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Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements

14.4 Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements.

14.4.1 Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete shall maintain progress toward a baccalaureate or equivalent degree at that institution. (See Constitution 3.3.4.6 regarding the obligations of members to publish their progress-toward-degree requirements for student-athletes.) *(Revised: 5/12/09, 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.1.1 Exchange Student. The eligibility of an exchange student shall be based on satisfactory completion of at least: *(Revised: 1/17/09 effective 8/1/09, 7/20/10, 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

- (a) Nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term in which the student has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution (see Bylaw 14.4.3.2);
- (b) Credit hours earned during the regular academic year as set forth in Bylaw 14.4.3.3;
- (c) Credit hours earned for the annual credit-hour requirement set forth in Bylaw 14.4.3.4; and
- (d) Cumulative minimum grade-point average as set forth in Bylaw 14.4.3.5.

14.4.1.2 Temporary Student. A student-athlete having the status of temporary, transient or exchange student shall not represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, unless such status is specifically allowed and governed by provisions adopted by the membership.

14.4.2 Eligibility for Financial Aid and Practice. Eligibility for institutional financial aid and practice during each academic year after a student-athlete's initial year in residence or after the student-athlete has used one season of eligibility in a sport shall be based upon the rules of the institution and the conference(s), if any, of which the institution is a member. See Bylaw 14.1.7 for additional rules regarding eligibility for practice.

14.4.3 Eligibility for Competition.

14.4.3.1 Good Academic Standing. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete shall be in good academic standing, as determined by the academic authorities who determine the meaning and application of such phrases for all students at the institution, subject to controlling legislation of the conference(s) or similar association of which the institution is a member. A student-athlete shall maintain a grade-point average that



places the individual in good academic standing, as established by the institution for all students who are at an equivalent stage of progress toward a degree. A student-athlete who is not in good academic standing is not eligible for competition even if the individual satisfies the progress-toward-degree requirements. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.2 Term-By-Term Credit-Hour Requirement. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete must earn nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.2.1 Application of Rule to Transfer Student. For purposes of certifying eligibility for a transfer student from a two-year or four-year collegiate institution per Bylaw 14.4.3.2, the nine-semester or eight-quarter hours must be transferable degree credit. (See Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.) *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.2.2 Calculation of Credit Hours. During the first two years of enrollment, the calculation of credit hours to meet this requirement (see Bylaw 14.4.3.2) shall be based on hours earned or accepted for degree credit toward any of the institution's degree programs. Beginning with the student-athlete's fifth semester or seventh quarter of collegiate enrollment, credits used to meet the term-by-term credit-hour requirement must be degree credit toward the student-athlete's designated degree program. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.2.2.1 Exception -- Final Academic Year of Degree Program. A student-athlete who is in the final academic year (final two semesters or three quarters) of his or her designated degree program may use credit hours acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs to satisfy the nine-semester or eight-quarter hour requirement per Bylaw 14.4.3.2, provided the institution certifies, through review by appropriate academic officials, that the student-athlete is carrying (for credit) the courses necessary to complete degree requirements at the end of the two semesters or three quarters. Thereafter, the student-athlete shall forfeit eligibility in all sports, unless the student-athlete completes all degree requirements during the final two semesters or three quarters and is eligible to receive the baccalaureate diploma on the institution's next degree-granting date. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.3 Credit Hours Earned During the Regular Academic Year. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete must complete 18-semester or 27-quarter hours since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters. Credit hours earned in the period after the regular academic year at the institution (e.g., hours earned in summer school) shall not be used to satisfy the academic credit-hour requirements of this regulation. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*



14.4.3.3.1 Regular Academic Year. For purposes of Bylaw 14.4.3.3, the regular academic year consists of the time beginning with the opening of the institutions' fall term and concluding with the institution's spring commencement exercises. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.3.2 Application of Rule. The following student-athletes are subject to the credit-hour requirement set forth in Bylaw 14.4.3.3: *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

- (a) A midyear transfer student-athlete;
- (b) A student-athlete who has been in residence at the institution for at least one academic year; or
- (c) A student-athlete who has used one season of eligibility in any sport at the certifying institution.

