

INFORMATION FOR CU FACULTY AND STAFF ON STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

All incoming freshmen and transfer student-athletes must be certified as academically eligible by the NCAA Eligibility Center before enrolling at CU Boulder. Current student-athletes must be enrolled full-time and maintain good academic standing at CU while making progress toward their degree each semester to continue to practice and compete.

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

All incoming student-athletes must meet both CU Admissions standards as well as NCAA eligibility requirements. The NCAA Eligibility Center uses high school core courses, grades, and standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) to certify the initial eligibility of every Division I student-athlete.

FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT

The Office of the Registrar follows the rules and regulations as set forth by the NCAA, Pac-12 Conference and University and is responsible for determining the continuing academic eligibility of student-athletes. Student-athletes are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours to be eligible to practice and compete. If they drop below 12 credit hours, they are immediately ineligible to practice and compete.

There are a few exceptions to this general rule. A senior in his/her final semester may be enrolled in only the necessary number of credit hours to complete their degree program requirements, as confirmed by their campus advisor. A student-athlete who has received an accommodation because of a documented education-impacting disability may also be enrolled in less than 12 credit hours. A graduate student in a program of study in which “full time” is defined as less than 12 hours is still eligible to practice and compete.

NCAA ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

ACADEMIC PROGRESS RATE (APR)

The Academic Progress Rate is a term-by-term measure of eligibility, retention, and graduation for scholarship student-athletes at CU Boulder. This metric is comprised of four years of data and is used to demonstrate the academic performance of all Division I teams. APR also serves as an academic benchmark to participate in postseason competition. Teams may be subject to scholarship reduction, post-season bans and additional penalties for falling below the 930 (out of 1000) APR threshold.

CU's APR results between 2012-13 and 2015-16 were reported in April 2017. All CU teams achieved higher than the 930 threshold and no team is currently subject to APR penalties. For the 6th consecutive year, the APR result is the highest in school history. Although the NCAA does not compute APR for all sports combined, CU Boulder calculated the department's composite score to be 986.

The full report is available at [2015–2016 NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate Public Report](#).

GRADUATION SUCCESS RATE (GSR)

The Graduation Success Rate is designed to show the proportion of student-athletes on any given team who earn a college degree. Unlike the Federal Graduation Rate, the GSR takes into account transfer student-athletes who leave an institution in good standing and incoming transfers who graduate from CU. This measurement is an informational tool for institutions, coaches, and student-athletes; there are no NCAA consequences for teams with low graduation rates.

In the most recent report, CU student-athlete's overall GSR was 86% in 2008. The graduation rate for all CU students in that same year was 70%.

The full report is available at [Graduation Success Rate Report](#).

NCAA ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT LEGISLATION

Student-athletes are held to the same CU Honor Code standards as all students on campus. While an honor code infraction does not necessarily implicate NCAA rules, an NCAA violation may have occurred if any of the following circumstances are present:

- Alteration or falsification of a student-athlete's transcript or academic record, either before or after enrollment at CU.
- Improper institutional staff member or booster involvement.
- Substantial academic assistance that is not generally available to all students or otherwise allowed by NCAA rules was provided by a current or former staff member and resulted in erroneous certification of the student-athlete's eligibility.

This NCAA legislation requires every school to maintain and adhere to written academic policies that apply to the entire student body. The institution must then follow these policies when an academic integrity issue involving a student-athlete occurs, regardless of circumstance. Additionally, misconduct committed by athletics department staff members or boosters that does *not* implicate the campus honor code may still violate NCAA rules regulating impermissible academic assistance. The Office of Compliance Services handles all NCAA violations through the CU Boulder Procedures for Reporting and Reviewing Information About a Potential NCAA Rules Infraction.

MISSED CLASS TIME

NCAA rules allow student-athletes to miss class for competition or travel associated with competition. However, missing class for practice, team meetings or individual meetings with coaches is NOT allowed.

Per Boulder Faculty Assembly policy, during the first week of each semester, student-athletes are responsible for providing each of their professors with a letter indicating all potential travel dates for that semester. Faculty have the right to choose whether or not to accommodate these conflicts and *may* recommend that the student-athlete drop their course.

Allowing a student-athlete to make up work for missed class time is not an extra benefit if it falls within BFA policy.

GRADE CHANGE POLICY

No change of grade shall be requested by a student-athlete on the grounds that the change will preserve their athletic eligibility, overall academic good standing, or eligibility for financial aid.

The justification for such a request must be germane to the course and the evaluation of the student-athlete's work in the course. Although Athletics personnel may advise and discuss with a student-athlete whether the student-athlete considers his/her evaluation and grade in a course to be fair or unjust, all requests for grade changes must be made of an instructor directly by the student-athlete involved.

Under no circumstance should Athletics personnel contact an instructor on behalf of a student-athlete regarding a grade change.

GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING

The NCAA defers to each University to determine their own criteria for "good academic standing," as applied to all CU students.

