



NCAA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Rice University upholds a firm policy that student-athletes are students first. As a member of Rice University's Athletics Department, you should be aware of the NCAA rules governing eligibility and maintain your academic progress with such rules in mind. The following section illustrates the major eligibility rules that you should follow at all times. (The following is a synopsis of NCAA academic regulations. It is meant to give a brief overview of the rules and by no means reflects the only regulations that affect eligibility. For complete information, student-athletes should consult with the Associate Athletic Director of Compliance or the Associate Director for Academic Advising).

FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT

To be eligible for competition, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, which shall not be less than 12 semester hours.

Final Semester/Quarter Exception

A student-athlete with athletics eligibility remaining may participate in organized practice sessions while enrolled in less than a minimum full-time program of studies, provided the student is enrolled in the final semester or quarter of the baccalaureate program and the institution certifies that the student is carrying (for credit) the courses necessary to complete the degree requirements, as determined by the faculty of the institution. Note: Below 12 hours enrollment can affect how much financial aid (Pell Grant) you will receive.

24 – 18 HOUR RULE

The student-athlete must successfully complete 24-semester hours of academic credit prior to the start of the institution's third semester following the student-athlete's initial full-time enrollment.

The student-athlete must successfully complete 18-semester hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters (hours earned during the summer may not be used to fulfill this requirement).

9 HOUR RULE (Football Only)

The student-athlete must successfully complete 9 semester hours of academic credit in each full semester. Additionally, the student-athlete must earn the Academic Progress Rate eligibility point, which means being eligible after the fall semester. If the two points are not met, the student athlete shall not be eligible to compete in the first 4 games in the following playing season.

JULIE GRISWOLD
Associate Director of
Academic Advising for Athletics
jgris@rice.edu | (713) 348-8880

MIKE YEAKEL
Assistant Director of
Academic Advising for Athletics
myeakel@rice.edu | (713) 348-8881

MISHA CAYLOR
Assistant Director of
Academic Advising for Athletics
MMC12@rice.edu | (713) 348-2982

KENDAL MOORE
Assistant Director of
Academic Advising for Athletics
kendal.moore@rice.edu | (713) 348-2810

6 HOUR RULE

The student-athlete must have completed 6-semester hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term (e.g., fall or spring semester) at the institution where the student-athlete was enrolled.

DECLARATION OF MAJOR RULE

The student-athlete must choose a major that leads to a specific baccalaureate degree by the beginning of their third year of enrollment. (This includes transfer students who have not yet completed an academic year in residence or used one season of eligibility in a sport at their current institution.) [Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7]

PERCENTAGE OF DEGREE AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE RULE

- If you are entering your second year of collegiate enrollment, you must present a cumulative grade-point average that equals at least 90 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation (based on a 4.00 scale). [Bylaw 14.4.3.3]
- If you are entering your third year of collegiate enrollment, you must have successfully completed at least 40 percent of the course requirements in your specific degree program and you must present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a 4.00 scale) that equals at least 95 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. For this purpose, a student-athlete's grade-point average will be certified on a term-by-term basis. [Bylaw 14.4.3.3].
- If you are entering your fourth year of collegiate enrollment, you must have successfully completed at least 60 percent of the course requirements in your specific degree program and you must present a cumulative grade-point average (based on a 4.00 scale) that equals at least 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. For this purpose, a student-athlete's grade-point average will be certified on a term-by-term basis. [Bylaw 14.4.3.3]
- If you are entering your fifth year of collegiate enrollment, you must have successfully completed at least 80 percent of the course requirements in your specific degree program and you must present a cumulative grade-point average (based on a 4.00 scale) that equals at least 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. For this purpose, a student-athlete's grade-point average will be certified on a term-by-term basis. [Bylaw 14.4.3.3]

Eligibility for Competition Summary Table

Year of Initial Collegiate Enrollment	Entering Second Year of Collegiate Enrollment	Entering Third Year of Collegiate Enrollment	Entering Fourth Year of Collegiate Enrollment	Entering Fifth Year of Collegiate Enrollment
2011 – 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Credit Hours • 18 Credit Hours Earned During Academic Year • 90% of GPA for Graduation (1.504) • Six Credit Hours in Each Term • 9 Credit Hours in Fall Term (Football Only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% of Degree Requirements 48/55 Hours • 18 Degree Applicable Credit Hours Earned During Academic Year • 95% of GPA for Graduation (1.587) • Six Degree Applicable Credits/Term • Declaration of Degree Program • 9 Degree Applicable Credit Hours in Fall Term (Football Only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% of Degree Requirements 72/83 Hours • 18 Degree Applicable Credits Hours Earned During Academic Year • 100% of GPA for Graduation (1.667) • Six Degree Applicable Credits/Term • 9 Degree Applicable Credit Hours in Fall Term (Football Only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of Degree Requirements 96/110 Hours • 18 Degree Applicable Credit Hours Earned During Academic Year • 100% of GPA for Graduation (1.667) • Six Degree Applicable Credits/Term • 9 Degree Applicable Credit Hours in Fall Term (Football Only)

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