14.4.3.3.2.1 Application to a Midyear Enrollee. A student-athlete entering the institution at the beginning of the second semester or the second or third quarter of an academic year (e.g., midyear transfer) is not subject to the credit hours required under Bylaw 14.4.3.3 for the fall term immediately following the student-athlete's initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution. In subsequent years, the student-athlete's completion of the 18-semester or 27-quarter hour requirement shall be certified prior to the start of each academic year based on the student-athlete's record since the beginning of the previous fall term. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.3.3 Calculation of Credit Hours. During the first two years of enrollment, the calculation of credit hours to meet this requirement (see Bylaw 14.4.3.3) shall be based on hours earned or accepted for degree credit toward any of the institution's degree programs. Beginning with the student-athlete's fifth semester or seventh quarter of collegiate enrollment, credits used to meet the credit-hour requirement must be degree credit toward the student-athlete's designated degree program. Credit hours earned in the period after the regular academic year at the institution (e.g., hours earned in summer school) shall not be used to satisfy the academic credit-hour requirements of this regulation. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.3.4 Part-Time Enrollment. Credit hours earned during a term in which a student-athlete is enrolled less than full-time may be used to satisfy the 18-semester/27-quarter hour requirement only if such credits are combined with credits earned during a term that immediately precedes or immediately follows a term in which the student-athlete is enrolled as a full-time student. Credits earned during a part-time term may be completed at an institution other than the certifying institution. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.4 Annual Credit Hour Requirement. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete must earn 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit during any year in which the student-athlete is enrolled full time in at least one academic term. A student-athlete may satisfy this requirement based on the student-athlete earning:



(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)

- (a) 24-semester or 36-quarter hours since the beginning of the previous fall term;
- (b) 24-semester or 36-quarter hours since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters; or
- (c) 48-semester or 72-quarter hours during the first two years of collegiate enrollment (the certifying institution's first four semesters or six quarters following the student-athlete's initial full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution).

(Note: A student-athlete who does not enroll in a collegiate institution for a full academic year following his or her initial year of collegiate enrollment is considered to be enrolled in his or her second year of collegiate enrollment upon the next enrollment in a regular academic term at a collegiate institution.)

14.4.3.4.1 Application of Rule. The following student-athletes are subject to annual credit-hour requirements: *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

- (a) A midyear transfer student-athlete;
- (b) A student-athlete who has been in residence at the institution for at least one academic year; or
- (c) A student-athlete who has used one season of eligibility in any sport at the certifying institution.

14.4.3.4.1.1 Application to a Midyear Enrollee. A student-athlete entering the institution at the beginning of the second semester or the second or third quarter of an academic year (e.g., midyear transfer) shall be subject to the credit hours required under Bylaw 14.4.3.4 for the fall term immediately following the student-athlete's initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution; however, the annual credit hours may be adjusted to require completion of 12 units per term of actual attendance during the initial regular academic year of attendance. (See Bylaw 14.4.3.8.2.) *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.4.2 Academic Year in Residence. The definition of "year in residence" for purposes of determining whether a student-athlete is subject to the annual credit-hour requirement is based on full-time enrollment and attendance during any portion of a term in an academic year, except that when a student-athlete is granted a medical-absence waiver per Bylaw 14.4.3.9.1 during the first year of academic residence, that term is not counted in determining whether the student-athlete has been in residence at the certifying institution for one academic year. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.4.3 Calculation of Credit Hours. During the student-athlete's first four semesters or six quarters of collegiate enrollment, the calculation of credit hours to meet this requirement (see



