

Division I Initial-Eligibility Standards Frequently Asked Questions

College-bound student-athletes must meet a core-course progression requirement to be eligible to compete in the initial year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I school. Students who do not meet this new requirement will not be able to compete in the first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

The following questions and answers are designed to assist students, parents and high school administrators in applying the requirements.

CORE-COURSE PROGRESSION (10/7) REQUIREMENT

What is the core-course progression (10/7) requirement? In order to be eligible to compete during the initial year of full-time enrollment, students must complete 16 core courses. Ten of the 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester (senior year) of high school and at least seven of these 10 core courses must be in English, math, or science. Grades achieved in such courses must be used in the student's academic certification and cannot be replaced by courses or grades achieved after starting the seventh semester.

*Note: students must also meet the [Division I sliding-scale index](#) for competition (minimum 2.300 core-course GPA).

Are students with a documented Education-Impacting Disability (EID) required to meet the 2016 standards for competition, including the core-course progression requirement? Yes. Note that current accommodations (courses for students with an EID, nonstandard ACT or SAT, three additional core-course units after on-time graduation) are still available under the 2016 standards.

How will the start of the seventh semester be determined for schools on a nontraditional calendar? The start of the seventh semester (or the equivalent) will be based on three calendar years from initial enrollment in grade nine.

If a student has two (or more) courses with the same grade, why was Course 1 used to meet the core-course progression (10/7) requirement and Course 2 was not? The academic certification program uses the best 10 core courses that meet the core-course progression (10/7) requirement. If two core courses have the same grade, the academic certification process randomly selects one of the core courses, but this may be adjusted at the time of final certification, if necessary. It may also provide the student the opportunity to retake a course should he or she have more than 10 core courses after the start of the seventh semester.

If a student meets the core-course progression (10/7) requirement, can a core course retaken after the start of the seventh semester still be used to determine eligibility for competition? Yes, provided it is not duplicative of another core course needed to meet the core-course progression (10/7) requirement. For example, if a student initially takes Geometry in grade 10 and retakes Geometry in grade 12, the retake would only be used for competition purposes if the grade 10 Geometry course is not needed to meet the core-course progression (10/7) requirement.

Can more than 16 core-course units (i.e., 16.01 to 16.99) be used in a student's final academic certification for competition purposes? Yes, provided partial credit (e.g., 0.25, 0.34, 0.5, 0.67) is necessary to meet core-course distribution requirements. However, additional core-course units beyond 16 are not permitted outside of the partial credit scenario.