

# Utah Tech University Policy

## 617: Student Athlete Academic Eligibility



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### I. Purpose

- 1.1 Utah Tech University (“the University”) ensures that all student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics at the University meet academic and progress toward degree requirements set forth by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

### II. Scope

- 2.1 All student-athletes who are on an official University team roster are held to the academic requirements and progress toward degree expectations set forth in this policy. Those who do not meet the set requirements risk being declared academically ineligible for competition, practice, and/or athletic financial aid for intercollegiate athletics at the University.

### III. Definitions

- 3.1 **Academic Year:** The time beginning with the opening of the University’s fall term and concluding with spring commencement.
- 3.2 **Student-Athlete:** A University student who participates in an official competitive sport sponsored by the University. The athletic department determines which sports are officially sponsored by the University. Intramural and club teams are not considered official or sponsored sports.
- 3.3 **Team Roster:** A list of student-athletes who are a part of an official sponsored sport offered at the University. The athletic department determines and keeps records of all team rosters.

## IV. Policy

- 4.1 In order to practice and compete in an athletic program, student-athletes will comply with the following NCAA and University requirements:
  - 4.1.1 New student-athletes must be enrolled, and remain enrolled, in a full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or graduate degree.
  - 4.1.2 Student-athletes must declare a major and make progress toward that specific degree prior to their fifth semester of collegiate enrollment and be eligible by all NCAA standards.
  - 4.1.3 Student-athletes that have already received a baccalaureate degree must be enrolled in either 12 credit hours leading to a second baccalaureate degree or nine credit hours leading toward a graduate degree.
  - 4.1.4 Continuing student-athletes must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits each semester.
  - 4.1.5 Freshman student-athletes in their first and second full-time semesters must receive a passing grade in an average of 12 or more credits towards a Baccalaureate degree during their fall and spring semesters, or they must receive a passing grade in 24 or more credits toward a Baccalaureate degree before their third full-time semester.
  - 4.1.6 All other continuing student-athletes must receive a passing grade in at least 18 credits towards their Baccalaureate or Graduate degree during the academic year.
  - 4.1.7 Student-athletes must receive a passing grade in at least six credits toward a Baccalaureate or Graduate degree each fall and spring semester in order to be eligible to compete during the following semester.
    - 4.1.7.1 Football student athletes must receive a passing grade in at least nine credits toward their Baccalaureate or Graduate degree each fall semester in order to be eligible to compete during the following fall semester.
  - 4.1.8 All student-athletes must complete 40% of their declared Baccalaureate degree before the start of their fifth full-time semester.

- 4.1.9 All student-athletes must complete 60% of their declared Baccalaureate degree before the start of their seventh full time semester.
- 4.1.10 All student-athletes must complete 80% of their declared Baccalaureate degree before the start of their ninth full-time semester.
- 4.1.11 All student-athletes must achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of a 2.000 (based on a maximum of a 4.000) measure at the beginning of each fall and spring semester.
  - 4.1.11.1 First year freshman student-athletes are not required to have a cumulative 2.000 GPA until the end of their second full-time semester.
- 4.2 All credits that apply to the student-athlete's degree (e.g., part-time, transfer, advanced placement, and other types of credit) shall be used in determining the number of semester credits completed, and all applicable credits will be included in the calculation of the minimum GPA requirements.
- 4.3 All student-athletes shall complete their seasons of participation within five calendar years from the beginning of the semester in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full-time program of studies at any collegiate institution.
- 4.4 Student-athletes may qualify for an exception to certain eligibility requirements per NCAA rules.
  - 4.4.1 All possible exceptions must be verified by the University Eligibility Coordinator and the University Athletic Academic Office.
- 4.5 In addition to all eligibility requirements set forth in this policy, student-athletes will be bound by all NCAA eligibility requirements. The NCAA requirements may include but not be limited to individual sports that have extra NCAA eligibility requirements. In the case that the NCAA eligibility requirements are lesser, University eligibility requirements will take precedence.
- 4.6 Student-athletes will not be allowed to take a full-time course load completely made up of online courses. Students may only take a full-time course load of online courses if:
  - 4.6.1 The student's program of study has been designated as an online program by the University.

4.6.2 The classes required for graduation are only taught online and no other class options are available.

4.6.3 The student needs to take all online courses because of an extenuating circumstance.

4.6.3.1 Extenuating circumstances must be approved by the Associate Athletic Director of Academics.

## V. References

5.1 NCAA Division II Manual (<https://www.ncaapublications.com/>)

## VI. Procedures

6.1 All student-athletes will be checked and certified that they are meeting all progress toward degree requirements at the beginning and end of every semester. All certification is completed by the Eligibility Coordinator and is verified by the Athletic Compliance Office, Associate Athletic Director of Academics, Athletic Director, or Faculty Athletic Representative each semester.

## VII. Addenda - N/A

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Policy Owner: Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost  
Policy Steward: NCAA Eligibility Coordinator

### History:

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