



## NCAA Eligibility Center COVID-19 Response FAQs

Given the unprecedented events during Spring/Summer 2020 due to COVID-19, the NCAA Eligibility Center has partnered with the NCAA membership to identify the following adjustments to the initial-eligibility certification process. These changes may not capture all unique scenarios; however, NCAA Customer Service is available to assist with questions Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern time at 877-262-1492 (Domestic students and Canadian students outside of Quebec) and for international students including Quebec at [ncaa.org/contactinternational](http://ncaa.org/contactinternational). (This version includes updates posted May 28 **in yellow**.)

### Standard of Evaluation

**Q1:** Given the unique circumstances and cancellations due to COVID-19, will there be any flexibility in the initial-eligibility standard for students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date (as determined by the start of year nine) who initially enroll full time at an NCAA member school in the 2020-21 academic year?

**A1:** Students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date who initially enroll full time at an NCAA school in 2020-21 will be academically eligible to receive athletics scholarship, practice and compete in the first year of full-time enrollment if they meet the following criteria:

#### Division I\*

- Meet the core-course progression requirement for NCAA-approved core courses (10 core units, seven of which must be in English, math or science) before start of the seventh semester; and
- Present a 2.300 or higher core-course GPA in such courses.

#### Division II\*

- Complete 10 NCAA-approved core course units before start of the seventh semester; and
- Present a 2.200 or higher core-course GPA in such courses.

\*Note: These criteria do not include ACT/SAT scores. The criteria also do not apply to students who are expected to graduate after Spring/Summer 2020.

**Q1a:** What if a student does not meet the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria?

**A1a:** If a student presents 10 core-course units prior to the start of the seventh semester and has at least a 2.0 GPA in those courses, they will receive a partially-approved waiver providing the benefits of Academic Redshirt (DI) and Partial Qualifier (DII) status at the time of final certification [initial application June 1]. If neither set of COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria is met, the student should continue to work toward meeting legislated [Division I or II initial-eligibility requirements](#) and submit all transcripts, test scores and proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

**Q2:** Will this standard apply to international students?

**A2:** For Divisions I and II, students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date who present *solely international academic credentials* and initially enroll full time in 2020-21 will be academically eligible to receive athletics scholarship, practice and compete in their first year of full-time enrollment if they:

- Successfully complete at least 10 core-course units before starting the seventh semester, and
- Present a 2.300 (DI)/2.200 (DII) or higher core-course GPA in such courses.

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**Q3:** Will this standard apply to homeschool students?

**A3:** Yes.

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**Q4:** How will the student's final status appear in their Eligibility Center account?

**A4:** The student's account will show "Final Nonqualifier" with "COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved" in the Academic Status field, as shown in the example student account below:

<b>DIVISION I</b> Academic Status <b>Final Nonqualifier</b>  (COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved)	Amateur Status <b>Pending Review</b>	<b>DIVISION II</b> Academic Status <b>Final Nonqualifier</b>  (COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved)	Amateur Status <b>Pending Review</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 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.
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This status indicates that although the NCAA-legislated initial-eligibility standard was not completely met, the student is academically eligible to receive an athletics scholarship, practice and compete in the first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA member school.

**For student-athletes who do not qualify for the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver, but qualify for a partially-approved waiver providing the benefits of Academic Redshirt (DI) and Partial Qualifier (DII) status, the student's Eligibility Center account will show "Final Nonqualifier" status with "Partial COVID-19 Waiver – Aid: 1st yr & Practice: 1st term" for DI and "Partial COVID-19 Waiver – Athletics Aid and Practice" for DII in the Academic Status field, as shown in the example student account below:**

<p><b>DIVISION I</b> Academic Status <b>Final Nonqualifier</b></p> <p>(Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Aid: 1st yr &amp; Practice: 1st term)</p>	<p>Amateur Status <b>Preliminary Certified</b></p>	<p><b>DIVISION II</b> Academic Status <b>Final Nonqualifier</b></p> <p>(Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Athletics Aid and Practice)</p>	<p>Amateur Status <b>Preliminary Certified</b></p>
<p><b>DIVISION I ACADEMIC STATUS</b> <b>Final Nonqualifier</b></p> <p>Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Aid: 1st yr &amp; Practice: 1st term</p> <p>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.</p>		<p><b>DIVISION II ACADEMIC STATUS</b> <b>Final Nonqualifier</b></p> <p>Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Athletics Aid and Practice</p> <p>You are immediately eligible to receive athletics aid and practice in your first year of full-time enrollment. Contact your institution's Compliance Department for details.</p>	

## Timing

**Q5:** When will student accounts be updated?

**A5:** This standard will be applied at any time the student's Eligibility Center account is evaluated, either preliminary or final certification. If students with an expected graduation date in Spring/Summer 2020 have already been evaluated, a retroactive application of these criteria will be applied once programming is complete. We anticipate the update will occur on or around May 1, 2020.

