NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Overview

A Fundamental Introduction

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Katy Yurk

Learning Objectives

• Overview of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP).
• Explain basic APP policies and procedures.
• Apply directives to basic fact scenarios.
• Analyze APP data.

Overview of APP and Basic Policies & Procedures
Academic Reform

- Student-athlete accountability through increased academic-eligibility standards (2003).
- Enhanced academic rates of measure, real-time rate and better graduation rate (2004).
- Accountability through APP benchmark for postseason competition and penalties (2006; revised 2011).

Academic Performance Program

- Ensure the Division I membership is dedicated to providing student-athletes:
  - Exemplary educational and intercollegiate athletics experiences in an environment that recognizes and supports the academic mission of member institutions while enhancing ability to earn a four-year degree.
  - Serve as an academic point of access to postseason competition.

NCAA Bylaws 14.01.4 and 14.12.1.2

Committee on Academic Performance

Duties:
- Administrative body and oversight of APP.
  - Oversee data collection process.
  - Identify APP "cut" lines.
  - Provide interpretations of APP legislation and policies.
Committee on Academic Performance

Duties (continued):

• Communicate annual APP rates [APR and Graduation Success Rate (GSR)].
• Identify teams that demonstrate academic excellence.
• Serve as the appellate body for APP policies and penalties.

Bylaw 14.12.2.1

APP Data Collection

• Graduation Success Rate (GSR).
• Academic Performance Census (APC).
• NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR).

Graduation Success Rate

• More specific than Federal Graduation Rate.
  o Includes transfers into an institution and midyear enrollees.
  o Removes student-athletes who withdraw and would have been academically eligible to compete the next term had they returned.
• Calculated for every sport.
Annual Graduation Success Rates of All Student-Athletes at Division I Institutions Overall and by Gender

Number of Real Graduates Since 1995 vs. Number who Would Have Graduated with No Increase in GSR

Academic Performance Census
- Annual compilation of academic performance variables (e.g., credit hours, grade-point average).
- Academic data used for NCAA research purposes.
- Data informs academic policies.
- Submitted online using the APP Data Collection Program.
- Collected in fall term with APR data.
Academic Progress Rate

- Real-time rate, calculated term-by-term.
- Includes all student-athletes on a team in a given year (as opposed to entering class).
  - Includes student-athletes receiving athletically related financial aid; or
  - For nonscholarship programs/teams, a subset of recruited student-athletes.

Academic Progress Rate

- Points awarded for eligibility/graduation and retention.
- Totaled over most recent four years (cohort).
- Used in analysis for eligibility for postseason competition, APP penalties and public recognition of top academically performing teams.

Due Dates

- GSR:
  - June 1.
- APR and APC:
  - Six weeks (42 calendar days) following the member institution’s first day of classes for the fall term.
  - Failure to submit results in an institution being declared ineligible for postseason competition, including NCAA championships and bowl games.
APR Timeline

- Data Submission Phase (APP data due six weeks after first day of class).
- Verification Phase (NCAA staff verifies data entered properly).
- Data Correction/Adjustment Phase (14 calendar days to request corrections/adjustments. Penalty reports available in APP system only for on-campus schools).
- Penalty Waiver Phase (14 calendar days to request a waiver).
- Final Submit (All opportunities to change data or request a waiver have expired; email is sent to chancellor or president).

APR Calculation

- Two available points each academic term.
  - Eligibility "E" point = student-athlete meets academic eligibility standards as of the end of the academic term.
  - Retention "R" point = student-athlete is enrolled full time as of the census date or the fifth week of classes of the next term.

\[
\frac{\text{Number of points earned}}{\text{Number of points possible}} \times 1000 = \text{APR}
\]

Delayed-Graduation Points

- Point awarded in the term the former student-athlete graduates (1/0).
- Restores lost APR "E" or "R" point from last term student-athlete was in the cohort.
- Delayed-graduation points awarded for any academic year cohort that comprise the multiyear APR cohort.
Delayed-Graduation Points

Criteria/Directive:

• Student-athlete graduates from your institution in any year making up the four-year APR cohort.

