

**Eligibility Requirements**  
**(Approved by faculty Dec. 12, 2019)**

In order to compete in intercollegiate athletics, Houghton College student-athletes must meet all NCAA Division III and/or Empire 8 Conference eligibility rules. In addition, student-athletes must meet criteria as defined by the college.

For a student-athlete to be eligible for competition, the NCAA requires that each of the following three conditions be met:

- 1) The student-athlete must be a **full-time student**;
- 2) The student-athlete must be making **satisfactory progress** towards a degree;
- 3) The student-athlete must be in **good academic standing**.

For Houghton Student-Athletes:

- 1) Full-time student means being enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits during fall and spring semesters.
- 2) **Satisfactory progress** means:
  - a. Student must have a 1.70 cumulative grade point average at the conclusion of their 1<sup>st</sup> semester at Houghton.
  - b. Student must have a 2.0 cumulative grade point average by the conclusion of their 2<sup>nd</sup> semester at Houghton.
  - c. Prior to the start of their second season of competition, the student-athlete must have earned 24 credit hours. Before participating in subsequent seasons, the student-athlete must have earned the minimum number of credit hours as indicated in the following table:

<b>Prior to Start of Season of Competition</b>	<b>Minimum Credit Hours Earned</b>
2	24
3	48
4	72

- d. Prior to the start of their third semester of attendance, a student-athlete must have passed 24 credit hours. *Please keep in mind that while taking an average of 12 hours per semester (while maintaining a minimum 2.0 GPA) will ensure a student-athlete maintains eligibility, an average of 15.5 hours per semester will be necessary for Houghton students to reach the 124 required to graduate within the desired timeframe of eight semesters.*
- 3) **Good academic standing** means that a student will have passed 24 credit hours over the previous two semesters with a cumulative grade point average of 1.70 at the end of the first semester and 2.0 at the conclusion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester at Houghton. Institutionally approved credit hours earned during the summer and/or May term and/or non-term following one of the two full-time semesters may be applied to meet the 24-hour rule.

**Withdrawal, Incompletes, and Failed Courses**

Courses in which a student receives a grade of W or an F receive no credit and do not count toward hours earned. Courses in which a student receives an Incomplete or a grade is not recorded (NR) provide no credit until a final grade is received. Before a student-athlete withdraws from a course, he/she should consult with an advisor, a member of the academic records office, or the director of compliance to ensure the student is maintaining full-time status and satisfactory progress.

**Repeat Courses**

A maximum of one repeat course per term previously passed with a grade of “D” may be counted toward satisfying the 12 hour enrollment rule. Repeat course previously passed with a grade of “D” or better in any term, during summer or during a non-term, cannot count toward satisfying the 24 credit hour rule.

**Exception to Full-time Load Requirement**

A graduating senior may carry fewer than 12 credits hours in his/her last semester of residence if fewer than 12 credits is the number required for graduation. This status must be verified, in writing, prior to the start of the semester by the academic records office. The verification must state that the specific courses will satisfy the degree requirements for graduation at the completion of the semester.

**Transfer Students**

Per NCAA rules, transfer students who have participated in intercollegiate athletics elsewhere must have been academically and athletically eligible to participate if they had chosen to stay at their previous institution.

Transfer students entering their second semester at Houghton will be eligible if they have at least a cumulative 1.70 GPA. Transfer student athletes after their first two semesters at Houghton, then fall under the aforementioned satisfactory progress requirements, needing to maintain the appropriate number of credits and a minimum 2.0 GPA.