



Advising Guide Sheet for Student-Athletes

Please use this information as a reference to advise student-athletes on their course work at Virginia Tech. It is intended to provide you with guidelines regarding the University, NCAA, and the Atlantic Coast Conference requirements for student-athletes.

1. **Student-athletes must be enrolled “full-time” (12 credits for undergraduates, 9 for graduates) each semester to maintain NCAA eligibility** for practice and competition. If a student-athlete wishes to drop below 12 hours, permission must be obtained from the University Registrar, in consultation with a SAASS counselor. Unless a student-athlete is enrolled in the final credits needed during the term of graduation, enrollment below “full-time” status will immediately render them ineligible to compete and practice and may have financial aid consequences. Please note that a student-athlete’s use of VT’s Course Withdrawal policy does not affect full -- time status.
2. **The NCAA requires that student-athletes be enrolled in a degree granting major by the beginning of their fifth semester of enrollment.** For majors that require options, minors, concentrations, and/or cognates, these must be formally declared in order to satisfy this requirement.
3. **NCAA Continuing Eligibility requirements to maintain competitive eligibility:**
 - Freshman student-athletes must pass **24** degree applicable credit hours during their **first academic year** (Ex: summer, fall, spring, summer).
 - All student-athletes must complete a minimum of **18** credit hours during the combination of **fall and spring** semesters each year.
 - Also, all **football** student-athletes must complete a minimum of **9** degree applicable credit hours during the **fall** semester to be eligible for competition during the following fall season.
 - All student-athletes must complete a minimum of **6** degree applicable credits **every semester** (fall & spring only).
 - Free electives taken beyond the student-athlete’s allowable limit within their declared major cannot be used to satisfy the NCAA continuing eligibility rules, as they do not help toward graduation.
 - Also, courses required for a minor can only be used to satisfy the NCAA continuing eligibility rules if there are enough allowable free electives within the student-athlete’s major.



4. **NCAA Progress Toward Degree (PTD) requirements to be eligible for competition:**
 - Start of third year: 40 percent of degree completed
 - Start of fourth year: 60 percent of degree completed
 - Start of fifth year: 80 percent of degree completed

5. **Student-athletes must meet the same GPA requirements as all VT students to maintain good academic standing. To be eligible for NCAA competition, a student-athlete must achieve the following minimum GPA (University GPA requirements supersede all NCAA requirements):**
 - Start of second year: 90 percent of GPA required for graduation 1.80 GPA
 - Start of third year: 95 percent of GPA required for graduation 1.90 GPA
 - Start of fourth year: 100 percent of GPA required for graduation 2.00 GPA

6. **NCAA Continuing Eligibility & PTD requirements regarding minimum grade requirements & repeated courses:**
 - During the first two years of a student-athlete's full-time enrollment, any passing grade will count even if a grade minimum exists for the course based on the major that the student-athlete has chosen.
 - If the course is repeated, it cannot be counted again.
 - Beginning with the student-athletes third year of full-time enrollment, the grade earned must meet the course minimum in order to be counted.
 - When the course is repeated and the minimum grade requirement is met, it will count.

7. **When helping student-athletes with their class schedules, please make every effort to help them schedule courses without conflicting with their required practice time (free time).** If a required course is offered only during the practice time please contact the SAASS office or ask the student-athlete to discuss the possible conflicts with their SAASS counselor so that free time blocks can be lifted to accommodate the class.