NCAA® Eligibility Center

NCAA Eligibility Center COVID-19 Response FAQs
For Students Initially Enrolling Full Time in the 2021-22 or 2022-23 Academic Year

Given the continuing impact of COVID-19 on the educational environment, the NCAA Eligibility Center has partnered with the NCAA membership to identify the following changes to the initial-eligibility certification process for students **who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution during the 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic year**. The Eligibility Center will continue to monitor the environment and make necessary adjustments to prioritize health, safety and fairness for all prospective student-athletes.

FAQ Topics—Quick Links

Academic Evaluations	Automatic Waiver Criteria	Submission of Academic Documents	Timing

COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 Enrollment

Q1: Given the unique circumstances due to COVID-19, will there be any flexibility in the initial-eligibility standard for students who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution during the 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic year?

A1: Yes. Students who **initially enroll full time during 2021-22 or 2022-23** will receive an automatic initial-eligibility waiver in the academic certification process that provides the highest level of relief for which they are eligible, per the criteria below:
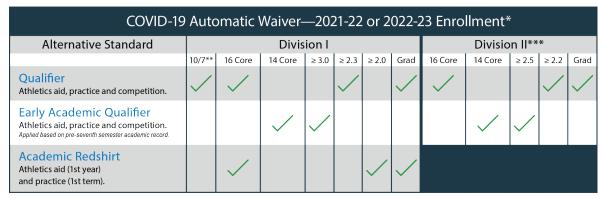
COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Criteria—2021-22 or 2022-23 Enrollment*		
Alternative Standard	**Division I**	**Division II**
Qualifier Athletics aid, practice and competition.	**Complete Academic Record:** • Core-course progression (10/7) before starting 7th semester;** • 16 core-course units in the required subject areas; • $\geq$ 2.300 core-course GPA; and • Proof of graduation.	**Complete Academic Record:** • 16 core-course units in the required subject areas; • $\geq$ 2.200 core-course GPA; and • Proof of graduation.
Early Academic Qualifier Athletics aid, practice and competition.	**Pre-7th Semester:** • 14 core-course units in the required subject areas; and • $\geq$ 3.000 core-course GPA.	**Pre-7th Semester:** • 14 core-course units in the required subject areas; and • $\geq$ 2.500 core-course GPA.
Academic Redshirt Athletics aid (1st year) and practice (1st term).	**Complete Academic Record:** • 16 core-course units in the required subject areas; • $\geq$ 2.000 core-course GPA; and • Proof of graduation.	N/A***

Standardized test scores are excluded from these criteria.

**Students certified based solely on international credentials are exempt from the 10/7 core-course progression requirement.*

***Please see linked resources for additional information regarding *Division I* and *Division II* standards.*

The following chart provides a quick reference for each division and the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 enrollment, as shown in the chart above.

COVID-19 Automatic Waiver—2021-22 or 2022-23 Enrollment*												
Alternative Standard	Division I							Division II***				
	10/7**	16 Core	14 Core	≥ 3.0	≥ 2.3	≥ 2.0	Grad	16 Core	14 Core	≥ 2.5	≥ 2.2	Grad
Qualifier Athletics aid, practice and competition.	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Early Academic Qualifier Athletics aid, practice and competition. *Applied based on pre-seventh semester academic record.*			✓	✓					✓	✓		
Academic Redshirt Athletics aid (1st year) and practice (1st term).		✓				✓	✓					

Standardized test scores are excluded from these criteria.

**Students certified based solely on international credentials are exempt from the 10/7 core-course progression requirement.

***Please see linked resources for additional information regarding Division I and Division II standards.

Q2: If students meet the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment but also present a non-qualifying standardized test score, will they still receive the automatic waiver?

A2: Yes. Standardized test scores are not included in the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment.

Q3: How will the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment appear in the student's Eligibility Center account?

