

## Educational Column - 1 Educational Column

### Title:

Eligibility -- Core-Curriculum Time Limitation Legislation -- Exception -- One Additional Core Course After High School Graduation (I)

### Item Ref: 1

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### Educational Column:

*Editor's Note: The answer to the last example in this educational column was updated on August 18, 2014, to remove the original last sentence in order to avoid membership confusion. The original posting date was kept for continued ease of reference.*

NCAA Division I institutions should note that the core-curriculum time limitation legislation requires a prospective student-athlete to complete core-curriculum requirements not later than the high school graduation date of the prospective student-athlete's class. The appropriate graduation date is determined by the prospective student-athlete's first year of enrollment in high school (grade nine) or the international equivalent. For a domestic prospective student-athlete, the allowed time frame for completion of the core course requirements is eight semesters from the date the prospective student-athlete first enrolled in high school. For an international prospective student-athlete, the graduation date is based on the prescribed educational path in his or her country.

If a prospective student-athlete graduates within the prescribed time frame, he or she may use one additional core course for initial-eligibility purposes. The course must be completed prior to initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, but not later than the end of the academic year immediately after graduation.

An October 22, 2008, official interpretation specifies that it is permissible to use a core course completed after high school graduation, provided the prospective student-athlete either completes the course prior to enrollment in or after completion of the institution's summer term for which he or she is receiving athletically related financial aid. However, the interpretation specifies that it is not permissible for a prospective student-athlete to use a core course, including an online course, completed after high school graduation to satisfy initial-eligibility requirements if the prospective student-athlete is enrolled in the course while concurrently receiving athletically related financial aid to attend an institution's summer term.

The following examples are designed to assist member institutions in applying the one additional core course after high school graduation exception to the core-curriculum time limitation legislation.

**Example:** A prospective student-athlete enrolls in a core course at an area high school while enrolled in an institution's summer term and receives nonathletics institutional financial aid while completing the core course. May this core course be used to certify the prospective student-athlete's initial eligibility?

**Answer:** Yes. The course may be used because the prospective student-athlete is receiving only nonathletics institutional aid. Please note that if the prospective student-athlete were receiving athletically related financial aid, the course may not be used.

**Example:** A prospective student-athlete who will receive athletically related financial aid to attend an institution's summer term starts a core course before enrolling in the institution's summer term. The prospective student-athlete finishes the course after enrolling in the institution's summer term. May this core course be used to certify the prospective student-athlete's initial eligibility?

**Answer:** No. The core course may not be used because the prospective student-athlete did not complete the core course before receiving athletically related financial aid to attend the institution's summer term.

**Example:** A prospective student-athlete receives athletically related financial aid to attend an institution's summer term. After completion of the summer term, the prospective student-athlete returns home and enrolls in a core course at the individual's high school. May this core course be used to certify the prospective student-athlete's initial eligibility?

**Answer:** Yes. The core course may be used to certify this prospective student-athlete's initial eligibility because even though the individual received athletically related financial aid to attend the institution's summer term, the prospective student-athlete was no longer receiving athletically related financial aid at the time the core course was completed.

The following questions may assist institutions in working with the NCAA Eligibility Center on issues related to the use of the additional core course completed after high school graduation exception.

**Question:** A prospective student-athlete enrolls in a core course from a school or program that does not have a list of approved core courses. Will the core course be used to determine the prospective student-athlete's initial eligibility?

**Answer:** If a prospective student-athlete takes a course from a school or program that does not have a list of approved core courses, the school or program must be evaluated by the Eligibility Center's high school review team before the course is approved. This can be a lengthy process; therefore, institutions should encourage prospective student-athletes who need to use the one core course after high school graduation exception to complete the additional core course through a school or program that has a list of approved core courses.

**Question:** How does the Eligibility Center verify that a core course completed after high school graduation was in compliance with the October 22, 2008, official interpretation?

**Answer:** Institutions are responsible for determining whether the prospective student-athlete completed the additional core course in a manner consistent with the official interpretation and for providing the same information to the Eligibility Center.

**Question:** What documentation is required to certify the use of this exception to the core-curriculum time limitation?

**Answer:** The following four scenarios address required documentation for purposes of the one additional core course after high school graduation exception only. In all of these scenarios, the course must meet the legislated definition of a core course. In addition, an important step in determining the validity of a course on a high school's list of approved core courses is to confirm that the prospective student-athlete met all course expectations as indicated by the course provider.

1. If the additional core course was taken at the high school from which the prospective student-athlete graduated, the course must appear on that high school's list of approved core courses. Also, the Eligibility Center must receive a transcript from the high school, showing the course title, grade received and credit awarded for the additional core course.
2. If the additional core course was taken at a school other than the high school from which the prospective student-athlete graduated and that school has a six-digit College Board code (CEEB) and a list of approved core courses, the additional core course must appear on that school's list of approved core courses. A transcript from the school, showing the course title, grade received and credit awarded for the additional core course from that school must be provided to the Eligibility Center. However, the additional core course is not required to appear on the transcript from the high school from which prospective student-athlete graduated.
3. If the additional core course was taken through distance learning or other nontraditional means (e.g., online, correspondence, independent study, individualized instruction, credit recovery) and the school/program has a CEEB code and list of approved core courses, the additional core course must appear on that school/program's list of approved core courses. A transcript from the program, showing the course title, grade received and credit awarded for the additional core course must be provided to the Eligibility Center. However, the additional core course is not required to appear on the transcript from the high school from which prospective student-athlete graduated.
4. If the additional core course was taken at a community college, junior college or four-year college, a transcript from that college with the course title, grade received and credit earned for the additional core course must be provided to the Eligibility Center. (Note: The Eligibility Center will accept the high school course credit equivalent if the course appears on the transcript of the high school from which the prospective student-athlete graduated or if the high school submits a letter indicating the amount of credit the student would have received had the course been taken at the high school.)

[References: NCAA Division I Bylaws 14.3.1.2 (core curriculum requirements), 14.3.1.2.1 (core-curriculum time limitation) and 14.3.1.2.1.1 (exception -- one additional core course after high school graduation), official interpretation (10/24/08, Item No. 1), staff interpretation (10/5/88, item f) and official interpretation (9/4/08, Item No. 1-b), which have been archived]

## References

Legislative References			Other
Div.	Number	Title	References Educational Columns: <u>3</u>
I	14.3.1.2	Core-Curriculum Requirements.	Educational Columns: 0
I	14.3.1.2.1.1	Exception -- One Core Course after High School Graduation.	Proposals: 0
I	14.3.1.2.1	Core-Curriculum Time Limitation.	