

Sorry for the length of this correspondence, but this educational column was just released and has some important information for PSAs. It pertains to initial-eligibility requirements and recently adopted legislation that allows for one core-course to be taken after high school graduation.

Please review and contact the compliance office (765-494-3208) if you have any questions regarding the issue.

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**Educational Column -- Eligibility -- Freshman Academic Requirements -- Core Curriculum Time Limitation (I)**

**Date Issued:** May 23, 2007

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**Item Ref:** 1

**Interpretation:**

The NCAA Division I Board of Directors adopted NCAA Proposal No. 2006-65-A during its April 2007 meeting. This proposal amends NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.2.1, by adding Bylaw 14.3.1.2.1.1. The amended bylaw specifies that a prospective student-athlete must complete his or her core-curriculum requirements not later than the high school graduation date of the prospective student athlete's class [as determined by the first year of enrollment in high school (ninth grade) or the international equivalent as specified in the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility].

If the prospective student-athlete graduates from high school within the described time-frame, 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 prospective student athlete's class.

Below are some commonly asked questions along with some example scenarios that may assist in the application of this legislation.

**Question: What is the effective date of proposal No. 2006-65-A?**

Answer: August 1, 2007, for all prospective student-athletes first entering a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2007.

**Question: How does this Proposal affect prospective student-athletes whose expected date of graduation was prior to or during 2006?**

Answer: The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse\* will conduct "business as usual" for prospective student-athletes whose expected date of graduation was prior to or during 2006. That is, the clearinghouse will accept post-eighth semester coursework for these individuals, subject to review if inconsistencies or irregularities are discovered. Institutions will not be required to request a waiver for these courses to be considered in a prospective student athlete's final certification. However, if a prospective student-athlete still does not meet initial-eligibility standards after consideration of the post-eighth semester coursework, institutions will be able to seek relief through the initial-eligibility waiver process.

Beginning with the 2008-09 academic year, the new legislation will apply to all prospective student-athletes regardless of their year of expected graduation.

\*NOTE: As of October 29, 2007, the NCAA Eligibility Center will conduct all initial-eligibility certifications for prospective student-athletes.

**Question: Will the amended legislation affect prospective student-athletes whose expected date of graduation is in 2007?**

Answer: Yes. Prospective student-athletes whose expected date of graduation is with the 2007 class, but failed to meet graduation requirements, will not be able to use coursework completed after the 2006-07 academic year.

**Question: How will this legislation affect prospective student-athletes with disabilities?**

Answer: The legislation does not impact prospective student-athletes with a diagnosed disability that is approved by NCAA Disability Services. These prospective student-athletes may use coursework completed prior to initial full-time enrollment at a collegiate institution.

**Question: What if a prospective student-athlete repeats a grade during his or her high school career?**

Answer: This legislation is designed to encourage prospective student-athletes to take academic courses each year of high school to ensure timely graduation, and to discourage prospective student-athletes from intentionally delaying high school graduation solely to meet NCAA eligibility requirements while not preparing for the academic rigors of college. Thus, if a prospective student-athlete repeats a grade during his or her high school career, the application of this legislation will impact his or her ability to use core courses. In other words, the prospective student-athlete will still be required to complete core-curriculum requirements prior to the graduation date of their class at the time they entered ninth grade.

The NCAA recognizes there will be legitimate instances where student-athletes repeat a grade or do not graduate in a four-year period. The initial-eligibility waiver process will continue to address these situations.

**Question: May an initial-eligibility waiver be filed for a student-athlete who does not meet the requirements?**

Answer: Yes. The initial-eligibility waiver process is available for situations in which a prospective student-athlete is required to repeat a grade which results in an inability to meet the requirements. These waivers will be considered by the eligibility center and governance committees.

The NCAA will also continue to monitor these instances to ensure that no unintended consequences result from the adopted rules.

