

October 15, 2010

NCAA interpretation of “nontraditional coursework”

Recent information sent to schools from the NCAA Eligibility Center regarding prospective Division I student-athletes and coursework taken in nontraditional classroom settings may impact school district Credit Flexibility Plans. Specifically, schools are advised to counsel prospective Division I student-athletes not to utilize the “test out option” of Credit Flexibility and to be certain that any coursework earned via Credit Flexibility be comparable in length, content and rigor as credits earned in a traditional classroom setting. The course must also be four-year college-preparatory in nature and have a defined time period for completion.

Although the design of the Credit Flexibility Policy calls for including those credits on the student transcript in the same manner as credits earned via traditional classroom settings, the NCAA requires that any credits earned through nontraditional ways (i.e. distance learning, online, credit recovery, etc.) must be so designated on the transcripts of potential Division I student athletes. Schools should note on student transcripts submitted to the NCAA for review which course credits were earned through nontraditional ways or attach an addendum to the student transcript explaining that. The designation of credits on the transcript applies only for NCAA purposes. If in doubt, contact the NCAA at www.eligibilitycenter.org for specific advice on this issue.

This will apply to all student-athletes entering a Division I NCAA college or university on or after August 1, 2010.