• Student-athlete was not included in the team’s APR cohort in the term in which he or she graduated from your institution.

• Student-athlete lost the “E” or “R” point in his or her last term in the APR cohort; or would have lost a point if the student-athlete departed prior to the implementation of the APR in 2003-04.

Number of Delayed-Graduation Points

• Over the past ten years, 12,979 student-athletes earned APR points for their former team by returning to college after their eligibility expired and earning a degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Sport Totals</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>1,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>3,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Basketball</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>6,282</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example APR Calculation

Single-Year Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Members</th>
<th>Fall 2013 Eamed E?/Earned R?</th>
<th>Spring 2014 Earned E?/Earned R?</th>
<th>Point Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jack N.</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Tiger W.</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Walter H.</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - No</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Ben H.</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - No / R - No</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Gary P.</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Tom W.</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Bobby J.</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - No / R - Yes</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Arnold P.</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Gene S.</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - No / R - Yes</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>18/18</td>
<td>13/18</td>
<td>31/36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example APR Calculation

Men’s Golf Team:

Number of points earned
Number of points possible  x  1000 = APR

\[
\frac{31}{36} = 0.861 \times 1000 = 861
\]

Example APR Calculation

Multiyear Rate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>Multi-Year APR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team’s single-year APR</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>979</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of delayed graduation points</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility rate</td>
<td>20/22</td>
<td>23/24</td>
<td>24/24</td>
<td>15/18</td>
<td>15/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention rate</td>
<td>20/22</td>
<td>23/24</td>
<td>24/24</td>
<td>16/18</td>
<td>15/18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APR Adjustments

- Discount lost APR point(s) for a term or terms from the denominator.
- May request adjustment to lost “E” point, lost “R” point or both.
- Requests are based on mitigation affecting individual student-athletes.
APR Automatic Adjustments

- Transfer to another four-year institution.
  - 2.600 grade-point average.
- Professional athletics departure.
- Earned eligibility point during last term.
- Medical-absence waiver.
- Missed-term exception.

Documentation is maintained on campus.

Adjustment Review Process

Guiding Principles/Directive:
- Circumstances surrounding individual student-athlete.
- Circumstances beyond the control of the student-athlete and/or team/institution.
- Contemporaneous documentation to support mitigation?

Decisions/Appeals:
- Initial decision by staff.
- Appeals to the NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting.

Example Adjustment Calculation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Member</th>
<th>Fall 2013 E/Earned R</th>
<th>Spring 2014 E/Earned R</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade in Fall 2013</th>
<th>Grade in Spring 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - No</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - No / R - No</td>
<td>2/4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - No / R - Yes</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - No / R - Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - No / R - Yes</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>E - Yes / R - Yes</td>
<td>E - No / R - Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>18/18</td>
<td>13/18</td>
<td>31/36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example Adjustment Calculation

Adjustment request for lost R point:
- Was the mitigation outside the control of the student-athlete and/or team/institution?
- Is there contemporaneous documentation to support the mitigation?

### Team Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walter H.</td>
<td>E-Yes/R-Yes</td>
<td>E-Yes/R-No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adjusted APR calculation:**

\[
\text{Single Year APR} = \frac{31}{35} = .886 \times 1000 = 886
\]

Access to Postseason Competition and APP Penalties
Access to Postseason

The NCAA Division I Board of Directors established a 930 multiyear APR benchmark for access to 2013-14 postseason competition:

- Postseason includes all events conducted after last regular season contest or end of conference tournament (e.g., bowl games, NIT, WNIT, etc.).
- Conferences determine ability to compete in conference tournaments.
- Applies to individual competitors on teams not meeting standards.
- Waiver process available.

Postseason Benchmarks

- For postseason competition in 2015-16 and beyond:
  - Need a multiyear APR of at least 930 OR, after subject to first postseason restriction, have a two-year average APR of 950 or higher in the two most recent years.
  - Additional filters available based on resources (e.g., bottom 15% as defined by Committee on Academic Performance).

