6.0 NCAA ELIGIBILITY RULES

6.1 Eligibility to Practice, Receive Athletics Aid and Compete

While you are a student-athlete at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, you are obligated to abide by NCAA, Conference (if applicable), and University rules. The Athletics Compliance Office is ready to assist you with these issues. The Associate Athletic Director Compliance/Academics will conduct an annual rules education session with each team and periodic updates as needed during the course of the academic year. Student-athletes are encouraged to ask questions and utilize the resources available in the Compliance Office.

6.1.1 Initial Eligibility NCAA Bylaws 14.3.1.1 & 14.3.1.1.1

A student-athlete who enrolls as an entering freshman with no previous full-time attendance must meet Freshman Academic Requirements outlined in NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1. Certification of initial eligibility is done through the NCAA Clearinghouse. Student-athletes that have not been certified by the NCAA Clearinghouse are not eligible to practice, compete or receive an athletic scholarship in their initial year of enrollment. Individuals that require certification through the NCAA Clearinghouse include the following:

- Freshmen with no previous full-time collegiate attendance
- Two-year College transfer students who have not met NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.2 or 14.5.4.3 (graduated, transferred 48 semester units to Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi with a minimum GPA of 2.0)
- Four-Year College transfer students who have not completed an academic year meeting NCAA Satisfactory Progress In the case of students that transfer after one year at another institution Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi may not be able to certify eligibility for more than three years without NCAA Clearinghouse certification.

In addition, a “non-qualifier” or a student who does not meet NCAA Freshman Academic Requirements forfeits one of the maximum of four years of eligibility at Division I however if they meet NCAA Bylaw 14.3.3.1 Fourth Season of Competition- Partial Qualifier and Non-qualifier or NCAA Bylaw 14.3.3.2 Fourth Season of Competition - Students with Learning Disabilities, they may earn the fourth year back.

6.1.2 NCAA Clearinghouse Procedures

Prospective student-athletes who have not registered with the NCAA Clearinghouse should register online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. Fill out the online Domestic or Foreign Student Release Form and pay the $50 fee. Make sure to request that your high school transcripts and test scores are sent directly to the Clearinghouse. The final transcript that includes the graduation date must be on-file prior to certification. Student Score Reports and scores will not be used from a Student Score Report.

- [http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)
- Call the Clearinghouse at: 877/262-1492
- For additional information about NCAA Eligibility Rules visit [http://www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

6.1.3 Practice Prior to NCAA Certification

Student-athletes that have not received final certification of initial eligibility may be cleared to practice but not compete on a temporary basis if they have completed all of the following items:

- Registered in the NCAA Clearinghouse
- Requested that high-school transcripts and test scores be sent to the Clearinghouse
- Attended the annual eligibility meeting and completed all Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi athletics forms
- Been cleared by the Athletic Training Center (physical, insurance etc.)

Recruited Student-Athletes - May be temporarily cleared to practice for a maximum of two weeks
Non-recruited Student-Athletes - May be temporarily cleared to practice for a maximum of 45 Days
### Summary of NCAA Initial & Continuing Eligibility Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Initial Collegiate Enrollment</th>
<th>Initial Eligibility Standard 14.3.1.1</th>
<th>Entering Second Year</th>
<th>Entering Third Year</th>
<th>Entering Fourth Year</th>
<th>Entering Fifth Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior to 2003</td>
<td>Current Standard (13 core)</td>
<td>* 24 hours</td>
<td>* 24 hours or average</td>
<td>* 24 hours or average</td>
<td>* 24 hours or average</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* 18 hours earned during academic year</td>
<td>* 18 hours earned during academic year or average</td>
<td>* 18 hours earned during academic year or average</td>
<td>* 18 hours earned during academic year or average</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* 6 hours per semester</td>
<td>* 6 hours per semester</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* No more than 12 hours of remedial coursework.</td>
<td>* Declare Degree Program</td>
<td>* 50% of degree</td>
<td>* 1.9 GPA</td>
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<td>* 1.8 GPA</td>
<td></td>
<td>* 1.9 GPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>Current or New Standard (14 core)</td>
<td>* 24 hours</td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
<td>* 6 hours per semester</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* 40% of degree</td>
<td></td>
<td>* 80% of degree</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* 95% of GPA for graduation maintained during academic year</td>
<td></td>
<td>* 100% of GPA for graduation maintained during academic year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>New Standard (no partial qualifiers)</td>
<td>* 24 hours</td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
<td>* 6 hours per semester</td>
<td>* 6 hours per semester</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* 60% of degree</td>
<td></td>
<td>* 100% of GPA for graduation maintained during academic year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>16 core (one additional math and one additional in any core area)</td>
<td>* 24 hours</td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* 18 hours during the academic year</td>
<td>* 6 hours per semester</td>
<td>* 6 hours per semester</td>
<td>* 6 hours per semester</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* 60% of degree</td>
<td></td>
<td>* 100% of GPA for graduation maintained during academic year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.1.5 Continuing Eligibility for Student-Athletes that Initially Enroll On a Full-Time Basis On or After August 1, 2003 - NCAA Bylaws 14.4.2 & 14.4.3