A3: For students who meet the alternative Qualifier or Early Academic Qualifier standard, their Eligibility Center account will show Final Nonqualifier status with "COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved" in the Academic Status field (*see below*):

DIVISION I
Academic Status
Final Nonqualifier

(COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved)

Amateur Status
Preliminary Reviewed

DIVISION II
Academic Status
Final Partial Qualifier

(COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved)

Amateur Status
Preliminary Reviewed

DIVISION I ACADEMIC STATUS
Final Nonqualifier

COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved

You are immediately eligible to receive athletics aid, practice and compete. Contact your institution's Compliance Department for details.

DIVISION II ACADEMIC STATUS
Final Partial Qualifier

COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved

You are immediately eligible to receive athletics aid, practice and compete. Contact your institution's Compliance Department for details.

For students who meet the alternative Academic Redshirt standard (DI), their Eligibility Center account will show "Final Nonqualifier" status with "Partial COVID-19 Waiver – Aid: 1st yr & Practice: 1st term" for DI in the Academic Status field (*see below*):

DIVISION I
Academic Status
Final Nonqualifier

(Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Aid: 1st yr & Practice: 1st term)

Amateur Status
Preliminary Reviewed

DIVISION I ACADEMIC STATUS
Final Nonqualifier

Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Aid: 1st yr & Practice: 1st term

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.

Q4: Will homeschool students be eligible to meet the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment?

A4: Yes.

Timing

Q6: When will the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver be applied?

A6: The COVID-19 Automatic Waiver will be applied at the time of academic evaluation.

Submission of Academic Documents

Q7: Will there be any flexibility in requiring official academic documents?

A7: 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 who initially enroll full time in 2021-22 or 2022-23, please submit them to ec-processing@ncaa.org directly from the email address associated with the student's Eligibility Center account for use in the academic evaluation.

Academic Evaluations

Q8: How will the Eligibility Center approach schools with NCAA-approved core courses that offer distance, e-learning or hybrid options for students in 2020-21 and/or 2021-22 due to COVID-19?

A8: Consistent with the approach to reviews in Spring/Summer 2020, the Eligibility Center will not require a separate review of distance, e-learning or hybrid programs offered by schools with NCAA-approved core courses during 2020-21 and/or 2021-22 in response to COVID-19. Students may complete their NCAA-approved core courses through the channels of instruction provided or recommended by their school, district or state department of education. For parents administering home school curriculum, please review the information included in the Eligibility Center home school resources.

Note: This policy will apply to students from all grade levels (e.g., freshmen, sophomores) who complete distance, e-learning or hybrid courses in 2020-21 and/or 2021-22 at schools with NCAA-approved core courses.

Q9: How will the Eligibility Center approach high schools that issue Pass/Fail grades in 2020-21 and 2021-22?

A9: For NCAA-approved core courses completed in 2020-21 and 2021-22 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 previous 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 core courses in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Q10: Will there be any flexibility in the Division I core-course time limitation for students who initially enroll full time in 2021-22 or 2022-23?

A10: Yes. For students who initially enroll full time in 2021-22 or 2022-23, 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).

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

Q11: How will the Eligibility Center approach canceled international leaving examinations?

A11: The Eligibility Center encourages submission of official year-by-year transcripts for evaluation of international students. 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. As a reminder, the Graduation Timeline Confirmation Form may also be submitted, as appropriate, to extend the graduation timeline.

Q12: What if students do not meet the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 enrollment?

A12: Students should contact the athletics compliance office at their NCAA college/university to discuss potential next steps.

Q13: Will other classes (e.g., sophomores, juniors) receive any flexibility in the NCAA initial-eligibility standard as a result of COVID-19?

A13: The approach to Pass/Fail grades and distance/e-learning/hybrid courses will apply to all students, including subsequent classes, who complete NCAA-approved core courses in spring/summer 2020 or during the 2020-21 or 2021-22 academic years.

For information on the Eligibility Center's COVID-19 response to amateurism requirements, click here.