Teams Ineligible for Postseason Competition by Year
APP Penalties

• Institutions must have a multiyear APR of 930 to avoid penalties.

• APP penalties are separate from eligibility for postseason competition.

APP Penalties Benchmarks

• Four-year APR of 930 or higher to avoid APP penalties.

• Team subject to level two- or three- penalty can use improvement filter. Improvement defined as two-year average APR of 950 in the two most recent years.

• Additional filters available based on resources (e.g., bottom 15% as defined by Committee on Academic Performance).

Level One Penalties

• Reduce four hours and one day of countable athletically related activity per week in-season.
  
  o Results in 16 hours per week rather than 20 hours and
  
  o Five days per week rather than six days.

• Time replaced by academic activities.
**Level Two Penalties**

- Reduce four hours of countable athletically related activities per week out-of-season.
  - Results in four hours per week rather than eight hours; and
  - Time replaced by academic activities.
- Cancel nonchampionship season/spring football.
- For sports without nonchampionship season, 10% reduction in contests and length of season.
- And Level-One penalty (in-season).

**Level Three Penalties**

**Level Three Penalties Include:**
- Level-One and Level-Two penalties; and

**Menu Options May Include:**
- Financial aid penalties (any amount, any type).
- Practice penalties (reduction of four hours/week and up).
- Contest reductions (10% up to full season).
- Restricted and corresponding membership.
- Coach-specific penalties, including game restrictions, recruiting restrictions.
- Restricted access to practice for incoming student-athletes that fall below predetermined academic standards.
- Multiyear postseason competition ban.

**APP Penalty and Postseason Waivers**
APP Waiver Directive

- First occasion postseason ineligibility requires extraordinary mitigation. The Committee on Academic Performance says this does NOT include:
  - Head coaching change;
  - Significant leadership change at the institution; or
  - Institutional reclassification.

APP Waiver Directive

- Second occasion postseason ineligibility and ANY APP Penalty waiver considerations:
  - The team's academic performance.
  - Mitigation tied to team's point loss.
  - NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) Improvement Plan.
  - An expectation the team can improve to 930 within a reasonable period of time.

APP Waivers/Appeals Process

Level-One APP Penalty and Postseason Competition:

- Staff makes decision.
- Institution may appeal to the Subcommittee on Appeals.
  - If APP penalties, subcommittee reviews using documentation.
  - If postseason, institution presents appeal.
APP Waivers/Appeals Process
Level-Two APP Penalty and Postseason Competition:
• Staff makes decision.
• Institution may appeal to Subcommittee on Appeals.
• Institution presents appeal.

APP Waivers/Appeals Process
Level-Three APP Penalty and Postseason Competition:
• All institutions must submit a waiver setting forth recommended penalties or request for relief.
• Staff makes initial recommendation (approval or partial approval, with or without conditions).
• If staff recommendation unacceptable, waiver forwarded to Committee on Academic Performance for in-person hearing.

APR Improvement Plans
APR Improvement Plans

APR Improvement Plans are meant to stimulate immediate improvements in team academic performance:
• Monitor and analyze each team’s academic, retention and graduation performance;
• Identify critical issues impacting team’s academic performance;
• Develop initiatives to address the team’s critical issues.

APR Improvement Plan Requirements
• Required for all teams under 930 multiyear APR.
• Must include element that assesses and evaluates team’s academic admissions profiles and academic outcomes.
• Data analysis of team’s APR performance.
• Broad-based campus participation.
• Reviewed and approved by institution’s president or chancellor.
• Submitted via online database.

APP Table Hours
Data/Waivers/Plans
• Wednesday 9 to 11 a.m.; and 2 to 4 p.m.
• Thursday 9 to 11 a.m.; and 1 to 4 p.m.

Location
Atlanta - Cottonwood
San Diego - Harbor E