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.

Office of Compliance Services Staff
Jennifer Smith
Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance
Holly Baumgartner
Assistant Director of Athletics
Sherraine Pencil
Assistant Compliance Coordinator
Becky Miller
Compliance Assistant
Tammy Bachert
Administrative Assistant
Jim Pignataro
Associate Director of Athletics/ Director of Student-Athlete Support Services
Sue Carter
Faculty Athletics Representative

2014-2015 Academic Year
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, 40 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 postseason 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.

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).

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.

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