



INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FAQ 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR AND BEYOND

In January 2023, NCAA Divisions I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements for students who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2023.

The questions and answers below have been developed to assist Divisions I and II member schools in implementing this new legislation and ensuring awareness regarding COVID-19 policies that may apply to students who initially enroll full time on or after August 1, 2023.

FAQ Topics – Quick Links

[Initial-Eligibility Standards
— 2023-24 and Beyond](#)

[Submission of
Academic Documents](#)

[Academic Evaluations
Prior Classes](#)

Initial-Eligibility Standards – 2023-24 Academic Year and Beyond

Q1: What initial-eligibility standards apply to students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year and beyond?

A1: The following initial-eligibility standards apply to students who **initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year and beyond**:

INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS — 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR AND BEYOND		
Standard	Division I	Division II
Qualifier Athletics aid, practice and competition.	Complete Academic Record: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Core-course progression (10/7) before starting 7th semester;* » 16 core-course units in the required subject areas;» ≥ 2.300 core-course GPA; and» Proof of graduation.	Complete Academic Record: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 16 core-course units in the required subject areas;» ≥ 2.200 core-course GPA; and» Proof of graduation.
Early Academic Qualifier** Athletics aid, practice and competition.	Pre-7th Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 14 core-course units in the required subject areas; and» ≥ 3.000 core-course GPA.	Pre-7th Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 14 core-course units in the required subject areas; and» ≥ 2.500 core-course GPA.
Academic Redshirt Athletics aid (1st year) and practice (1st term).	Complete Academic Record: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 16 core-course units in the required subject areas;» ≥ 2.000 core-course GPA; and» Proof of graduation.	N/A***

Students certified based solely on international credentials are exempt from the 10/7 core-course progression requirement. **Final high school transcripts are required. *Please see linked resources for additional information regarding [Division I](#) and [Division II](#) standards.*

Q2: Will automatic initial-eligibility waivers apply to students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year?

A2: Yes. **Division I students** who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year will receive an automatic initial-eligibility waiver if they:

- » Provide proof of graduation;
- » Meet the 10/7 core-course progression requirement (not applicable if certified based entirely on international academic credentials); and
- » Present 13 or more core-course units (max three-unit deficiency) with a 2.800 or higher core-course GPA (based on their final academic certification for qualifier requirements).

Division II students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year will receive an automatic initial-eligibility waiver if they:

- » Provide proof of graduation; and
- » Present 13 or more core-course units (max three-unit deficiency) with a 2.800 or higher core-course GPA in their final academic certification.

If students meet the automatic initial-eligibility waiver criteria, their Eligibility Center account will show Final Nonqualifier (DI) or Final Partial-Qualifier (DII) status with “Automatic Waiver Approved” in the I-E Waiver DI or I-E Waiver DII field.

Note: Automatic initial-eligibility waivers are reviewed annually and may be subject to change in the 2024-25 academic year and beyond.

Submission of Academic Documents

Q3: Will official academic documents be required for students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year?

A3: Official academic records are required for initial-eligibility certifications. If only unofficial records are available for students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year, they may be submitted to ec-processing@ncaa.org directly from the email address associated with the student’s Eligibility Center account and should include the student’s NCAA ID in the subject line.

Starting May 1, 2024, official academic records will be required and must be submitted via an approved channel for **domestic** or **international** students.

Academic Evaluations

Q4: Will there be any flexibility in the Division I core-course time limitation for students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year?

- A4:** Yes. For students who initially enroll full time during the 2023-24 academic year, 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). Also, all core courses completed before full-time enrollment may be used in the Division I academic-redshirt certification.

Note: The legislated Division I [core-course time limitation](#) (and exceptions for [on-time graduates](#) and [students with education-impacting disabilities](#)) will apply to students who initially enroll full time in the 2024-25 academic year and beyond.

- Q5:** How will courses completed via distance, e-learning or hybrid options be evaluated for students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year and beyond?