Bylaw 14.4.3.4) shall be based on hours earned or accepted for degree credit toward any of the institution's degree programs. Beginning with the student-athlete's fifth semester or seventh quarter of collegiate enrollment, credits used to meet the annual credit-hour requirement must be degree credit toward the student-athlete's designated degree program. Credit hours earned in the period after the regular academic year at the institution (e.g., hours earned in summer school) may be used to satisfy the academic credit requirements of this regulation. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.4.4 Regaining Eligibility. A student-athlete who does not meet the 24-semester or 36-quarter credit-hour requirement since the beginning of the previous fall term, may become eligible at the beginning of the next academic term by successfully completing 24-semester or 36-quarter hours during the previous two semesters or three quarters. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.5 Fulfillment of Minimum Grade-Point Average Requirements. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete must achieve a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 prior to the beginning of each fall term. The eligibility of a student-athlete who does not satisfy the grade-point average requirement prior to the fall term may be recertified prior to the next regular academic term. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.5.1 Application of Rule. The following student-athletes are subject to minimum grade-point average requirements: *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

- (a) A midyear transfer student-athlete from a two-year or four-year collegiate institution who has completed an academic term in residence;
- (b) A student-athlete who has been in residence at the certifying institution for at least one academic year; or
- (c) A student-athlete who has used a season of eligibility in a sport at the certifying institution.

14.4.3.5.1.1 Application to a Midyear Enrollee or Transfer Student. The provisions of Bylaw 14.4.3.5 shall be applicable to the eligibility of a midyear enrollee or transfer student from a two-year or four-year collegiate institution in the fall term following his or her initial enrollment at the certifying institution. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.5.2 Academic Year in Residence. The definition of "year in residence" for purposes of determining whether a student-athlete is subject to the annual grade-point average requirement is based on full-time enrollment and attendance during any portion of a term in an academic year, except that if a student-athlete is granted a medical-absence waiver per Bylaw 14.4.3.9.1 during the first year of academic residence, that term is not counted in determining whether the student-athlete has been in residence at the certifying institution for one academic year. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*



14.4.3.5.3 Calculation of Minimum Grade-Point Average. A student-athlete must meet the minimum cumulative grade-point average at the certifying institution based on the method of calculation used by the institution for calculating cumulative grade-point averages for all students, and the calculation shall include only course work normally counted by the certifying institution in calculating the cumulative grade-point average for graduation (regardless of whether an institution requires multiple minimum grade-point averages for graduation). *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.5.4 Applicable Credit Hours. All credit hours (e.g., part time, transfer, advanced placement) that are accepted and appear on the student-athlete's transcript at the certifying institution shall be used in determining the minimum grade-point average requirements. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.5.5 Regaining Eligibility. A student-athlete who does not meet the minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 prior to the beginning of a fall term, may become eligible at the beginning of the next academic term by successfully earning a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.000. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.6 Designation of Degree Program. A student-athlete shall designate a program of studies leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree at the certifying institution by the beginning of the third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter) and thereafter shall make progress toward that specific degree. This provision shall be applicable to the eligibility not only of a continuing student, but also of a transfer student from a four-year or two-year collegiate institution who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment, even if the student has not yet completed an academic year in residence or used a season of eligibility in a sport at the certifying institution. Designation of a specific baccalaureate degree program may be accomplished by: **[D]** *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

(a) Formal enrollment by the student-athlete in a specific baccalaureate degree program; or

(b) Approval by an appropriate academic official (who must not be an academic adviser/counselor employed by the athletics department) of the program leading to the specific baccalaureate degree that the student-athlete is pursuing.

14.4.3.6.1 Documentation of Degree Program Designation. If the designation is in accordance with Bylaw 14.4.3.6-(a), the official enrollment records of the institution shall constitute the documentation of the program against which progress toward degree under this regulation shall be measured. If the designation is in accordance with Bylaw 14.4.3.6-(b), the record of the degree program designation, approved by the appropriate academic official, shall constitute that documentation. For purposes of certifying eligibility for competition, an appropriate academic official shall affirm in writing the number of credit hours applicable to the designated degree program that have been completed satisfactorily. The institution's records for all student-athlete degree program designations and progress-toward-degree evaluations shall be retained for



inspection (on request) by an authorized representative of the NCAA. **[D]** *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.7 Regulations for Administration of Progress Toward Degree.

