



Questions regarding this Tip Sheet related to NCAA academic standards and requirements should be directed to Academic Services (O: 803.777.8521 or Compliance Services (O:803.777.1519 – F:803.777.9070).

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**Academic Standards**

As a student-athlete, you are subject to NCAA, Southeastern Conference and University regulations that affect your eligibility during your collegiate career. The Office of Compliance Services staff will meet with all teams in the fall to discuss eligibility requirements. It is your responsibility to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations.

We encourage you to work with your athletic academic advisor and ask questions about your eligibility; take the initiative to get answers. The NCAA does not accept “I didn’t know” as an excuse.

All student-athletes must be admitted to the University of South Carolina – Columbia as a degree seeking student.

All student-athletes are required to be enrolled in a full-time program of study while participating in practice or competition.

**SUMMARY OF THE NCAA DIVISION I ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & SEC ELIGIBILITY**

[Note: This is intended as a summary only and does not include significant detail.]

NCAA REQUIREMENTS				
During First Year of Collegiate Enrollment	Entering Second Year of Collegiate Enrollment	Entering Third Year of Collegiate Enrollment	Entering Fourth Year of Collegiate Enrollment	Entering Fifth Year of Collegiate Enrollment
Pass six credits/term (FB=9)  18 credits during academic year	24 semester credits  18 credits during academic year  1.80 GPA at start of and during each term of the second year  Pass six credits/term (FB=9)  A maximum of six semester of remedial courses may be used in the first year	40% of degree requirements  18 credits during academic year  1.90 GPA at start of and during each term of third year  Pass six degree applicable credits/term (FB=9)  Declared degree program	60% of degree requirements  18 credits during academic year  2.00 GPA at start of and during each term of fourth year  Pass six degree applicable credits/term (FB=9)  Declared degree program	80% of degree requirements  18 credits during academic year  2.00 GPA at start of and during each term of fifth year  Pass six degree applicable credits/term (FB=9)  Declared degree program

Note that the University of South Carolina the GPA requirement for graduation is a 2.00 for all students.

Baseball Student-Athletes must maintain academic eligibility during the fall semester in order to maintain eligibility for the spring semester.

***THOSE WHOSE DEGREE TAKES MORE THAN 120 CREDITS TO GRADUATE---SEE YOUR ATHLETIC ACADEMIC ADVISOR IN THE DODIE FOR ADJUSTED PERCENTAGE OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS.***



**ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

1. SA's are allowed 4 seasons of eligibility within 5 calendar years from initial full time enrollment at a collegiate institution. When a SA participates in *any* competition (including scrimmages with outside competition), whether it is for one minute or an entire contest, the SA has used a season of competition and one of their 4 years of eligibility.
2. Student-athletes must carry to completion a minimum of 12 credits per term to practice, receive financial aid and compete in intercollegiate athletics. *If a SA drops below 12 hours they are immediately ineligible to practice or compete with the team.* Additionally, if the SA is on an athletic scholarship, the scholarship may be withdrawn. Academic eligibility is determined on the **FIRST** day of each term.

ACADEMIC CLASS (FT Enrollment)	NCAA CONTINUING ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
<b>Freshmen</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> semester)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be certified by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse as a Qualifier (Academic &amp; Amateurism).</li> <li>• Must pass 6 hours.</li> </ul>
<b>Sophomore</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> semester)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have earned at least 24 credit hours during previous year with at least 18 earned during the regular academic year and 6 earned per term.</li> <li>• Must meet a cumulative GPA requirement of 1.8 each semester.</li> <li>• 18 hours earned during Fall and Spring terms combined and 6 earned each term.</li> </ul>
<b>Junior</b> (5 <sup>th</sup> semester)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40% of degree must be completed prior to the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> FT semester.</li> <li>• Must have declared major prior to start of 5<sup>th</sup> semester</li> <li>• Must meet a cumulative GPA requirement of 1.9 each semester.</li> <li>• 18 degree app hours earned during Fall and Spring terms combined and 6 degree app earned each term.</li> </ul>
<b>Senior</b> (7 <sup>th</sup> semester)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have declared a major; cumulative GPA requirement of 2.0 each semester.</li> <li>• 60% of degree must be completed prior to the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> FT semester.</li> <li>• 18 degree app hours earned during Fall and Spring terms combined and 6 degree app earned each term.</li> </ul>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Year Senior</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> semester)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have declared a major; cumulative GPA requirement of 2.0 each semester.</li> <li>• 80% of degree must be completed prior to the start of the 9<sup>th</sup> FT semester.</li> <li>• 18 degree app hours earned during Fall and Spring terms combined and 6 degree app earned each term.</li> </ul>

- Once a SA officially declares a major (prior to the beginning of 5<sup>th</sup> FT semester), all hours used toward meeting the satisfactory progress requirements must be applicable toward your designated degree program.
- There is an exception for a SA that is in their final two semesters prior to graduation, the 6 hour requirement may be met utilizing any 6 hours that the institution accepts as a passing grade. The institution must be able to document and certify the SA is in their final two semesters to apply this exception.
- If a SA is a transfer from a two-year or four-year college, the SA is not eligible during your first academic year in residence at USC unless they meet the provisions of the one of the NCAA's transfer exceptions.
- Baseball SA's that are academically ineligible in the Fall term cannot regain eligibility for competition in the Spring term.
- Football SA's that do not successfully pass 9 credit hours during the Fall term must serve a four game academic suspension the following season, unless they meet a legislative exception.
- Exceptions to the Progress Toward Degree Legislation
  - **Missed Term Exception:** 6 hours may be prorated when a SA misses a complete term and subsequently returns to USC. Note the SA may not engage in any outside competition during the missed term.
  - **Medical Absence Waiver:** May be approved by the Conference Office - 6 hours are prorated for the term(s) that are missed when a SA is unable to complete the term due to medical reasons (must be documented and recommended by a physician).
  - **Olympic/Elite International Competition Exception:** May be approved by the Conference Office - 6 hours are prorated for the term(s) that are missed when a SA is unable to enroll due involvement in approved events.