**Question: If an individual completes a core course after his or her expected date of graduation, may it be considered in the initial-eligibility certification process?**

Answer: Only those individuals who graduate within the appropriate timeframe (eight semesters) may take advantage of the additional core course considered in the initial-eligibility certification process.

Prospective student-athletes who do not graduate in eight semesters with their class may not use any courses taken after eight semesters, unless they have a documented and approved disability.

**Question: Does the one additional course have to be completed at the same high school from which the prospective student-athlete graduated?**

Answer: No. The course may be taken at any high school, through any nontraditional program or at any post-secondary institution. However, the course must meet the legislated definition of a core course.

**Question: What if the high school's graduation date is June 1, but the prospective student-athlete does not graduate until July 1? May a summer school course be used?**

Answer: No. A prospective student-athlete must graduate on time with his or her class in order for the additional core course to be considered in the initial-eligibility certification process.

**Question: What if a prospective student-athlete meets requirements for graduation, but proof of graduation does not appear on the high school transcript?**

Answer: The prospective student-athlete must graduate on time with his or her class and have proof of graduation on the high school transcript in order for the additional core course to be considered in the initial-eligibility certification process. (See the above question regarding potential waiver opportunities.)

**Question: May a prospective student-athlete using the additional core course take two half-unit courses?**

Answer: Yes. A prospective student-athlete using this opportunity may complete the equivalent of one Carnegie unit. For example, the prospective student-athlete could complete two one-half unit courses.

**Question: May a prospective student-athlete who graduates and meets the core curriculum requirement after eight semesters of high school use the additional core course to improve his or her core-course grade-point average?**

Answer: Yes. A prospective student-athlete who completes the core-curriculum requirements within the specified timeframe may use the additional core course to improve his or her core-course grade-point average for consideration in the initial-eligibility process.

**Examples:**

No. 1 2003-04: Grade 9  
2004-05: Grade 10  
2005-06: Grade 11  
2006-07: Grade 12 (did not graduate)  
Summer 2007: takes three classes through online program

RESULT: The prospective student-athlete did not graduate with his class; therefore, only courses taken in the first eight semesters will be considered in the initial-eligibility certification process. The summer school online courses may not be used.

No. 2 2003-04: Grade 9  
2004-05: Grade 10  
2005-06: Grade 11  
2006-07: Grade 12 (graduated)  
Summer 2007: takes three classes through online program

RESULT: One of the three courses taken through the online program may be used, since the prospective student-athlete graduated at the end of eight semesters. The eligibility center will use the one class that most benefits the prospective student-athlete in the review of his or her initial eligibility.

No. 3 2003-04: Grade 9  
2004-05: Grade 10  
2005-06: Grade 11  
2006-07: Grade 12 (did not graduate)  
2007-08: The prospective student-athlete plans to enroll at a preparatory school for a fifth year.

RESULT: The prospective student-athlete may attend the preparatory school, but none of the courses may be used for initial eligibility certification. The prospective student-athlete may still improve his or her standardized test score during the preparatory school year.

No. 4 2003-04: Grade 9  
2004-05: Repeat grade 9 due to injury or illness  
2005-06: Grade 10  
2006-07: Grade 11  
2007-08: Grade 12

RESULT: Under the new legislation, none of the courses from 2007-08 can be used for initial-eligibility purposes unless the prospective student-athlete graduated at the conclusion of the 2006-07 year. However, there is a waiver process available for prospective student-athletes who fail to meet the core-curriculum time limitations.

No. 5 2002-03: Grade 9  
2003-04: Repeat Grade 9  
2004-05: Grade 10. Prospective student-athlete diagnosed with learning disability.  
2005-06: Grade 11  
2006-07: Grade 12

RESULT: Provided the prospective student-athlete is approved through NCAA Disability Services, he or she will be able to use coursework from all five years.

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Finally, please remind those PSAs coming to Purdue University in the fall 2007 semester that test scores must be sent to the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse by the testing agency. For future reference, please ask recruits to use the 9999 code on their test to have it sent automatically to the clearinghouse.