14.4.3.7.1 Nontraditional Terms. An institution that determines registration other than on a traditional semester- or quarter-hour basis shall submit a statement describing the progress-toward-degree requirements applicable to its student-athletes for approval by the Academic Requirements Committee. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.7.2 Credit Hours Earned Prior to Initial Full-Time Enrollment at the Certifying Institution. Credit hours earned at another institution before initial enrollment at the certifying institution may not be used to satisfy progress-toward-degree requirements. In the first year of collegiate enrollment [or during the first two years of collegiate enrollment if using Bylaw 14.4.3.4-(c) to satisfy the annual credit hour requirement], this restriction does not apply to credit hours earned while a student was enrolled as a high school student (e.g., courses that qualify as high school and college credit). Such credit hours shall not be used to meet the required minimum number of credit hours earned during the regular academic year (see Bylaw 14.4.3.3). *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

Credit by Examination. Credit received through advanced-placement tests or by examination or International Baccalaureate Program examinations may be used by a student-athlete to meet the minimum progress-toward-degree requirements, provided the subject for which the examination is an alternative is offered by the institution as acceptable degree credit. If such credit was earned while the student-athlete was enrolled in high school, it may be used to meet both initial-eligibility and progress-toward-degree requirements in the first year of collegiate enrollment [or in the first two years of collegiate enrollment if using Bylaw 14.4.3.4-(c) to satisfy the annual credit-hour requirement], provided the credit was earned prior to high school graduation. However, such credit, if earned prior to initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution, may not be used to meet the required minimum number of hours earned during the regular academic year (see Bylaw 14.4.3.3). *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.7.4 Remedial, Tutorial or Noncredit Courses. Remedial, tutorial or noncredit courses may be used by a student-athlete to satisfy the progress-toward-degree requirements of Bylaws 14.4.3.2, 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.4 only if such courses meet all of the following conditions: *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

- (a) The courses must be considered by the institution to be prerequisites for specific courses acceptable for any degree program;
- (b) The courses must be given the same weight as others in the institution in determining the student-athlete's status for full-time enrollment;



(c) Noncredit courses may not exceed the maximum institutional limit for such courses in any baccalaureate degree program (or the student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree program once a program has been designated); and

(d) Credit in such courses shall not exceed 12-semester or 18-quarter hours, and the courses must be taken during the student-athlete's first academic year of collegiate enrollment.

14.4.3.7.5 Incomplete Grades. A student-athlete who receives an incomplete grade in a course may use the course in question to satisfy the progress-toward-degree requirements of Bylaws 14.4.3.2, 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.4, subject to the following conditions: *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

(a) The incomplete grade must have been removed and recorded in accordance with the institution's regulations applicable to all students;

(b) Such a course may be counted only once after a grade has been achieved that is acceptable to the institution for determining progress-toward-degree; and

(c) In the case of no institutional policy, the course with the acceptable grade shall be counted either during the term in which the student initially enrolled in the course or during the term in which the incomplete grade was removed and acceptable credit was awarded.

14.4.3.7.6 Repeated Courses. Credit for courses that are repeated may be used by a student-athlete to satisfy the progress-toward-degree requirements of Bylaws 14.4.3.2, 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.4 only under the following conditions: *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

(a) A course repeated due to an unsatisfactory initial grade may be used only once and only after it has been satisfactorily completed;

(b) Credit for a course that may be taken several times (e.g., a physical education activities course) shall be limited by institutional regulations; and

(c) Credits earned in courses that may be taken several times may not exceed the maximum institutional limit for credits of that type for any baccalaureate degree program (or for the student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree program once a program has been designated).

