

## Initial Eligibility Academic Requirements

**Freshman** (no previous college attendance unless enrolled in a joint high school-college program)—must meet the following requirements to be eligible for competition:

1. Be certified as an initial qualifier by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse;
2. Enroll in 12 or more semester hours of credit acceptable toward a baccalaureate degree in a designated program of studies at NIU;
3. Make payment for tuition and fees by the appropriate due date;
4. Earn a minimum NIU cumulative GPA of 1.60 at the end of the first semester as a freshman, and a minimum NIU cumulative GPA of 1.80 prior to the start of the 2nd academic year, and a minimum NIU cumulative GPA of 1.90 prior to the start of the 3rd academic year, and maintain a minimum NIU cumulative GPA of 2.00 for all subsequent semesters.

### **Community/Junior College Transfer Student**

Must meet the following requirements to be immediately eligible for competition (also see “Notes” at the end of this section):

Enroll in 12 or more semester hours of credit acceptable toward a baccalaureate degree in a designated program of studies at NIU, make appropriate tuition and fee payment, **and:**

1. **A transfer student from a 2-year institution** is not eligible to compete at the certifying institution during the segment that concludes with the NCAA championship if the student-athlete has competed at the two-year college during that segment of the same academic year in that sport.

2. **If an initial qualifier** at the time of graduation from high school *and enrolled at a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2003*, the student must meet the following criteria:

- a. Complete a minimum of 1 full-time semester/quarter at the two-year school (summer school excluded);
- b. Average 12 hours degree credit per full-time semester/quarter attended;
- c. Present a minimum 2.00 GPA at the time of transfer.
- d. Make satisfactory progress toward completing a degree (40%; 60%; 80%)
- e. Earned six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution.

3. **If an initial non-qualifier** at the time of graduation from high school *and enrolled in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2003*, **and** attended a community college, the student must meet the following criteria:

- a. Awarded A.A. or A.S. degree in an academic or technical (rather than a vocational) curriculum;
- b. Complete a minimum of 3 semesters or 4 quarters at the two-year school (summer school excluded);
- c. Complete 48 semester or 72 quarter hours degree credit acceptable toward a baccalaureate degree program at NIU, **and**
- d. Present a minimum 2.00 GPA based on courses transferred to NIU.
- e. Earned six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution.

**Community/Junior College Transfer Student Who Previously Attended a Four-Year Institution—**

must meet the following requirements to be immediately eligible for competition (also see “Notes” at the end of this section): Enroll in 12 or more semester hours of academic credit acceptable toward a baccalaureate degree, make appropriate tuition and fee payment, **and**

- 1. Must average 12 hours of transferable credit per semester each term of full-time enrollment attendance at the two-year college.
- 2. Minimum 2.00 GPA in transferable hours;
- 3. Awarded A.A. or A.S. degree in an academic or technical (rather than vocational) curriculum from the two-year college;
- 4. One calendar year lapse from the time the student athlete left the previous four-year institution;
- 5. Earned six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution;

**Transfer Student from a Four-Year Institution—**

Must meet the following requirements to be eligible for competition (also see “Notes” at the end of this section): Enroll in 12 or more semester hours of academic credit acceptable toward a baccalaureate degree in a designated program of studies at NIU, make appropriate tuition and fee payment, **and**

- 1. If the student attended the previous four-year institution for at least one year, the student must complete one full academic year in residence at NIU\* and comply with the rules stated in the section entitled “Continuing Eligibility Requirements . . .,”

**or**

- 2. If the student attended the previous four-year institution for less than a year **and** graduated from high school as a non-qualifier, the student must complete a one-year residence requirement at NIU, **and**
- 3. Meet all other conditions specified by the current NCAA bylaws including: earned 6 eligible hours in last full-time regular term of enrollment, declare a major, and meet percent of degree in student’s major program (if student is in 5th semester of

enrollment or later), be in good academic standing and be considered eligible if remained at the original 4-year school.

**Detailed information on NCAA transfer regulations may be obtained from the Compliance Office at NIU.**

**Notes:** Mid-year transfers in the sports of men's or women's basketball, are not eligible to compete until the upcoming fall semester, even if they satisfy the appropriate transfer policies detailed above. \*Eligibility may be immediate upon transfer for high school qualifiers provided criteria for the one time transfer exception are met. See the Compliance Office for complete details.