- A5:** The Eligibility Center will require a program review for all courses completed via distance, e-learning or hybrid programs on or after September 1, 2023. (For students who initially enroll full time in winter/spring 2024, such courses completed in the 2023 fall term may be considered in the initial-eligibility waiver process.)

However, a program review will not be required for distance, e-learning or hybrid programs that were offered by schools with NCAA-approved core courses in spring/summer 2020 or during the 2020-21, 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic years.

For parents administering home school curriculum, please review the information included in the Eligibility Center home school [resources](#).

- Q6:** How will pass/fail grades be evaluated for students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year and beyond?

- A6:** NCAA-approved core courses that receive a grade of Pass and are completed on or after September 1, 2023, may be used to meet core-course requirements and will receive the high school's lowest passing grade. (For students who initially enroll full time in winter/spring 2024, such courses completed in the 2023 fall term may be considered in the initial-eligibility waiver process.)

For core courses completed in spring/summer 2020 or during the 2020-21, 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic years that have been issued a grade of Pass, the Eligibility Center will apply the credit earned in these courses toward the core-course requirement. 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).



Q7: How will PSA review program tasks apply to students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year and beyond?

A7: Program tasks may be sent for courses completed on or after September 1, 2023. (For students who initially enroll full time in winter/spring 2024, such courses completed in the 2023 fall term may be considered in the initial-eligibility waiver process.) However, program tasks will not be sent for courses completed in spring/summer 2020 or during the 2020-21, 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic years.

Note: Test-score inquiries will not be submitted for students who initially enroll full time in the 2020-21 academic year and beyond.

COVID-19 POLICIES — QUICK-REFERENCE CHART		
COVID-19 Policy	Applies to Initial Full-Time Enrollees in 2023-24 Academic Year	Applies to Initial Full-Time Enrollees in 2024-25 Academic Year and Beyond
Alternative Initial-Eligibility Standards	No ; new legislated initial-eligibility standards apply (no standardized test scores).	No ; new legislated initial-eligibility standards apply (no standardized test scores).
Unofficial Documents (Q3)	Yes.	No ; official documents required (starting May 1, 2024).
DI core-course time limitation (Q4)	Yes.	No ; legislated Division I core-curriculum time limitation applies.
Nontraditional Course Reviews (Q5)	*Applies to courses completed in spring/summer 2020 through 8/31/23.	Applies to courses completed in spring/summer 2020 through 8/31/23.
Pass/Fail Grades (Q6)	*Applies to courses completed in spring/summer 2020 through 8/31/23.	Applies to courses completed in spring/summer 2020 through 8/31/23.
PSA Review Program Tasks (Q7)	*Applies to courses completed in spring/summer 2020 through 8/31/23.	Applies to courses completed in spring/summer 2020 through 8/31/23.

**For PSAs who initially enroll full time in winter/spring 2024, such courses completed in the 2023 fall term may be considered in the initial-eligibility waiver process.*

Q8: What if students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year and beyond do not meet initial-eligibility standards?

A8: The Eligibility Center will refer such students to the athletics compliance office of their NCAA member school to discuss potential options. Member schools may submit an initial-eligibility waiver for students who do not meet initial-eligibility standards.

Prior Classes

Q9: What academic standards apply to students who initially enrolled full time in the 2020-21, 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic years (including midyear enrollees)?

A9: [Click here](#) for information on the application of COVID-19 alternative standards based on initial full-time enrollment in the 2020-21, 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic years.

***Note:** For information on the Eligibility Center's COVID-19 response and amateurism requirements, [click here](#).*

Q10: How will the Eligibility Center determine when students initially enrolled full time?

A10: The Eligibility Center will use information provided in student accounts along with Enrollment Verification tasking for some students to help ensure the appropriate initial-eligibility standard is applied. [Click here](#) for additional details regarding Enrollment Verification tasking.