

Is giving a student-athlete an opportunity to make up work for missed class-time an extra benefit?

No, if the missed class falls within the recommended guidelines of University policy, which allows student-athletes to miss class for competition or for travel associated with competition. Missed classes for practices, team meetings, or individual meetings with coaches are not allowed. For more information on missed classes please visit:

www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/attendance.html

Who approves the schedules and the number of class days missed?

The MSU Athletic Council reviews and approves the schedules for every team each semester.

How many days per semester are student-athletes allowed to miss for University-sponsored competitions?

Student athletes are allowed to miss up to seven class days per semester. However, most student-athletes miss fewer class days.

How will an instructor know whether a student-athlete is missing for a sponsored event or is just not coming to class?

At the beginning of each semester, student-athletes are provided an Intercollegiate Athletics Team Travel Letter that includes all potential travel dates for that semester. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to submit the letter to each instructor by the end of the first week of classes for each term.

Academic Fraud

Per NCAA legislation, unethical conduct by an enrolled student-athlete and a current or former institutional staff member (e.g., coach, professor, tutor, teaching assistant, student manager, student trainer, etc.) includes an individual's knowing involvement in arranging for fraudulent academic credit or false transcripts for a student-athlete. If the NCAA determines that a student-athlete participated in academic fraud, the student-athlete could be declared permanently ineligible for further participation in all sports at MSU.

Examples of academic fraud include:

- Completing homework for a student-athlete;
- Typing or writing a paper and/or an assignment for a student-athlete;
- Providing answers to homework or exams for a student-athlete;
- Sitting in class or taking notes and/or an exam for a student-athlete.

What should one do if one suspects that a violation of rules has occurred?

The University affirms that all athletics department staff members, student-athletes and University employees are obligated to report any violation or possible violation of which they are aware. Any individual may report the alleged, rumored or suspected violation verbally or in writing, and it may be reported anonymously.

Alleged violations may be reported to any or all of the following:

- Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance;
- Director of Intercollegiate Athletics; and
- Faculty Athletics Representative

What is the Office of Compliance Services?

Michigan State University is a member of the Big Ten Conference and the NCAA. The University must comply with numerous rules and regulations. The Office of Compliance Services (OCS) helps the University and its athletic department interpret the rules. The office also serves as a liaison between the university and the Big Ten and the NCAA. The OCS is responsible for educating, monitoring and enforcing NCAA and Big Ten rules and regulations.

What is the role of faculty representatives?

Faculty Athletics Representatives (FAR) are tenured faculty members selected by the president to represent the University and its faculty in the University's relationships with the NCAA and the Big Ten.

Where can I find more information on NCAA rules and regulations?

For more information on NCAA rules and regulations, visit the Office of Compliance Services website at www.msu.edu/user/msuncaa. The website features a detailed explanation of NCAA and Big Ten legislation. Additional information can be found on the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org.

This guide was developed to offer a general overview of NCAA legislation regarding the relationship between MSU faculty/staff and student-athletes. This is not a comprehensive guide. If you have specific questions, please contact the Office of Compliance Services.

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**Information for Faculty and Staff
On
Student Participation in Intercollegiate Athletics**



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Do student-athletes have to meet Michigan State University academic standards?

Yes, student-athletes must be registered as full-time students and meet the same grade-point average (GPA) and graduation requirements just as all other students do. In addition, student-athletes must meet requirements as established by the Big Ten Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Must student-athletes make progress toward a degree while they are competing for the University?

Yes. According to NCAA rules, a student-athlete must maintain progress toward a baccalaureate or equivalent degree.

During the first year, student-athletes must complete 12 credits per semester at Michigan State University. To continue to be eligible to compete, student-athletes must have completed the following:

- Entering the second year, 24 credits
- Entering the third year, 48 credits
- Entering the fourth year, 72 credits
- Entering the fifth year, 96 credits

In order to be eligible for competition, student-athletes must complete a minimum of 18 credit hours during the regular academic year. Student-athletes must also successfully complete a minimum of six credit hours the previous term to be eligible to compete the next term and to compete in post-season competition.

