Continuing Eligibility
To be eligible to represent MSU in intercollegiate competition, you must maintain progress toward a baccalaureate or equivalent degree. Please note the following progress toward degree requirements:

To maintain your eligibility during your 1st year of enrollment you must:
• Complete 12 credit hours each term.
• Earn a minimum GPA of 1.80 prior to the start of your 2nd year.
• Pass 6 credits each term.
• **Football Only: Pass 9 hours during the fall semester.**

To be eligible at the start of your 2nd year you must:
• Have earned 24 credit hours with a 1.80 GPA.
• Have completed a minimum of 18 credit hours during your first academic year.
• Have passed 6 credits the previous term (summer excluded).
• **Football Only: Pass 9 hours the previous fall semester.**

To maintain your eligibility during your 2nd year you must:
• Maintain a 1.80 GPA.
• Pass 6 credits each term.

To be eligible at the start of your 3rd year you must:
• Have earned a minimum of 48 semester hours that count towards your degree with a 1.90 GPA.
• Declare a major.
• Have 40% of your degree completed.
• Have completed a minimum of 18 credit hours during your second academic year.
• Have passed 6 credits the previous term (summer excluded).
• **Football Only: Pass 9 hours the previous fall semester.**

To maintain your eligibility during your 3rd year you must:
• Maintain a 1.90 GPA.
• Pass 6 credits each term.

To eligibility at the start of your 4th year you must:
• Have earned a minimum of 72 semester hours that count towards your degree with a 2.00 GPA.
• Have 60% of your degree completed.
• Have completed a minimum of 18 credit hours during your third academic year.
• Have passed 6 credits the previous term (summer excluded).
• **Football Only: Pass 9 hours the previous fall semester.**

To maintain your eligibility during your 4th year you must:
• Maintain a 2.00 GPA.
• Pass 6 credits each term.

To be eligible at the start of your 5th year you must:
• Have earned a minimum of 96 semester hours that count towards your degree with a 2.00 GPA.
- Have 80% of your degree completed.
- Have completed a minimum of 18 credit hours during your fourth academic year.
- Have passed 6 credits the previous term (summer excluded).
- **Football Only:** Pass 9 hours the previous fall semester.

To maintain your eligibility during your 5th year you must:
- Maintain a 2.00 GPA.
- Pass 6 credits each term.

Please note the following additional academic requirements:
- A student-athlete will not become eligible for competition during a term if the student is not academically eligible on the first day of classes for that term.
- Student-athletes must satisfactorily complete six semester hours of academic credit each term in order to be eligible for intercollegiate competition the following term. Prior to declaring a major, a student-athlete may use credit acceptable toward any of MSU’s degree programs to satisfy the six hour requirement. Once the student-athlete has declared a major, the hours used to satisfy the six hour requirement must be degree-applicable hours.
- To be eligible to compete in a postseason event (e.g., conference tournament, bowl game, National Invitation Tournament, NCAA championship) that occurs between regular terms (including summer) you must satisfactorily complete six-semester hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term of full-time enrollment.

**Unattached Competition**

For a MSU student-athlete to participate in unattached competition, the following NCAA and Big Ten rules apply:

- **Exhibitions – Open Events.** An exhibition or other similar competition conducted in any regularly scheduled intercollegiate meet involving Big Ten universities must be counted as intercollegiate competition. An open event may be held within a scheduled intercollegiate meet as long as the open event is scheduled, publicized and notice is given to the Conference office 30 days in advance. If the event is open, an amateur athlete with no intercollegiate eligibility remaining may compete.

A student-athlete who participates in an open lane as part of a collegiate competition (e.g., dual meet) is considered to be representing the institution against outside competition, regardless of whether the student-athlete's performance is included in the scoring of the competition. Under such circumstances, the student-athlete's participation satisfies the definition of intercollegiate competition and the student-athlete is charged with both a date of competition/contest and a season of competition in the applicable sport.

Competition shall be considered "open" if the competitive event itself is not classified by age group or level of educational institution represented, and the selection of participants is not limited except by number, by geographical area or on the basis of some objective standard of performance.

- **Prior Approval.** To participate in competition while not representing MSU during or between terms of the regular academic year, a student-athlete must obtain prior written approval PRIOR to the competition.

- **Important Points to Remember.**
  - Student-athlete’s may not wear MSU issued uniforms or apparel.
  - The student-athlete may not score points for MSU.
The student-athlete must pay all of his or her own travel and competition expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, lodging, entry fees).

Transportation may NOT be provided by MSU.

It is not permissible for a student-athlete to receive expenses from his/her club team to compete unattached. If a student-athlete receives expenses from an amateur team he/she would be representing that team in competition, as opposed to being considered unattached. A student-athlete may not represent an outside team in competition during the academic year, except during vacation periods outside of the declared playing and practice season. [Note: Coaching staff members may not be involved in any capacity, including coaching or as an administrator, during the academic year, with a club team that includes student-athletes from their own team.]

MSU is not permitted to provide athletics training support or other medical services prior to and after the event for student-athletes who are competing unattached. Providing such services constitutes the receipt of expenses related to the competition. If the trainer (or other service provider) has been designated by the competition host to provide services to all participants, such services may be provided to the unattached student-athletes.

Coaching may not be provided inasmuch as the NCAA has determined that a student-athlete who receives coaching or instruction while competing is considered to be representing MSU and, therefore, would use a season of competition. Coaches may not direct participating student-athletes to engage in coaching or instructional activities with student-athletes from the same institution who are competing unattached. [Note: A coaching staff member may engage in coaching activities with a student-athlete during the student-athlete's participation in established national championship events (including junior national championships and Olympic, Pan American, World Championships, World Cup and World University Games qualifying competition.]

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Office of Compliance Services at 432-5510.