14.4.3.7.7 Credit Hours Earned or Accepted for Degree Credit After Change of Degree Program. A student-athlete who changes his or her designated degree program after his or her fifth semester or seventh quarter of collegiate enrollment may comply with the credit-hour requirements set forth in Bylaws 14.4.3.2, 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.4 if: *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

(a) The change in programs is documented appropriately by the institution's academic authorities;

(b) The credits earned before the change are acceptable toward a degree previously sought; and



(c) The credits earned from the time of the change are acceptable toward the new desired degree.

14.4.3.7.8 Credit Hours Earned or Accepted Toward a Major. A student-athlete who has designated a specific degree program with an identified major may not use a course to fulfill the credit-hour requirements set forth in Bylaws 14.4.3.2, 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.4 even if the course fulfills an elective component of the student-athlete's degree program, if the student-athlete ultimately must repeat the course to fulfill the requirements of the student's major. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.7.9 Credit Hours Earned or Accepted Toward a Minor. A student-athlete who has designated a specific degree program may use credits earned in a minor to fulfill the credit-hour requirements for meeting progress toward degree if the minor is a required element for all students to obtain the original baccalaureate degree. A student-athlete who has designated a voluntary or optional minor (i.e., a minor that is not a required element of the original baccalaureate degree program for all students) may use a maximum of six credit hours per regular academic term earned in the minor to fulfill the credit-hour requirements for meeting progress toward degree. Credit hours earned in a voluntary or optional minor during the summer may not be used to meet progress-toward-degree requirements. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter, Revised: 1/16/16 effective 8/1/16, 7/19/16 effective 8/1/16)*

14.4.3.7.10 Nontraditional Courses From Another Institution. Nontraditional courses (e.g., distance-learning, correspondence, extension, Internet/virtual courses, independent study or any other course or credit that is not earned in a face-to-face classroom environment with regular interaction between the instructor and the student) completed at an institution other than the one in which a student-athlete is enrolled as a full-time student may be used in determining progress toward degree, provided the following conditions are met: *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

(a) The course is available to any student at the certifying institution;

(b) The student-athlete enrolls in the course in the same manner as is available to any student; and

(c) Enrollment in the course occurs within the offering institution's regular enrollment periods (preregistration or drop-add period) in accordance with the institution's academic calendar and applicable policies and procedures.

14.4.3.7.11 Cooperative Educational, Work Experience and Study-Abroad Programs. A student-athlete shall not be required to complete nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term of full-time enrollment during any term or terms of enrollment in a cooperative educational or work experience program (e.g., co-op, internship, practicum, student-teaching) or an institutionally approved study-abroad program. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.8 Exceptions to Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements.



14.4.3.8.1 Missed Term Exception. One time during a student-athlete's entire period of collegiate enrollment, the provisions of Bylaws 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.4 may be adjusted to require completion of 12 hours per term of actual attendance, if the student-athlete misses a complete term or consecutive terms during an academic year, subject to the following conditions: *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

(a) The student-athlete engaged in no outside competition in the sport during the academic term or terms in which the student was not in attendance;

(b) The student-athlete was eligible for enrollment during the student's absence; and

(c) At the time of certification, the student-athlete has fulfilled the progress-toward-degree requirements (per Bylaws 14.4.3.2, 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.4) for the terms in which the student was in attendance. It is not permissible to use this one-time exception during the first academic year in residence at the certifying institution in order to maintain eligibility during the second year in residence. Hours earned while enrolled as a part-time student during the "missed term" may not be counted in meeting the progress-toward-degree requirement.