6.1.5.1 Transfers
For transfer students-athletes that initially enrolled on or after August 1, 2003, a midyear transfer is subject to the new continuing eligibility requirements found above, the student-athlete and is able to use “all hours earned at the previous institution as opposed to those hours accepted as transferable degree credit by Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi” to satisfy the requirements (Official 4/23/2003).

A transfer student-athlete (foreign or domestic) who initially enrolls as a full-time student in any collegiate institution’s regular academic semester on or after August 1, 2003, is subject to the new continuing eligibility requirements.

6.1.5.2 Part-Time Enrollment
A student-athlete must earn 18 semester hours in any academic year in which the student-athlete was full-time during one or more semesters. Part-time hours may be used to fulfill this requirement. Exception: A student-athlete who enrolls in his or her first full-time semester of collegiate enrollment following the fall semester will not be responsible for earning 18 semester hours until s/he has spent a full academic year at the institution.

6.1.5.3 Averaging Method
For those student-athletes first entering a collegiate institution on a full-time basis on or after August 1, 2003, they may no longer use the averaging method for determining eligibility.

6.1.5.4 Summer Credit Hours
Summer credit hours may be used to satisfy the 24-credit-hour requirement when certifying a student-athlete entering his or her second year of collegiate enrollment. Summer hours may also be used to meet the 40/60/80 percentage-of-degree requirements.

6.1.5.5 Remedial, Tutorial or Noncredit Courses
A student-athlete may use remedial, tutorial or noncredit courses earned during his or her first year of collegiate enrollment and when certifying a student-athlete entering his or second year of collegiate enrollment. Those courses may be used to meet the 24-semester hour requirement, but may not exceed six semester hours.

6.1.5.6 Six Credit Hours
All student-athletes, including those currently enrolled and student-athletes that have graduated must successfully complete at least six (6) semester hours in the previous semester of full-time enrollment to be eligible to participate in the next semester.

6.1.5.7 Postseason and Between Semesters
Only applies to a student-athlete in his or her last season of eligibility. A student-athlete in his or her last season of eligibility, including a student-athlete who has graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree, must successfully complete at least six credit hours in a regular semester (exclusive of intersession or summer credits) to be eligible for competition that takes place subsequent to that semester and after the certification date.

6.1.5.8 Walk-Ons
Generally, a student-athlete is considered to be a walk-on if they are not receiving a scholarship. The true walk-on is not recruited and does not receive a scholarship. Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi encourages students to walk-on or try out for most teams but holds them to the same standards as any other student-athlete. The only thing that is different is that Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi will not expend funding for student-athletes who choose to walk-on or try out until they “make
the team” and are certified to practice and compete. Walk-ons must demonstrate to the Athletic Training Staff that they have had a physical and have been cleared to participate in intercollegiate athletics by their physician. They must also demonstrate that they have health insurance that will cover them if injured while participating in intercollegiate sports. Other than these few differences a walk-on must complete all of the same requirements to practice or compete as any other student-athlete.

6.1.5.9 Foreign Student-Athletes
Foreign student-athletes are generally subject to the same eligibility requirements as American students. If a prospective foreign student-athlete has not taken the SAT/ACT, that student will be considered a non-qualifier unless he or she is a transfer student.

6.2 Additional NCAA Eligibility Rules

6.2.1 NCAA Bylaw 14.01.2 Academic Status
To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition a student-athlete shall be in good academic standing and maintain progress toward a baccalaureate or equivalent degree. A waiver of the minimum full-time enrollment requirement may be granted for a student enrolled in the final term of the baccalaureate program. Also a student may represent the institution while enrolled as a graduate or professional student or while enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate degree at the same institution.

6.2.2 Requirement for Practice - NCAA Bylaw 14.1.8.1

6.2.3 Requirement for Competition - NCAA Bylaw 14.1.8.2
In order to be eligible for practice or competition a student-athlete must be registered in a full-time program of studies leading towards a baccalaureate (or equivalent degree), masters or professional program.

- Full time status is 12 units.

