as appropriate, to extend the graduation timeline.

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**Q10:** Will there be any impact on the PSA-Review process?

**A10:** Yes. Program tasks will not be sent for courses completed in spring/summer 2020, 2020-21 or 2021-22. Further, test-score inquiries will not be submitted for students who initially enroll full time in 2020-21, 2021-22 or 2022-23.

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**Q11:** Will the Eligibility Center reevaluate accounts that meet the COVID-19 alternative [qualifier](#) or [early academic qualifier](#) standard?

**A11:** No, unless there is an issue regarding the validity of the academic credentials that were used to meet the COVID-19 alternative qualifier or early academic qualifier standard.

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**Q12:** Will [COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment](#) apply to expected 2020 graduates or prior (as determined by the start of year nine) who delay initial full-time enrollment until 2021-22 or 2022-23?

**A12:** Yes.

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**Q13:** What if students do not meet the [COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment](#)?

**A13:** Member schools may submit an initial-eligibility waiver for students who do not meet COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment.

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## Subsequent Classes

**Q14:** Will other classes (e.g., sophomores, juniors) receive any flexibility in the NCAA initial-eligibility standard as a result of COVID-19?

**A14:** The approach to pass/fail grades and distance/e-learning/hybrid courses will apply to all students, including subsequent classes, who complete NCAA-approved core courses in spring/summer 2020, 2020-21 or 2021-22.

## Prior Classes

**Q15:** What COVID-19 alternative standards apply to students who initially enroll full time in the 2020-21 academic year (including midyear enrollees)?

**A15:** Students who initially enroll full time in the 2020-21 academic year (including midyear enrollees) will receive an automatic initial-eligibility waiver that provides the highest level of relief for which they are eligible, per the criteria below:

COVID-19 AUTOMATIC WAIVER CRITERIA—2020-21 ENROLLMENT*		
Alternative Standard	Division I	Division II
<p><b>Qualifier</b> Athletics aid, practice and competition.</p>	<p><b>Complete Academic Record:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Core-course progression (10/7) before starting seventh semester;**</li> <li>» 16 core-course units in the required subject areas;</li> <li>» ≥ 2.300 core-course GPA; and</li> <li>» Proof of graduation.</li> </ul> <p><b>-OR-</b></p> <p><b>Pre-Seventh Semester:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Core-course progression (10/7) before starting seventh semester; and**</li> <li>» ≥ 2.300 core-course GPA.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete Academic Record:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 16 core-course units in the required subject areas;</li> <li>» ≥ 2.200 core-course GPA; and</li> <li>» Proof of graduation.</li> </ul> <p><b>-OR-</b></p> <p><b>Pre-Seventh Semester:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 10 core-course units; and</li> <li>» ≥ 2.200 core-course GPA.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Academic Redshirt</b> Athletics aid (1st year) and practice (1st term).</p>	<p><b>Complete Academic Record:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 16 core-course units in the required subject areas;</li> <li>» ≥ 2.000 core-course GPA; and</li> <li>» Proof of graduation.</li> </ul> <p><b>-OR-</b></p> <p><b>Pre-Seventh Semester:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 10 core-course units; and</li> <li>» ≥ 2.000 core-course GPA.</li> </ul>	N/A
<p><b>Partial Qualifier</b> Athletics aid and practice.</p>	N/A	<p><b>Complete Academic Record:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 16 core-course units in the required subject areas;</li> <li>» ≥ 2.000 core-course GPA; and</li> <li>» Proof of graduation.</li> </ul> <p><b>-OR-</b></p> <p><b>Pre-Seventh Semester:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 10 core-course units; and</li> <li>» ≥ 2.000 core-course GPA.</li> </ul>

\*Standardized test scores are excluded from these criteria. \*\*Students certified based solely on international credentials are exempt from the 10/7 core-course progression requirement but must complete 10 core-course units for the pre-seventh semester alternative qualifier standard. [Click here](#) for information on the Eligibility Center's COVID-19 response related to amateurism certifications.