

Advisors of Student Athletes Guide Sheet

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 and consultation with a SAASS counselor. Unless a student is enrolled in the final credits needed during the term of graduation, a drop below “full time” status will immediately render them ineligible to compete and practice and may have financial aid consequences. Please note that a student’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** degree applicable 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’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 students 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 students 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 to discuss the possible conflicts with their SAASS counselor so that free time blocks can be lifted to accommodate the class.