

# Montclair State University Academic Progress Standards

For Academic Standards purposes, total semester hours attempted will be used to determine a student's class standing. Students are subject to academic probation, suspension or dismissal if the cumulative grade point average (GPA) is below 2.000 for the number of semester hours attempted. Semester hours attempted include all courses taken at Montclair State and any credits earned through transfer, credit by examination or assessment.

## A. Probation

Students will be placed on academic probation if their GPA falls below 2.000 at the end of a semester or summer session. Students are removed from academic probation when their cumulative GPA is 2.000 or better.

## B. Suspension

If while on academic probation, a student who has attempted a minimum of 12 semester hours and earns a cumulative GPA below 2.000 for a semester or summer session's work, that student will be academically suspended. Students academically suspended cannot enroll in courses at Montclair State University under any circumstances for two semesters. Students who have been academically suspended and have been away from Montclair State University for the prescribed length of time are eligible to apply for readmission through the Office of Admission. Readmitted students are not necessarily admitted back into their chosen major. Readmission is not automatic and will be based upon the review of documents submitted in support of the readmission application. Additionally, readmission is based on the probability of success in the chosen major and upon the space available at the time of readmission.

## C. Dismissal

A student who is readmitted from academic suspension must earn at least a 2.000 semester GPA their first semester back or the student will be academically dismissed. Students academically dismissed can not enroll in courses at Montclair State University under any circumstances for two calendar years or until they have earned at least 30 semester hours from another accredited college or university. Students who have been academically dismissed are eligible to apply for readmission through the Office of Admission. Readmission is not automatic and will be based upon the review of documents submitted in support of the readmission application.

## NJAC Policies and Procedures

### Section 3: Eligibility and Waivers

#### A. Eligibility Rosters

1. Every NJAC institution is required to review Section 3 of this policies and procedures manual annually with every student-athlete. Every student-athlete is then required to sign the NJAC Student-Athlete Eligibility Statement (see Form #1 at the end of this section) no later than the submission date listed above pertaining to his/her particular sport(s). The Student-Athlete Eligibility Statement must be kept on file for a minimum of 6 years.

#### B. Normal Progress

1. Continuing student-athletes must make normal progress, which is defined as the satisfactory completion of 24 semester hours of academic credit.
2. Normal progress is measured at the beginning of each fall term and is based on the number of credits completed the previous two semesters.
  - a. A mid-year entering student must begin to make normal progress from the time she/he becomes a student-athlete at a given institution. Thus, she/he must successfully complete 12 credits to be eligible to compete in the following Fall semester (including summer school).
  - b. Credits earned in summer school immediately preceding the fall term for which eligibility is being determined and/or intersession may be credited towards the completion of 24 hours. However, summer school credits earned prior to freshman year enrollment may not be counted toward the 24 hours.
  - c. For a mid-year entering student, credits earned in the January term may be counted towards the front end of their 12 credit requirement for participation in the following Fall semester.
3. The NJAC normal progress standards are applied as soon as a student-athlete participates for an NJAC institution in any contest against outside competition in regular or post-season competition.
  - a. A first-year student-athlete automatically fulfills the normal progress regulation for his/her first season of participation.

- b. If a student-athlete fulfills the normal progress requirements at the beginning of a sport season, she/he cannot be ruled ineligible by reason of this rule until the beginning of the subsequent season in his/her sport.
- c. The normal progress regulation will apply upon a student-athlete's return to school after any leave or absence.

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

**The MSU GPA Standard of 2.0 is the primary criteria used to evaluate academic performance.**

### **C. Grade Point Average**

1. A student-athlete's grade point average (GPA) is linked to the satisfactory completion of 24 hours of academic credit as follows:
  - a. After one year of NJAC competition in any sport, the student-athlete must achieve a cumulative GPA of 1.6 in order to be eligible the following year for any sport.
  - b. After two calendar years of NJAC competition in any sport, the student-athlete must achieve a GPA of 1.8 in order to be eligible the following year for any sport.
  - c. After three calendar years of NJAC competition in any sport, the student-athlete must achieve a GPA of 2.0 in order to be eligible the following year in any sport.
2. As GPAs are not listed on the eligibility rosters, it is the responsibility of each member institution to ensure that all student-athletes meet the GPA requirements.