14.4.3.8.2 Midyear Enrollment Exception. For student-athletes entering the institution at the beginning of the second semester or the second or third quarter of an academic year (e.g., midyear transfer), the annual credit hours required per Bylaw 14.4.3.4 may be adjusted to require completion of 12 units per term of actual attendance during the initial regular academic year of attendance. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.8.3 Nonrecruited, Nonparticipant Exception. A student-athlete may qualify for an exception to the application of the progress-toward-degree regulations for the initial season of eligibility, if the student has been in residence at the certifying institution for at least one academic year; was not recruited; has not received athletically related financial assistance; has never practiced or participated in intercollegiate athletics, except that a student may have participated in limited preseason tryouts; and is otherwise eligible under all institutional, conference and NCAA rules. The student-athlete's eligibility in future seasons would be governed by the progress-toward-degree requirements, which would be applied from the beginning of the first term the student began participation. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.8.4 Graduate Student Exception. A student-athlete who is a graduate student or a student-athlete who graduates and returns for a second baccalaureate degree or who is taking coursework that would lead to the equivalent of another major or degree who is otherwise eligible for regular-season competition shall be exempt from the progress-toward-degree requirements. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.8.5 Two-Year Non-Participation or Minimal Participation Exception. A student-athlete may qualify for an exception to the application of the progress-toward-degree regulations if, for a consecutive two-year period immediately before the date on which the student begins participation (countable athletically related activities), the student-athlete has not competed and has not



participated in other countable athletically related activities (see Bylaw 17.02.1) in any sport beyond a 14-consecutive calendar-day period, or has not participated in organized noncollegiate amateur competition while enrolled as a full-time student in a collegiate institution; and is otherwise eligible under all institutional, conference and NCAA rules. The 14-consecutive calendar-day period begins with the date on which the student-athlete first engages in any countable athletically related activity. The two-year period does not include any period of time before the student-athlete's initial collegiate enrollment. The student-athlete's eligibility in future seasons would be governed by the progress-toward-degree requirements, which would be applied from the beginning of the first term the student-athlete began participation. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.9 Waivers of Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements. The Academic Requirements Committee shall establish appropriate criteria for waivers of this legislation. Such waivers shall be administered by the conference members of the Association or, in the case of an independent institution, by the Academic Requirements Committee. Waivers of the progress-toward-degree requirements may be granted under the following conditions: *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.9.1 Medical Absence Waiver. The credit hours required under the progress-toward-degree regulations of Bylaws 14.4.3.2, 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.4 may be adjusted to require completion of 12 units per term of actual attendance during an academic year in which a student misses a term or is unable to complete a term as a full-time student as a result of an injury or illness. Such an exception may be granted only when circumstances clearly supported by appropriate medical documentation establish that a student-athlete is unable to attend a collegiate institution as a full-time student as a result of an incapacitating physical injury or illness involving the student-athlete or a member of the student-athlete's immediate family. Credits earned by the student-athlete during the term to which the waiver applies may not be used in determining progress toward degree. A Division II conference office has the authority to administer medical absence waivers for terms that occurred at an NCAA institution prior to a student-athlete's enrollment at a member institution within the conference. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter, Revised: 7/28/15)*

14.4.3.9.2 International Competition Waiver. The credit hours required under the progress-toward-degree regulations of Bylaws 14.4.3.2, 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.4 may be adjusted to require completion of 12 hours per term of actual attendance during an academic year in which a student is not enrolled for a term or terms or is unable to complete a term as a result of participation in the Pan American, Olympic, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games or World University Championships (including final Olympic tryouts and the officially recognized training program that directly qualifies participants for those tryouts). This waiver provision may be applied to not more than two semesters or three quarters. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.10 Olympic Games Waiver. The Academic Requirements Committee may waive the progress-toward-degree requirements for any participant in the Olympic Games who, because of such participation, may lose eligibility for practice and competition in any sport. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*



14.4.3.11 Student-Athletes With Education-Impacting Disabilities Waiver. The Academic Requirements Committee may waive the progress-toward-degree requirements for a student-athlete when objective evidence demonstrates that the institution has defined full-time enrollment for that student-athlete to be less than 12 hours to accommodate for the student's education-impacting disability. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*

14.4.3.12 Additional Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers. The Academic Requirements Committee shall have the authority to waive all other progress-toward-degree requirements based on objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances that warrant the waiver of the normal application of those regulations. The committee shall establish the process for granting such waivers and shall report at least annually to the Management Council and to the membership, the actions taken in summary, aggregate form. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/16 for certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016 and thereafter)*