

Item #529:
Extension of COVID-19 Relief to Spring 2021
Submitted by the Eligibility Committee

This item is a direct modification to Item #225 passed via digital vote following the April 24th BOR Meeting.

NJCAA ACADEMIC EXCEPTIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR ONLY

Clarification: The exceptions listed below to Article V, Section 2.D.2 and 2.D.3 may only be used if the student-athlete was enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university in the Spring 2020 academic term. Students who were not enrolled as full-time students at a college or university in the Spring 2020 academic term must meet the standard academic progress requirements.

- 2.D.2 First Season Academic Requirement:** A first season participant must satisfy the academic progress eligibility requirement by meeting ALL the requirements of at least ONE of the following rules or exceptions which apply to the student's situation:
- D.2.a. Zero (0) Previous Terms of Full-Time College Enrollment:** A student-athlete who is in his/her first full-time college term is deemed to have satisfied the academic progress eligibility requirement for their initial term of full-time enrollment or participation, OR
 - D.2.b. One Previous Term of Full-Time College Enrollment:** On or before the 18th calendar day (not to end on a weekend or Federal Holiday) of the student-athletes second full-time college term **and spring 2020 was the one and only previous full-time term**, a student-athlete must have accumulated **6** credit hours with a GPA of 1.75 or higher, OR
 - D.2.c. Two or More Previous Terms of Full-Time College Enrollment:** On or before the 18th calendar day (not to end on a weekend or Federal Holiday) of the third full-time, and all subsequent terms of full-time enrollment a student-athlete must have passed 12 credit hours with a GPA of 2.00 or higher in the previous term of full-time enrollment, OR
 - D.2.d. Best Hours Accumulation Rule:** On or before the 18th calendar day (not to end on a weekend or a Federal Holiday) of the term the student-athlete wishes to participate in, a student-athlete must have accumulated passing credit hours with an associated GPA of 2.00 or higher in a number equal or greater than the student-athlete's terms of full-time enrollment multiplied by twelve, **(if spring 2020 was one of the previous full-time terms, the required credit hours are reduced by six (6) credits)** OR
 - D.2.e. Total Hours Accumulation Rule:** On or before the 18th calendar day (not to end on a weekend or a Federal Holiday) of the term the student-athlete wishes to participate in **and spring 2020 was one of the previous full-time terms**, a student athlete-must have accumulated passing credit hours with a GPA of 2.00 or higher in a number equal or greater than:
 - D.2.e.i. 30** total semester hours for a fall season or **42** total semester hours for a spring season, OR
 - D.2.e.ii. 45** quarter hours for a fall sport, **54** quarter hours for a winter sport, or **63** quarter hours for a spring sport.
 - D.2.f. First Participating Term Accumulation Exception for student-athletes with prior enrollment in multiple full-time semesters:** A student-athlete entering his/her first season of participation in a sport **and spring 2020 was one of the previous full-time terms**, the student-athlete must have accumulated passing credit hours at a minimum

of 18 semester hours or 27 quarter hours with a GPA of 2.00 or higher, on or before the 18th calendar day (not to end on a weekend or Federal holiday) of the term.

D.2.f.i. The First Participating Term Accumulation Exception may only be used once to establish a student-athlete's eligibility in the initial term of participation. This exception may not be used to establish eligibility in subsequent terms.

2.D.3 Second Season Academic Requirements: Prior to a student-athlete's participation in a second season of a sport regardless if spring 2020 was one of the previous full-time terms, he/she must meet the appropriate academic requirements of a first season participant, AND

D.2.g. Have accumulated 24 earned/passing semester hours with a GPA of 2.00 or higher, OR

D.2.h. Have accumulated 36 quarter hours with a GPA of 2.00 or higher.

D.2.i. If the student-athlete has been enrolled in two quarter terms or less, the second season requirement becomes 28 quarter hours with a 2.00 GPA or higher.

Fall 2020 participation in Cross Country and Half Marathon, the student-athlete must meet the following, provided they were enrolled as a full-time student in the spring 2020 academic term:

D.2.j. Have accumulated 18 earned/passing semester hours with a GPA of 2.00 or higher, OR

D.2.k. Have accumulated 30 quarter hours with a GPA of 2.00 or higher.

D.2.l. If the student-athlete has been enrolled in two quarter terms or less, the second season requirement becomes 19 quarter hours with a 2.00 GPA or higher.

Note: Student-athletes who have still been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic can work with their institution's athletic director to file a COVID-19 specific hardship.

Approved by the Eligibility Committee on August 20th, 2020.