# A Quick Guide to the NCAA Requirements for the “Student” in “Student-Athlete”

All S-A’s must meet each of these requirements to be eligible for competition (for baseball S-A exceptions, see pg 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S-A’S YEAR</th>
<th>To be eligible for the Fall Semester, each S-A must:</th>
<th>To be eligible for the Spring Semester, each S-A must:</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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| FRESHMAN   | Meet Initial Eligibility Requirements set by the NCAA Eligibility Center:*  
- Achieve Final Qualifier Status, AND  
- Final Certified Amateurism Certification | Pass 6 credits from their freshman fall semester | During the S-A’s freshman and sophomore years, credits toward any degree can be applied to the 24, 18 and 6 credit hour requirements. |
| Sophomore  | • Pass 24 credits (only 6 of which can be remedial) prior to the start of their sophomore fall semester (may include Summer before initial enrollment, Fall, Spring, and Summer); AND  
- Pass 18 credits (only 6 of which can be remedial) during their freshman fall and spring semesters combined; -AND-  
- Pass 6 credits from freshman spring semester; -AND-  
- FB only pass 9 credits from prior fall semester; -AND-  
- Have at least a 1.8 GPA | Pass 6 credits from their sophomore fall semester | -AND-  
Have at least a 1.8 GPA | |
| Junior     | • Pass 18 credits during their sophomore fall and spring semesters combined; -AND-  
- Pass 6 credits from sophomore spring semester; -AND-  
- FB only pass 9 credits from prior fall semester; -AND-  
- Have at least a 1.9 GPA -AND-  
- Declare a major PRIOR to the start of the fall term -AND-  
- 40% of that declared major must be completed | Pass 6 credits from their junior fall semester | By the beginning of the S-A’s junior year, all credits must go towards the S-A’s declared degree. |
| Senior     | • Pass 18 credits during their junior fall and spring semesters combined; AND  
- Pass 6 credits from junior spring semester; -AND-  
- FB only pass 9 credits from prior fall semester; -AND-  
- Have at least a 2.0 GPA -AND-  
- 60% of declared major must be completed | Pass 6 credits from their senior fall semester | -AND-  
Have at least a 2.0 GPA | |
| 5th Year   | • Pass 18 credits during their senior fall and spring semesters combined, AND  
- Pass 6 credits from senior spring semester; -AND-  
- FB only pass 9 credits from prior fall semester; -AND-  
- Have at least a 2.0 GPA –AND-  
- 80% of declared major must be completed | Pass 6 credits from their 5th Year fall semester | -AND-  
Have at least a 2.0 GPA -AND-  
GRADUATE! | |

*For questions about initial eligibility, consult your NCAA manual, the Compliance Office or SAEP.

This handout is intended to serve as a guideline and should not substitute the NCAA bylaws or direct communication with the Compliance Office.
HOW DOES THIS AFFECT SCHOLARSHIPS OR PRACTICE ELIGIBILITY?

- These rules do not affect whether the student-athlete is eligible to receive financial aid or practice.
- The only requirement for a returning student-athlete to receive financial aid and practice is for him/her to be full-time enrolled.
- If you learn that one of your student-athletes drops below full-time enrollment, be aware that he/she is not allowed to practice until he/she adds a course and is again enrolled full-time.
  - Contact SAEP or the Compliance Office if you suspect one of your student-athletes drops below full-time enrollment.

BASEBALL EXCEPTION

- Any baseball student-athlete who does not fulfill his academic requirements as stated on page 1 above (e.g. PTD (40/60/80) percentage, 6 credit hour requirement, 18/24 credit hour requirement, and G.P.A. requirement) and is thus ineligible for the fall term is automatically ineligible for the following spring term, even if he “catches up.”
- For example, if a junior baseball student-athlete is ineligible for the fall of his junior year because he is not meeting progress towards degree (e.g. he is at 38% percent rather than 40%), he cannot “get well” or become eligible for the spring semester even if he passes 15 hours in the fall with a 4.0 and has thus completed 50% of his degree by the beginning of his spring semester. He would still be ineligible and unable to compete for Southern Miss.

IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE COMPLIANCE OFFICE AT 601-266-4532