

Division II Initial-Eligibility Changes

March 2021

During the 2021 NCAA Convention, Division II adopted [proposal 2021-2](#), which eliminated the nonqualifier initial-eligibility certification status and removed the partial qualifier academic requirements for students who initially enroll full time at an NCAA member school on or after August 1, 2021. This means that students who do not meet the qualifier standard will be academically eligible (as partial qualifiers) to receive athletics aid and participate in practice during the initial year of full-time enrollment, but may *not compete*. Below are implementation details regarding this legislative change.

Q1: Which students will be reviewed under this Division II legislative change?

A1: The Eligibility Center will apply this Division II legislative change to students with an NCAA enrollment period of Fall 2021 and beyond.

Q2: How will impacted students be notified regarding any change in their final academic certification status?

A2: Impacted students will be notified via email and (if subscribed to the service) via a “change in status” text message. Additional education regarding the change will occur through various Eligibility Center communication channels.

Q3: Is it permissible for students who have a preliminary Division II academic status to receive athletics aid during their initial year of full-time enrollment?

A3: No. Students must have a final Division II academic certification (partial qualifier or qualifier) before an institution may provide athletics aid during their initial year of full-time enrollment.

Q4: Is it permissible for students who have a preliminary Division II academic status to participate in practice during their initial year of full-time enrollment?

A4: Yes. Students who have a preliminary Division II academic status may practice during the 45-day temporary certification period (Division II Bylaw 14.3.2.1). However, these students must have a final academic certification (partial qualifier or qualifier) to continue practicing beyond the 45-day temporary certification period.

Q5: Does this Division II legislative change have any impact on the amateurism temporary certification period?

A5: No. Division II students must still receive a final amateurism certification to practice (or compete) beyond the 45-day temporary certification period (Division II Bylaw 12.1.1.1.3.1). Questions regarding details of the temporary certification period may be discussed with the athletics compliance office on campus.