

## NCAA Introduces Pilot Waiver Program

August 7, 2007

On June 1, the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse began evaluating prospective student-athletes who graduated high school in 2007, to determine if they qualify for a new initial eligibility waiver.

This program was established based on criteria developed from information on prospective student-athlete data in the Clearinghouse database. Prospective student-athletes who have achieved 1) a combined SAT score of 1100 (on the critical reading and math sections) or a sum score of 95 on the ACT or 2) have 12 core courses with a minimum grade-point average of 3.000 and at least a combined SAT score of 1000 (on the critical reading and math sections) or 85 ACT sum score.

According to the research conducted by the NCAA, students who meet these standards were determined to clearly predict to be qualifiers. However, prospective student-athlete records will continue to be reviewed for academic irregularities.

If this waiver is applicable, the prospective student-athletes will know if they are considered a final academic qualifier through the notification on their certification report with the annotation "Waiver Approved."

The NCAA anticipates that approximately 25 percent of the prospective student-athletes will be certified as qualifiers under this early certification waiver program. Prospective student-athletes who do not meet the above-referenced criteria may be certified as qualifiers by meeting initial eligibility requirements as legislated by Division I or Division II.

Inasmuch as this is a pilot program, the NCAA has not said whether this program will be applicable to classes beyond those graduating after 2007. The pilot waiver program will be evaluated by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and Division II Presidents' Council in the fall.

Finally, this pilot waiver program is only applicable to academic eligibility. Students must also be certified for amateurism eligibility. Please see the August 7 article entitled "NCAA Requires Amateurism Certification" to learn about amateurism eligibility. (*Source: NCAA Educational Column, May 23, 2007, Item 2.*)



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