



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

In the sport of football, each fall semester a student-athlete must successfully pass 9 credit hours and earn the APR E point for the fall.

A student-athlete that does not successfully complete both of these requirements in the fall semester, but is otherwise eligible for the next fall semester will:

- a) Not be eligible to compete in the first four contests during the next fall semester.
- b) Be able to regain eligibility to compete in the third and fourth contests of the next fall semester, provided he successfully completes at least 27 credits hour prior to the beginning of the next fall semester.
- c) Be able to utilize a one-time exception to compete in the first four contests, provided he successfully completes at least 27 credits hour prior to the beginning of the next fall semester.

### NCAA BYLAWS

#### 14.4.3.1 - Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements.

Eligibility for competition shall be determined based on satisfactory completion of at least: (Revised: 1/10/92, 10/31/02 effective 8/1/03, 3/10/04, 4/28/05)

- a) Twenty-four-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit prior to the start of the student-athlete's second year of collegiate enrollment (third semester, fourth quarter);
- b) Eighteen-semester or 27-quarter hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters (hours earned during the summer may not be used to fulfill this requirement) (see Bylaw 14.4.3.1.4); and
- c) *Six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term (e.g., fall semester, winter quarter) in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution* (see Bylaw 14.1.9 for postseason certification).

#### 14.4.3.1.6 - Additional Requirements -- Football.

*In football, a student-athlete who is a member of the institution's football team and who does not successfully complete at least nine-semester hours or eight-quarter hours of academic credit during the fall term or does not earn the Academic Progress Rate eligibility point for the fall term (or does not successfully complete either requirement) shall not be eligible to compete in the first four contests against outside competition in the following playing season.* (Adopted: 4/28/11 effective 8/1/11, Revised: 5/28/13)

#### 14.4.3.1.6.1 - Regaining Eligibility for Two Contests.

*A student-athlete who is ineligible, pursuant to Bylaw 14.4.3.1.6, to compete in the first four contests of a playing season against outside competition may regain eligibility to compete in the third and fourth contests of that season, provided he or she successfully completes at least 27-semester hours or 40-quarter hours of academic credit before the beginning of the next fall term.* A student-athlete in his or her initial year of full-time collegiate enrollment may use credit hours earned at the certifying institution during the summer prior to initial full-time enrollment and credit hours earned during the summer following the regular academic year to satisfy the 27-semester/40-quarter credit-hour requirement. (Adopted: 4/28/11 effective 8/1/11, Revised: 2/6/12)

**14.4.3.1.6.2 - Regaining Full Eligibility -- One-Time Exception.**

*One time during a student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility, a student-athlete who is ineligible, pursuant to Bylaw 14.4.3.1.6, to compete in the first four contests of a playing season against outside competition may regain eligibility to compete in the first four contests of that season, provided he or she successfully completes at least 27-semester hours or 40-quarter hours of academic credit before the beginning of the next fall term.* A student-athlete in his or her initial year of full-time collegiate enrollment may use credit hours earned at the certifying institution during the summer prior to initial full-time enrollment and credit hours earned during the summer following the regular academic year to satisfy the 27-semester/40-quarter credit-hour requirement. (Adopted: 4/28/11 effective 8/1/11, Revised: 2/6/12, 5/28/13)

**NCAA INTERPRETATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL COLUMNS***Staff Interpretation***Incomplete Grades and Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements (I)**

Date Published: November 7, 2011

*Interpretation:* The academic and membership affairs staff determined that when applying credit-hour requirements, a course taken during the summer but completed during the academic year must be counted during the summer and not during the academic year.

*Staff Interpretation***Nine-Hour Requirement for Student-Athlete Who Fulfills Graduation Requirements (I)**

Date Published: January 20, 2012

*Interpretation:* The academic and membership affairs staff determined that a football student-athlete who does not successfully complete nine-semester hours or eight-quarter hours of academic credit during the fall term but completes the courses necessary to receive a baccalaureate degree from the institution shall not be subject to the four contest competition restriction.

Further, a football student-athlete who is in the final academic year (final two semesters or three quarters) of his or her designated degree program may use credit hours acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs to satisfy the nine-semester or eight-quarter hour requirement, provided the institution certifies that the student is enrolled in courses necessary to complete degree requirements at the end of the two semesters or three quarters. Thereafter, the student-athlete shall forfeit eligibility in all sports, unless he or she completes all degree requirements during the final two semesters or three quarters and is eligible to earn his or her baccalaureate degree on the institution's next degree-granting date.

*Staff Interpretation***Football Additional Credit Hour Requirements -- Effect on Academic Eligibility for the One-Time Transfer Exception and Athletically Related Financial Aid (I)**

Date Published: February 16, 2012

*Interpretation:* The academic and membership affairs staff determined that a football student-athlete who did not successfully complete at least nine-semester hours or eight-quarter hours of academic credit and/or the Academic Progress Rate eligibility point during the fall term but is eligible under all progress-toward-degree legislation at the time of transfer is academically eligible for the purposes of the one-time transfer exception and is eligible for institutional athletically related financial aid at the certifying institution on transfer. However, a student-athlete who does not qualify for the one-time exception to a two- or four-game penalty must be withheld from the applicable number of competitions at the certifying institution in the next fall term.