

Faculty Guide for Advising Student Athletes

As faculty, advising student athletes requires awareness of both their academic needs and NCAA eligibility requirements. While the Longwood Athlete Academics staff is responsible for the NCAA eligibility compliance, this guide outlines key considerations to help you as faculty advise effectively. Understanding NCAA eligibility can be very tedious and confusing, the goal of this guide is to provide some insights and considerations. Faculty are not expected to be experts on NCAA eligibility. For further assistance, please reach out to Dr. Tim Coffey, Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), at coffeytg@longwood.edu.

NCAA Eligibility

Student athletes must meet NCAA academic standards to compete. These include:

- **Full-time Status:** Must be enrolled in at least 12 credits each semester. Winter intersession credits don't count towards this total.
- **6 Credit Hours per Semester:** Athletes must successfully complete at least 6 credits in both the fall and spring semesters.
- **18 Credit Hours per Year:** A minimum of 18 credits must be successfully completed from fall to the following fall.
- **GPA Minimums:** 1.8 by start of 2nd year, 1.9 by start of 3rd year, 2.0 all subsequent academic years
- **Progress to Degree (PTD) Benchmarks:** Athletes must meet specific credit milestones each year to maintain eligibility:
 - 2nd Year: 24 credits (20% of degree)
 - 3rd Year: 48 credits (40%)
 - 4th Year: 72 credits (60%)
 - 5th Year: 96 credits (80%)
 - Double majors & minors can complicate this. Only the major counts toward PTD.
 - PTD challenges typically occur when a student athlete takes courses that do not apply to their degree plan or when they change majors and lose credits towards degree.
- **Declared Major at 45 Credits:** Student athletes must declare a major once they have 45 credits. "Pre" designations (e.g., Pre-Business) are not eligible for competition after this point.

Course Scheduling Considerations

- **Preference for Classes Before 3 PM:** To accommodate travel and training schedules, student athletes are encouraged to schedule courses before 3 PM, though this is a preference, not a requirement. If a required course is only available after 3 PM, athletes should take the course in a non-championship semester, if possible.
- **Championship vs. Non-Championship Semesters:** During their championship season, student athletes often travel more and have more missed classes. It's advisable to schedule demanding courses (like labs) in the non-championship season, when they have fewer travel conflicts.

Addressing Concerns

- **Student Athlete Concerns:** After meeting with you, athletes should take scheduling or academic concerns to Longwood Athletics. If communication is an issue, refer them to the FAR for assistance.
- **Faculty Concerns:** If you are concerned about a student athlete's academic performance or eligibility, contact the FAR for guidance. They will work to resolve issues, though immediate solutions may not always be possible.

Thank you for supporting student athletes in balancing their academic & athletic commitments!

Fall Sports

Men's Cross Country

Women's Cross Country

Men's Golf*

Women's Golf*

Field Hockey

Men's Soccer

Women's Soccer

Men's Tennis**

Women's Tennis**

Spring Sports

Baseball

Men's Golf*

Women's Golf*

Lacrosse

Softball

Men's Tennis**

Women's Tennis**

Men's Track

Women's Track

Winter Sports

Overlap both Fall and Spring

Men's Basketball

Women's Basketball

* Men's and Women's Golf compete in tournaments in both the fall and spring semesters

** Men's and Women's Tennis is currently exploring an individual and doubles championship in the fall semester and the team championship in the spring semester