

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY LEGISLATION**

### **1. When should a student register with the NCAA Eligibility Center?**

Students should register with the eligibility center after the completion of their junior year in high school. At this time, a transcript that includes six semesters of grades should be sent to the eligibility center from the high school. Additionally, students should request all SAT or ACT test scores be forwarded directly to the eligibility center by entering code “9999” as a reporting selection when they register for the exam.

### **2. How are students prioritized for processing at the eligibility center?**

Students who have their status requested by an NCAA institution are prioritized by the eligibility center for processing. Students with disabilities and students who individually request a preliminary status report will also be prioritized. If a student's eligibility status is not prioritized in one of these three ways, the eligibility center may not process the student's file.

### **3. How is the NCAA core-course grade-point average different from a student's overall grade-point average?**

The NCAA core-course grade-point average is calculated using only NCAA-approved core courses in the required core academic areas (e.g., English, mathematics, natural or physical science, social science). High school grade-point averages generally include the grades from most or all courses attempted in grades nine through 12. Please check your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses for more information.

### **4. May weighted grades for honors or advanced placement courses be factored into the calculation of the student's core-course grade-point average?**

A school's normal practice of weighting honors or advanced courses may be used as long as the weighting is used for computing grade-point averages. Weighting cannot be used if the high school weights grades solely for the purpose of determining class rank. Additionally, in no instance may the student receive greater than 1.000 additional quality point for purposes of calculating the core-course grade-point average for initial eligibility. It is the responsibility of the high school to provide the weighted grading scale to the eligibility center.

### **5. What options are available to students who do not meet the NCAA initial-eligibility standards?**

Students who do not meet the initial-eligibility standards may be granted a waiver of their deficiency through the NCAA initial-eligibility waiver process. NCAA academic committees are vested with the authority to authorize waivers of initial-eligibility requirements based on objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances that may warrant a waiver of the normal application of the legislation. The waiver may only be filed

by an NCAA institution (college or university) on behalf of the student. Additionally, there is a waiver process for a student who needs a core course that was approved after the student's graduation and needs to be retroactively applied to a student's NCAA initial-eligibility certification. Either the high school or NCAA institution may contact the eligibility center to begin the "48-H Waiver" process. This particular waiver is done through the eligibility center.

**6. May courses taken in the eighth grade that are high school core courses (e.g., Algebra I, Spanish I, Freshman Composition) be used to meet the core-course requirements?**

Yes, courses taken in the eighth grade that are high school core-course requirements, provided the eighth grade courses appear on the student's high school transcript and receive high school graduation credit.

**7. May students use courses taken after high school graduation?**

Generally, students who enroll in an NCAA Division I institution may use only courses completed in grades nine through 12 or the international equivalent as specified in the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for athletics eligibility to meet the NCAA core-curriculum requirements. If a student graduates from high school within the core-curriculum time limitation (e.g., in a student's first eight semesters or 12 quarters), he or she may use one core course, completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year), but not later than the end of the academic year immediately after the high school graduation date of the student's class. Students enrolling in Division II institutions and students with disabilities (enrolling in either Divisions I or II) may use core courses taken after high school graduation to meet the NCAA core-curriculum requirements, provided the courses are completed before full-time enrollment in a college or university.

**8. Are vocational courses acceptable?**

Traditional vocational courses are not acceptable. These include courses such as agriculture, auto mechanics, accounting and health. The core-course review instructions (located on the High School Review Administration main page) explain in detail the NCAA's requirements for a core course.

**9. May courses taken by a high school student at a local college be used to meet the core-course requirements?**

College courses may be used to satisfy core-curriculum requirements if the courses are accepted and awarded graduation credit by the high school for any student and meet all other requirements for core courses. For NCAA Division I only, such courses must be placed on the student's high school transcript. Courses taken at a college will not appear on the high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses. The high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses will include only those courses taught or offered by the high school.

**10. Does a student with a disability have to submit information to the eligibility center to document their disability?**

Students with disabilities may receive accommodations in order to meet NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. To receive the accommodations, the student's disability must be documented. In Division I only, if a student uses approved core courses taken after the eighth semester of high school (including courses taken in the summer after high school graduation) and before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, certain documents must be submitted to the eligibility center. Those documents are: (1) a current signed copy of a professional evaluation report that states the diagnosis of the student's disability; and (2) a copy of the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individual Transition Plan (ITP) or Section 504 Plan or statement that relates to accommodations received by the student with the disability.

**11. May students with a diagnosed disability use courses that are designated for students with a disability to meet NCAA core-course requirements?**

Students with appropriately diagnosed disabilities may use courses for students with disabilities for the purpose of meeting NCAA core-course requirements. Courses for students with disabilities must appear on the high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses (i.e., designated on the high school's list with an "=" sign) in order for a student to receive NCAA credit for the course.

**12. Does the prohibition against special education, remedial or compensatory courses apply to students with disabilities?**

No. In order for courses designated for students with disabilities to be approved, the course must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively, to an NCAA-approved core course offered in that academic area. Also, the course must be placed on the high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses.

**13. What if a student's final high school transcript contains an error or the student has grade changes that are not included on the final transcript mailed to the eligibility center?**

Once the eligibility center has received all required documentation, including a final high school transcript with proof of graduation for a student, they are able to produce a final certification report. If a high school forwards a revised final transcript to the eligibility center, the eligibility center will not be able to use the changes to issue a revised final certification report. Instead, any changes to a student's final high school transcript must be approved through the initial-eligibility waiver process (see question No. 5 for more

information about the waiver process). Therefore, it is very important that final transcripts are checked for accuracy before being sent to the eligibility center.

**14. May courses taken at high school “A” be accepted if they appear on high school “B’s” transcript?**

No. High school “B” may provide the eligibility center with an official copy of high school “A’s” transcript, but courses from one high school cannot be accepted on another high school’s transcript.

**15. May courses taught via nontraditional methods (i.e., independent study, Web based, correspondence courses) be used to meet the core-course requirements?**

Students may use courses taught via nontraditional methods to satisfy the core-curriculum requirements provided certain criteria are met. If approved, these courses appear on the high school’s list of NCAA-approved core courses. The core-course requirements will explain in detail the NCAA’s requirements for nontraditionally taught courses, which include the requirement that nontraditional courses be placed on the student’s home (or graduating) high school transcript.

**16. How is my core-course grade-point average calculated?**

Your core-course grade-point average may be calculated using your best grades from the required minimum number of core courses that meet the core-course distribution requirements. Core courses beyond the required minimum may be used to meet the core-course grade-point average if the distribution requirements are met.

**17. How are courses taken over two years counted?**

A course that is normally taught in one year but spread over a longer period of time (i.e., two years, three semesters) is considered as one course and would receive a maximum of one core-course credit. A core course may never receive more than one unit of credit.

**18. Where can I find a list of my high school’s approved core courses?**

Each high school’s list of approved core courses may be found by linking to the eligibility center Web site at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).

**19. May computer science courses be used to meet the core-course requirements?**

Effective for students first entering a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2005, computer science courses may not be used to meet the core-course requirements.

**To determine the status of documents sent or to check on your eligibility status, contact:**

**NCAA Eligibility Center  
Certification Processing  
P.O. Box 7136  
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7136  
877/262-1492 (customer service)  
317/223-0799  
[www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)**