### **D. Normal Progress/GPA Waiver**

1. Each student-athlete has the opportunity, under institutional guidelines, to apply for a one-time waiver of the NJAC normal progress/GPA regulations. The waiver decision is made by each member institution and must be noted on the eligibility roster.
2. A student-athlete does not need to execute a waiver in order to practice. However, if a student-athlete begins practicing with the team prior to the first regular season contest, and wishes to compete during the regular and/or post-season, the waiver must be executed prior to the first regular season contest. Failure to do so will make that student-athlete ineligible to compete that season.
  - a. A pre-season scrimmage does not count as a regular season contest.
  - b. A student-athlete who joins a team after the first regular season contest must execute a waiver immediately to be eligible for competition at any time that season.
  - c. A student-athlete who executes his/her waiver by or after the first regular season contest must be listed on the eligibility roster, regardless of whether or not s/he actually competes in a contest that season. If s/he does not actually compete, s/he will not be charged with a season of eligibility and on future eligibility rosters would be listed as "DNP." However, s/he shall still be listed as having used his/her waiver.
  - d. For students entering in the fall, the waiver will apply to the regular academic year, i.e., fall to spring. A waiver exercised by a mid-year entering student would be tracked on the eligibility roster from the semester s/he became a student-athlete, coinciding with the time period for tracking their normal progress.
3. This waiver is not transferable to another institution.
4. Once an academic waiver has been granted, it may not be rescinded, even if affected by an event beyond a student-athlete's control (e.g., medical hardship situation, administrative delays in posting grades, etc.).

### **E. Transfer/Non-Participation Rules**

1. NCAA rule 14.5.4 governs all junior and community college transfers.
2. Students who transfer from one conference school to another are governed by NCAA rule 14.5.5, but the following additional rules apply:
  - a. Written permission must be obtained to contact the student-athlete regarding his/her transfer, per NCAA rule 13.1.1.2 (see Form #2 at the end of this section).
  - b. Written permission must be obtained from the previous institution to participate in intercollegiate athletics at the new institution (see Form #2 at the end of this section).
  - c. After one year of residency, the transfer student would abide by the same eligibility requirements as a continuing student athlete dependent upon the number of seasons of previous competition (see section C above).

3. The criteria for not releasing a student-athlete are as follows:
  - a. Outstanding financial obligations
  - b. Formal athletic department or institutional disciplinary reasons
  - c. Tampering, i.e., communicating with a prospective transfer student-athlete prior to the student-athlete's execution of a self-release (obtaining written permission from that S-A's institutions
    - i. A charge of tampering may be appealed. To do so, the case in question must be presented in writing to the commissioner for resolution. The commissioner's decision may be appealed using the process outlined in Section 7 of the Policies and Procedures Manual.
4. Non conference transfers will be govern by NCAA rule 14.5.5, that is, in order to be immediately eligible at NJAC schools a transfer would have to be eligible at their previous institution. If not, they must sit out of competition for one year. After one year of residency, the transfer student would abide by the requirements of continuing student-athletes.
5. A student-athlete's waiver of the conference's grade point average and/or the normal progress requirement may not be transferred and used to satisfy the eligibility requirements at the second institution. That is, a waiver can only be used at the institution where the academic difficulty was incurred.

#### F. Medical Hardship Waiver

1. Medical hardship waivers must be submitted to the commissioner on the standard NJAC form (See Form #3, at the end of this section).
2. The physician's statement, which must accompany the form, must state or clearly confirm that the injury or illness was indeed a season-ending injury or illness.
3. The commissioner will make the decision on all medical hardship waivers. An appeal of the commissioner's decision may be made to the Executive Committee of the Board, followed by the Administrative Review Committee of the NCAA.
4. There is no time limit for submitting a medical hardship waiver. The commissioner has a minimum of three business days to make a decision.
5. Games played in the non-traditional season are not counted in determining the percentage of games played.
6. Athletes injured in the non-traditional season must still seek a hardship waiver.
7. Once a hardship waiver is used, it cannot be rescinded.

### Section 3, Form #1: New Jersey Athletic Conference Student Athlete Eligibility Statement

The NJAC student-athletic eligibility information has been presented to me by a representative of my institution.

I understand the provisions contained herein and agree to them as a condition of my participation in intercollegiate athletics at Montclair State University.

Accepted and agreed:

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_