Division I Progress Toward Degree

Eric Brey and Andy Louthain
Academic and Membership Affairs

Session Objectives

- Provide an understanding of how to apply the NCAA Division I progress-toward-degree (PTD) legislation and the PTD waiver directive.
- Explain the relationship of how the legislation and waiver directive work together in PTD waiver cases.

Session Outline

- Principles and purpose of the PTD legislation.
- Principles and purpose of the PTD waiver directive.
- Application of the waiver directive, legislation and interpretations.
Purpose and Principles

- Graduation within five years.
- Reasonable progression toward degree requirements.
- Ensure academic achievement during the regular academic year.
Purpose and Principles

- Good faith effort by SA and institution to maintain academic progress toward completion of degree requirements within five years.
- Overall academic record shows deficiency is an anomaly for a specific timeframe.
- Reasonable expectation for the SA to graduate in five years (academic recovery plan).

Purpose and Principles

- NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.1.6 and 14.4.3.1.6.1 (football only):
  - Evidence of compelling mitigation for the SA's inability to earn nine-semester or eight-quarter hours and/or the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate eligibility point, and
  - Evidence of compelling mitigation for failure to earn 27-semester or 40-quarter hours by the beginning of the next fall.

Minimum Standard for Review

- Eligibility for competition and/or practice must be directly affected.
- Exhaustion of options to rectify the deficiency.
- Enrolled at the certifying institution or have enrollment immediately pending.
Academic Analysis
- Quality point analysis.
- Overall academic record.

Mitigation

What is Mitigation?
- Evidence, supported by objective documentation, of specific circumstances creating a deficiency in meeting PTD.
  - Reason for deficiency.
  - Anomaly in overall academic record. Are there patterns in the record?
  - Circumstance must tie to deficiency.
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Temporary Review

Staff granted authority to consider extenuating circumstances and exercise reasonable discretion in evaluating cases where the prescribed analysis, as set forth in the legislation, (sub)committee directives or guidelines and case precedent, result in an inappropriate negative impact to a PSA or SA.

- Temporary Review.
  - Cases in which a SA’s on active military service or participation on official religious mission;
  - Cases involving requests for relief of full-time enrollment legislation for reasons related to health, well-being or personal hardship; or
  - Cases that involve the potential for significant withholding conditions (e.g., a year in residence and one or more seasons of intercollegiate competition, loss of all or part of final year of eligibility), despite the evidence of circumstances indicating that the application of prescribed penalties is disproportionate or otherwise inconsistent with the intent of the legislation.

Misadvisement

- What information was provided that was not accurate?
- Demonstration the SA relied on the erroneous information to his or her detriment.
- Clear evidence the deficiency was a result of the erroneous information.
- Institutional recovery plan.
- But for...
Legislation – Fulfillment of Percentage of Degree Requirements

- SA entering third year: 40%.
- SA entering fourth year: 60%.
- SA entering fifth year: 80%.

Bylaw 14.4.3.2

Degree Program Requirements

Question:

- What credit hours are included in the denominator for calculating percentage of degree?

Degree Program Requirements

Answer:

- All courses that fulfill a requirement in that SA's specific degree program, to include:
  - General education requirements.
  - Major courses.
  - Electives (major or free) - only if allotted in degree.
  - Required minor (if included in the total number of credit hours required for the degree).
Degree Program Requirements

- Denominator will not change unless the overall degree program changes.
  - Include: Degree program adds a teaching component resulting in an increase in the number of hours required to graduate from 124 to 144.
  - Do not include: SA must take eight hours of prerequisite foreign language, but does not have elective room and the prerequisites are not included in the degree program. This does not increase the denominator by eight hours to include the additional work.

Eric – Baseball
Case Study

- Eric has declared a major in business.
- Program is 120 credit hours:
  - Specified nonbusiness courses – 50 credit hours.
  - Specified business courses – 70 credit hours (no elective room within degree).
  - Business program offers a number of optional minors to enhance the educational experience. Each minor is 18 credit hours.
Does adding a minor change the degree program to 138 credits hours?

- Bylaw 14.4.3.2.4 (hours earned or accepted toward a minor).
- No – the minor is optional. Degree program remains 120 hours.

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<td></td>
<td>81</td>
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Spring 2014: Earned 15 hours. Of the 15 hours, nine were toward a minor.

Summer 2014: No hours – advisor told Eric he had earned enough hours to meet 60%.

Fall 2014: Is Eric eligible? NO
Misadvisement?

What do we know?
- Eric has passed 81 of 96 degree hours attempted.
- Of those 81, nine hours are part of an optional minor, six hours are remedial and do not count, leaving only 66 counting toward his degree program.
- NOTE: The advisor told him he did not need to take summer hours because he had 75 hours and only needed 72.

Misadvisement?

What information was provided that was not accurate?
- Eric was told he passed 75 hours toward his degree.
- Demonstrate that the SA relied on the erroneous information to his detriment.
  - Eric did not take summer hours – instead played in a summer league.
  - Clear evidence the deficiency was a result of the erroneous information.
    - Had he been advised properly, could he have taken six hours in summer?
    - What about the 15 hours he failed prior to spring 2014?

Personal Hardship Waivers
Personal Hardship

- Clearly supported by contemporaneous documentation, the SA was unable to meet PTD as a result of:
  - Physical or mental circumstances suffered by SA or family member; or
  - Extreme financial difficulties (e.g., layoff, death in the family); or
  - Natural disasters (e.g., earthquakes, floods).
- Beyond the control of the SA.
- Clarification that the event or circumstance has been resolved.
- Clear evidence the deficiency was a result of the personal hardship.
- But for...

Legislation – Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements

- 24/36 hours of academic credit prior to the start of the second year.
- 18/27 hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term, or preceding regular two semesters or three quarters.
- Six-semester/-quarter hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term.

Bylaw 14.4.3.1

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Personal Hardship

- Clearly supported by contemporaneous documentation, the SA was unable to meet PTD as a result of:
  - Physical circumstances suffered by family member.
  - Beyond the control of the SA.
  - Clarification that the event or circumstance has been resolved.
  - Clear evidence the deficiency was a result of the personal hardship.
  - But for...

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Less Than Full-Time Enrollment

- Bylaw 14.1.7.3.4 (student-athletes with education-impacting disabilities).
- Bylaw 14.1.7.3.5 (full-time enrollment – practice and competition).

Waiver Directive:
Less Than Full Time – EID

- Full and complete documentation:
  - Current diagnosis of disability,
  - A copy of the SA’s last Individual Education Plan,
  - Contemporaneous medical documentation provided by licensed professional,
- Documentation disability recognized by institution; and
- Academic recovery plan demonstrating the course-load reduction will not create a future academic deficiency.
Waiver Directive: Less Than Full Time - Other

- Quality point analysis indicating a greater than 50% chance of graduating in five years;
- Documented compelling mitigating circumstances; and
- Academic recovery plan demonstrating the course-load reduction will not create future deficiency.

QUESTIONS??

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