## Submission of Academic Documents

**Q6:** Due to international mail disruptions and school closures, will there be any flexibility in requiring official academic documents?

**A6:** Yes. Official academic records are necessary to ensure accurate initial-eligibility certifications and should be submitted via an [approved channel](#) whenever possible. Given the unique circumstances, if only unofficial records are available for students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date who initially enroll full time in 2020-21, please submit them to [ec-processing@ncaa.org](mailto:ec-processing@ncaa.org) directly from *the email address associated with* the student's Eligibility Center account in the event they are needed for future evaluation.

- Q7:** Will students who meet the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria be required to submit a final high school transcript with proof of graduation?
- A7:** Proof of graduation is not a requirement for the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver, which may be applied during a preliminary evaluation; however, students are encouraged to submit a final high school transcript (similar to early academic qualifiers) when it becomes available to complete their academic record for NCAA Research purposes.

## Academic Evaluations

- Q8:** How will the Eligibility Center approach schools with NCAA-approved core courses that have moved to distance or e-learning environments in Spring/Summer 2020 due to school closures?
- A8:** The Eligibility Center will not require a separate review of distance or e-learning programs used for Spring/Summer 2020 in response to closures due to COVID-19. Students are encouraged to complete their NCAA-approved core courses through the channels of instruction provided or recommended by their school, district or state department of education.

*Note:* This policy will apply to students from all grade levels (e.g., freshmen, sophomores) who complete distance or e-learning courses in Spring/Summer 2020.

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- Q9:** For schools with NCAA-approved core courses, how will the Eligibility Center approach those schools that issue Pass/Fail grades in Spring/Summer 2020 due to school closures?
- A9:** For NCAA-approved core courses completed in Spring/Summer 2020 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 other available 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 courses in Spring/Summer 2020.

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- Q10:** Will there be any flexibility in the Division I core-course time limitation for students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date (as determined by the start of year nine) who initially enroll full time in 2020-21?
- A10:** Yes. For students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date who initially enroll full time in 2020-21, up to six core-course units completed after starting the seventh semester (and before full-time enrollment) will be used in the student's 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). This approach will allow students impacted by school closures to complete additional core courses toward their initial eligibility.

*Note:* For Division I, all core courses completed before full-time enrollment may be used in the academic-redshirt certification.

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**Q11:** What if a student repeats an academic term or year due to cancellation/closure in Spring 2020?

**A11:** NCAA Division I initial-eligibility requirements must be completed in eight semesters following the start of grade nine. NCAA Division II initial-eligibility requirements allow for inclusion of all NCAA-approved core courses completed before full-time collegiate enrollment. Students requiring a repeated academic term or year will need to work closely with the athletics compliance office at their NCAA school to determine their eligibility status given these unique circumstances.

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**Q12:** How will the Eligibility Center approach the cancellation of international leaving examinations in Spring/Summer 2020?

**A12:** The Eligibility Center encourages submission of official year-by-year transcripts for evaluation of international students. In terms of satisfying graduation requirements, 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 [NCAA International Guide](#). The [Graduation Timeline Confirmation Form](#) may also be submitted, as appropriate, to extend the graduation timeline.

### Subsequent Classes

**Q13:** Will other classes (e.g., sophomores, juniors) receive any flexibility in the NCAA initial-eligibility standard as a result of the environment in Spring/Summer 2020?

**A13:** The approach to Pass/Fail and distance/e-learning courses will apply to all students, including subsequent classes, who complete NCAA-approved core courses in Spring/Summer 2020. At this time, we do not anticipate that application of the adjusted standard will extend beyond expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduates who initially enroll full time in 2020-21, but we will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves.