



University of Florida



Compliance Connection

Between Athletics and Faculty and Staff

The University of Florida is committed to full compliance with NCAA and Southeastern Conference rules. As part of this commitment, the Compliance Office provides regular rules education to relevant constituent groups—student-athletes, coaching staff, athletics department personnel and select university staff and administrators. Since the University would be held accountable for any violations of NCAA rules by its faculty members, it seems prudent to provide information to UF faculty and staff.

Guidelines for Interactions with Student-Athletes

As a basic principle, enrolled student-athletes are not permitted to receive any extra benefits from University of Florida faculty and staff. What is an extra benefit?

The NCAA defines an extra benefit as, “any special arrangement by an institutional employee or representative of the institution’s athletics interests to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete family member or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Receipt of a benefit by student-athletes or their family members or friends is not a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution’s students or their family members or friends or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., international students, minority students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability.”

Basically, an extra benefit is anything that you give to a student-athlete based on his or her status as a student-athlete that you would not generally provide to other students.

Below are examples of extra benefits (please note this is not an all inclusive list):

- ◆ The use of a copy machine or typing services that are not available to the general student body;
- ◆ Providing any transportation or the use of an automobile to an enrolled student-athlete;
- ◆ Purchasing meals, drinks or snacks for any student-athletes;
- ◆ Allowing a student-athlete to charge long-distance phone calls or faxes from UF equipment.

Meet Your Faculty Athletics Representative



A faculty athletics representative (FAR) is a member of an institution’s faculty who is designated by the institution’s president to represent the institution and its faculty in the institution’s relationships with the NCAA and its conference.

The FAR for the University of Florida is Dr. Michael Sagas. Dr. Sagas is also the Department Chair and Professor for the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management.

What the NCAA Allows Athletics to Provide

The University Athletic Association (UAA) is dedicated to serving both the academic and athletic needs of all student-athletes. As a result, the UAA has established an academic support program. The primary responsibility of the Hawkins Center is to assist student-athletes in their efforts to complete their degree requirements and develop the skills necessary to be productive members of society. The Hawkins Center staff provides academic counseling and support that includes assistance in degree program advisement, extensive tutorial services, career and personal development, leadership training and community service.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

In order to participate in intercollegiate athletics and receive an athletics scholarship, prospective student-athletes must meet minimum requirements to be deemed a “full qualifier” by the NCAA Eligibility Center. If all of the requirements are not met, a prospective student-athlete may be an “academic redshirt” or a “nonqualifier.” An academic redshirt may practice and receive athletics aid, but may not compete in the first year of enrollment. A nonqualifier cannot receive athletics aid, cannot practice and cannot compete in the first year of enrollment.

Basic NCAA Progress Towards Degree Requirements

Full-Time Enrollment

Student-athletes must be enrolled in a minimum 12 semester hours during the fall and spring semester to be eligible for practice, competition and financial aid. However, student-athletes who need less than 12 semester hours to graduate must have a letter on file from the designated degree program verifying the remaining graduation requirements.

Progress Toward Degree Requirements

In order to meet academic eligibility requirements for athletic participation, student-athletes must:

- ◆ Earn 6 hours of academic credit per term toward their designated degree program (Football student-athletes must pass 9 credits in the fall semester toward their designated major to be eligible for the first four games the following fall), and
- ◆ Earn 18 semester hours each academic year (fall and spring) toward their designated degree program.

NCAA Progress Toward Degree and Minimum Grade Point Average Requirements

This rule dictates that a percentage of courses are necessary to be completed by the beginning of the second, third, fourth and fifth years of enrollment in order to maintain academic eligibility. A minimum percentage of the GPA necessary to graduate from the student’s college and the University of Florida is also required. In order for a student-athlete to be eligible for intercollegiate competition at the University of Florida, they must meet all NCAA, SEC and UF academic requirements.

**ASK BEFORE
YOU ACT®**



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Should you have any questions regarding rules or regulations, please contact the Compliance Office at (352) 375-4683 x 6022 or visit our website at www.floridagators.com/compliance