Student-athletes are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours to be eligible to compete and practice. If they drop below 12 hours, they are immediately ineligible to practice or compete, and they risk the chance of losing their athletics scholarship.

Do all courses student-athletes take count toward a degree?

No. The same rules apply for student-athletes as apply to other students at the University. The following are the specific guidelines:

1. Remedial, tutorial, or non-credit coursework: After the first year of enrollment, a student-athlete may no longer use such credits toward meeting degree requirements.
2. Students are allowed to repeat up to 20 credits. Credits exceeding maximum repeatable limits are not considered degree credits, unless approved.
3. Excessive “free electives” are not considered degree credits. If the credits cannot be applied to the degree program, the credits are not degree credits. However, those credits do count towards a student’s GPA.
4. Credits that exceed a maximum limitation set by the college or department are not considered degree credit.
5. Credits that are in a minor or second major and that fall outside the degree requirements are not considered degree credits. (In some cases such credits may fit into the “free elective” category.)

Who determines if a student-athlete is making progress toward a degree at the University?

The Office of the Registrar and the student-athlete’s college of enrollment must certify each year that a student-athlete is making progress in a degree program.

Can coaches contact a faculty member about a student-athlete’s progress in a class?

No. If a coach needs information from an instructor or an adviser regarding a student-athlete, the following process must be used:

1. The coach contacts the academic coordinator for the team, and the counselor may ask for the information.
2. If the coordinator is unavailable or does not respond in a reasonable amount of time, the coach may contact the director of Student-Athlete Support Services (SASS).

3. If the director of SASS is unavailable, the coach may contact the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR).

Who advises student-athletes?

All student-athletes are advised by their declared major advisors. Advisers work with student-athletes as they do with other students. Academic coordinators from SASS work with collegiate advisers to help student-athletes meet Big Ten and NCAA requirements. SASS provides tutoring and academic services to student-athletes, as do other offices on campus for special groups of students. For more information on SASS please visit:
www.sass.msu.edu

University GPA requirements

The university requires all students to maintain a 2.00 GPA. If a student falls below a 2.00, they are placed on academic probation. If the GPA does not improve to 2.00 the next semester they will be either placed on final probation or recessed from the university. If a student-athlete is recessed, they are no longer eligible to compete and must remain out of MSU for one full academic year.

Big Ten GPA requirements

To continue to be eligible, student-athletes must earn the following:

- Entering the second year, a GPA of at least 1.80
- Entering the third year, a GPA of at least 1.90
- Entering the fourth year, and thereafter, a GPA of at least 2.00

How are GPAs calculated for student-athletes?

Besides their University GPA, student-athletes have a Big Ten GPA. A student-athlete’s Big Ten GPA is calculated based on University standards, with the exception of ‘incompletes’ which count as zero points until a change of grade is recorded by the Office of the Registrar. Student-athletes must make-up their incomplete prior to the next semester or they will be ineligible for the entire semester.

What constitutes an extra benefit?

An extra benefit is any *special arrangement* by an institutional employee or booster to provide a current student-athlete, prospective student-athlete or their relatives or friends a benefit **not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation**.

Can faculty or staff members give student-athletes “extra benefits?”

No. Extra benefits are not allowed. If a benefit is not available to all students, it cannot be given to a student-athlete. If, however, a benefit is available to all students, it may be given to a student-athlete.

Examples of impermissible extra benefits:

- Permit a procedure not generally available to all students (e.g. retake exam or do extra work for extra credit)
- Preferential grading for student-athletes
- The use of typing services that are not available to the general student body
- Give or loan cash; sign or cosign for a loan
- Offer any gift (e.g., birthday / holiday gift)
- Provide use of an automobile
- Provide free or reduced rent or housing

