

Division I Membership

Initial-Eligibility Waiver

2025-26 Partial Approval FAQs

Pursuant to the 2025-26 Initial-Eligibility Waiver Directive, Division I student-athletes who receive a partially approved IEW may earn eligibility for practice in the next regular academic term of full-time enrollment during the first year in residence (e.g., 2026 spring semester). Specifically, these student-athletes may earn eligibility for practice by successfully completing at least nine semester hours or eight quarter hours of academic credit (acceptable toward any of the member school's degree programs) in the preceding regular academic term (e.g., 2025 fall semester) of full-time enrollment (the condition).

The following questions and answers are intended to assist DI schools.

CREDIT HOURS

Q1: Which semester or quarter hours may be used to determine whether the student-athlete met the condition?

A1: Semester or quarter hours must be earned during the preceding regular academic term of full-time enrollment (per the member school's official academic calendar for regular semesters or quarters) during the first year in residence and applicable toward any of the member school's degree programs (see Division I Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7). Unless otherwise noted, current legislation and interpretations governing credit hours for progress-toward degree credit hour requirements apply.

Note: See Division I Bylaw 14.4.3.5.4 regarding remedial, tutorial or noncredit courses.

Q2: Does the condition apply to the next regular term of full-time enrollment during the first year in residence?

A2: Yes. For example, in a quarter system, fall term performance determines eligibility for practice in the winter term, and winter term performance determines eligibility for practice in the spring term marks.

Q3: If a student-athlete receives an incomplete in one or more courses and later completes the course(s), which term does it count toward?

A3: The course with the acceptable letter grade must be counted during the term in which the student-athlete was initially enrolled in the course or during the term in which the incomplete grade was removed and acceptable credit was awarded, based on the member school's policy for all students.

CERTIFICATION AND REPORTING TO NCAA STAFF

Q4: Will NCAA staff certify whether the student-athlete met the condition?

A4: No. The appropriate institutional authority must determine whether the student-athlete met the condition. For a transfer student-athlete, the previous member school must determine whether the student.

Q5: Is the member school required to notify NCAA staff regarding whether the student-athlete met the condition?

A5: Yes. The member school must notify the IEW case manager regarding the student-athlete's academic performance in the preceding full-time semester or quarter (hours of academic credit attempted and earned for degree credit [per Division I Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7] and term GPA) and specify whether the student-athlete met the condition. The member school is not required to submit official transcripts to NCAA staff; however, the member school must promptly notify staff after certifying whether the student-athlete met the condition.

CHANGE IN ELIGIBILITY FOR PRACTICE

Q6: If a student-athlete with a partially approved IEW has been practicing but does not meet the condition to practice in the next term, when must the student-athlete stop practicing?

A6: Legislation and interpretations regarding change in eligibility status (Division I Bylaw 14.4.3.4) apply to student-athletes who do not meet the condition.

EXCEPTIONS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Q7: Are there any exceptions to the academic requirements (i.e., nine semester hours or eight quarter hours) necessary to meet the condition?

A7: No.

Q8: If the student-athlete does not meet the condition, is there any additional recourse (i.e., appeal, reconsideration or additional waiver) to earn practice in the next regular term of full-time enrollment in the first year in residence?

A8: The condition permitting the ability to earn practice is subject to the IEW decision, which must be appealed within 30 calendar days after receiving written notice of the staff decision via Requests/Self-Reports Online.

Q9: May a student-athlete who receives a partially approved IEW earn eligibility for competition during the first year in residence based on performance in the preceding regular term of full-time enrollment?

A9: No.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Q10: If a student-athlete does not meet the condition, does it impact the eligibility point for Academic Performance Program purposes?

A10: No. The condition only applies to the IEW process.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

Q11: May a student-athlete with a partially approved IEW receive travel-related expenses in the first year of full-time enrollment?

A11: Student-athletes who are eligible for practice may receive travel-related expenses in accordance with Division I Bylaw 16.8.1.

ACADEMIC REDSHIRTS

Q12: If an academic redshirt does not meet the condition (Bylaw 14.3.1.2) to practice in the next regular term of full-time enrollment during first year in residence, what options are available if an IEW has not been submitted?

A12: The member school may submit an IEW seeking eligibility for competition for the student-athlete.