- A student-athlete that drops below 12 units is no longer eligible to practice or compete until they achieve full-time status. If a student-athlete competes while in less than 12 units he/she is immediately ineligible and may only be reinstated through NCAA Enforcement. The University will be subject to fines and contest forfeitures. Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi checks student-athlete enrollment status on-line on a regular basis however it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to inform the coach and the Associate Athletic Director Compliance/Academics immediately if at any time their enrollment drops below full-time.

6.2.4 Four-Seasons Rule - NCAA Bylaw 14.2
A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport. The term “red shirt” is commonly used for a student-athlete that does not compete at any time during one of the seasons during his/her “five year clock”.

A season is used if the student-athlete participates regardless of the length of time that they participate (1 at-bat, 1 race, 1 second of 1 game). There are some waivers (e.g., hardship waiver) to this rule that may be applied for through the NCAA. Questions should be referred to the Associate Athletic Director Compliance/Academics.
6.2.5 Five-Year Rule - NCAA Bylaw 14.2.1
A student-athlete shall complete his or her seasons of participation within five calendar years from the beginning of the semester or quarter in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full-time program of studies.

Breaks in time may be allowed in the following circumstances:

- Time spent in the Armed Services or a Foreign Aid Service
- Time spent while on an official church mission
- A one year exception may be permitted for reasons of pregnancy

6.2.6 21 Year Old Rule/Definition of Organized Competition
Some foreign students or non-traditional students may be older and their years of eligibility could be affected by participation after their 21st birthday. NCAA bylaw 14.2.3.5 states, “Any participation as an individual or a team representative in organized sports competition by a student during each 12-month period after the student’s 21st birthday and prior to initial full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution shall count as one year of varsity competition in that sport.” Organized competition is further defined in bylaw 14.2.3.5.3 by the following:

- Competition is scheduled and publicized in advance;
- Official score is kept;
- Individual or team standings are maintained;
- Official timer or game officials are used;
- Admission is charged;
- Teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined;
- Team uniforms are utilized;
- A team is privately or commercially sponsored; or
- The competition is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency.

6.2.7 Team Roster Additions or Deletions

6.2.7.1 Multi-Sport Participants
No scholarship athlete, or athlete who has given up a scholarship, will be permitted to leave one sport and participate in another sport without the written consent of the coach previously responsible for the athlete’s scholarship. This written consent must be on file in the compliance office before the athlete is allowed to participate. This applies to athletes who are switching from one sport to another or who are adding a second sport.

All student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility or who are disassociating from a sport for any reason will be directed by the head coach to arrange and undergo an exit interview at the time of separation.
6.3 Annual Paperwork Required for All Student-Athletes Prior to the First Practice

6.3.1 Annual Rules Meeting – Mandatory
At the beginning of the academic year meetings will be scheduled for all new and returning student-athletes that intend to try out, practice or compete on a Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi team during the year. Attendance at this meeting and completion of all forms is mandatory and must be completed prior to the student-athlete being permitted to try-out, practice or compete with the team. The Associate Athletic Director Compliance/Academics will conduct the meetings and other Department of Athletics and University staff will make presentations as appropriate. Student-Athletes must complete the following forms used to gather information and determine eligibility.

6.3.2 Background Check
All student-athletes are held to a specific standard not only in the classroom and on the playing field but also in the community. For that reason Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi reserves the right to process criminal background checks on all student-athletes. Actions found to be not in accordance with department policies will result in disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Director of Athletics.

7.0 OTHER NCAA RULES

7.1 Gambling

7.1.1 In recent years, there have been increased occurrences of illegal gambling activities in NCAA schools. In an effort to limit the problems associated with student-athletes becoming involved with illegal gambling and the NCAA sanctions that are imposed when illegal activities are discovered, the NCAA has instituted additional regulations with regard to gambling. We are listing here the NCAA regulations about the involvement in gambling activities, with what you may and may not do as a student-athlete. If you have any questions about the information listed here, or about gambling activities, please contact the Associate Athletic Director Compliance/Academics.

7.1.2 Gambling Activities – NCAA Bylaw 10.3
Staff members of a member conference, staff members of the Department of Athletics of a member institution and student-athletes shall not knowingly:

- Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition;
- Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team;
- Accept a bet on any team representing the institution;
- Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate or professional athletics through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling.

7.2 Amateurism

7.2.1 The Principal of Amateurism - NCAA Bylaw 2.9
Student-athletes shall be amateurs in an intercollegiate sport, and their participation should be motivated primarily by education and by the physical, mental and social benefits to be derived. Student participation in intercollegiate athletics is an avocation, and student-athletes should be protected from exploitation by professional and commercial enterprises.