CU GPA REQUIREMENTS:

This depends on the degree program in which the student is enrolled, but most programs at CU require a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

Per CU policy, if a student's cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0 for two consecutive terms, he or she may be suspended or dismissed from the University. Subsequently, a student-athlete would not be eligible to practice or compete while serving this penalty.

NCAA GPA REQUIREMENTS:

To continue to be eligible for athletic competition, student-athletes must earn the following minimum GPA:

- 1.8 GPA after first year
- 1.9 GPA after second year
- 2.0 GPA each year after

As CU's cumulative GPA requirement is higher than the NCAA, our student-athletes are held to the higher University standard.

NCAA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

[IN ADDITION TO CU GPA AND DEGREE-APPLICABLE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS]

	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	5th Year
Minimum GPA Requirement to Compete	N/A	1.8 cumulative GPA	1.9 cumulative GPA	2.0 cumulative GPA	2.0 cumulative GPA
Minimum Credits Enrolled per semester	12 credits	12 credits	12 credits	12 credits (less if in final semester or as part of a graduate program)	12 credits (less if in final semester or as part of a graduate program)
Credits Successfully Completed to Maintain Progress Towards Degree	24 credits complete at end of 1st year.	18 credits during previous fall and spring terms, 6 credits during the most recent semester.	18 credits during previous fall and spring terms, 6 credits during the most recent semester.	18 credits during previous fall and spring terms, 6 credits during the most recent semester.	18 credits during previous fall and spring terms, 6 credits during the most recent semester.
Degree Credits Successfully Completed to Maintain Percentage Towards Degree		Minimum of 40% at the end of year 2.	Minimum of 60% at the end of year 3.	Minimum of 80% at the end of year 4.	

PROGRESS TOWARDS DEGREE

CU student-athletes must remain academically eligible to practice and compete. This includes earning a minimum of six credit hours in the previous term to be eligible for competition during the next term, in addition to completing 18 credit hours each school year.

Additionally, student-athletes must make progress towards their degree. Per NCAA rules, every student-athlete must be enrolled in a degree program that he or she can complete within five years of initial enrollment. This means satisfactorily completing 40% of the course requirements for their chosen degree program by the start of their 5th semester, 60% by the start of their 7th semester, and 80% by the start of their 9th semester.

The same rules apply to student-athletes that apply to all CU students in regards to credits that count towards a degree program.

EDUCATION-IMPACTING DISABILITIES

The NCAA defines a disability as a current impairment that has a substantial educational impact on a student's academic performance and requires accommodation.

The NCAA can waive the 12-credit enrollment requirement or general Progress Toward Degree requirements for a student-athlete with an education-impacting disability. Waivers may be granted if the institution allows for accommodation of the disability by permitting the student to be enrolled in less than 12 credits while still being considered full-time, just as any other student on campus.

EXTRA BENEFITS

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee to provide a student-athlete, prospective student-athlete, or their family and friends with a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Permitting a procedure that is not generally available to all students (e.g., retaking an exam or allowing extra work for extra credit) or preferential grading are examples of impermissible extra benefits.

Extra benefits are not allowed.

If a benefit is available to all students of the University, it can also be provided to a student-athlete.

COACH CONTACT

Coaches may NOT contact a faculty member regarding a student-athlete's attendance, grades or progress in class. If a coach needs information from an instructor or advisor regarding a student-athlete, the coach may ask the student-athlete or a Herbst Academic Center staff member to reach out to the faculty member.

HERBST ACADEMIC CENTER

Under Bylaw 16.3.1.1, the NCAA mandates that universities, either through their athletics department or institution as a whole, maintain academic counseling and tutoring services for their student-athletes.

The Herbst Academic Center (HAC) serves as the academic support unit for CU student-athletes. HAC Academic Coordinators provide tutoring, monitor study hall hours, and partner with campus Academic Advisors to assist with class scheduling to ensure NCAA, Pac-12 and CU Academic eligibility standards are met.

FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE

The Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) is a faculty member appointed by the Chancellor to serve as a liaison between campus and the Athletics Department who works to promote academic integrity and success, institutional control, and student-athlete wellbeing. The FAR represents our institution in Pac-12 Conference and NCAA affairs and is available to work with faculty on all athletics-related questions and issues.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE SERVICES

The University of Colorado Boulder is a member of the Pac-12 Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The Office of Compliance Services (OCS) helps the University and its Athletics Department interpret and follow institutional, conference and NCAA rules. The OCS also serves as a liaison between the University, the Pac-12, and the NCAA and is responsible for preventative education as well as monitoring and enforcing these regulations.

THE CU ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT OVERSEES ALL 17 VARSITY ATHLETICS SPORT PROGRAMS HERE AT CU BOULDER AND IS NOT IN CONTROL OF OR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SPORT CLUBS PROGRAM OR INTRAMURAL SPORTS, WHICH ARE UNDER THE PURVIEW OF CU RECREATION SERVICES.

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This text was developed to offer a general overview of NCAA legislation regarding the relationship between CU faculty, staff, and student-athletes. This is not a comprehensive guide or complete academic policy resource. Please contact the Office of Compliance Services with specific questions.