



UC MERCED

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

2025-26

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Below is the timeline for progressing through the Division II Membership Process: [Note: The NCAA Division II Membership Committee will assess UC Merced's progress each year of the Provisional Membership Process and will determine whether to advance UC Merced each year.

2024-2025 Year One of the Expedited Division II Provisional Membership Process – UC Merced competed as an NAIA institution while implementing and complying with NCAA Division II Bylaws. During Provisional Year 1, UC Merced competed within the NAIA, participating (as we qualify) for NAIA Post-Season.

2025-2026 Year Two of the Expedited Division II Provisional Membership Process – UC Merced will be in full compliance with NCAA Division II Bylaws and will compete as a member of the CCAA. UC Merced will not be eligible for NCAA postseason competition during this year.

2026-2027 Full active membership in NCAA Division II and the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) – UC Merced will be in full compliance with the NCAA Division II Bylaws and plans to compete as a member of the CCAA. UC Merced will be eligible for NCAA postseason competition beginning this year provided UC Merced progresses through the NCAA Division II membership process according to the above schedule.

How to Use This Handbook

This Handbook serves as a key resource for student-athletes as UC Merced enters its second year of being fully compliant with NCAA Division II rules and regulations. Student-athletes should review the information in this Handbook prior the start of the academic year.

Department Information

Department Directory

The most current department directory can be found on our website:

<https://ucmercedbobcats.com/staff-directory>

University of California Merced Mission Statement

The mission of the University of California, Merced is embodied in its pride in being the first American research university of the 21st century.

Opening in 2005 as the newest campus of the University of California, UC Merced continually strives for excellence in carrying out the university's mission of teaching, research and public service, benefiting society by discovering and transmitting new knowledge and functioning as an active repository of organized knowledge. As a key tenet in carrying out this mission, UC Merced promotes and celebrates the diversity of all members of its community.

A research university is a community bound by learning, discovery and engagement. As the first American student-centered research university built in the 21st century, UC Merced's strong graduate and research programs mesh with high-quality undergraduate programs. New knowledge increasingly depends on links among the disciplines, working together on questions that transcend the traditional disciplines. UC Merced fosters and encourages cross-disciplinary inquiry and discovery.

Interdisciplinary practice in research nourishes undergraduate learning, building a foundation in connecting the ways that academic disciplines understand and grapple with society's problems. UC Merced undergraduates experience education inside and outside the classroom, applying what they learn through undergraduate research, service learning and leadership development. As apprentice scholars, graduate students build their understanding of and ability to do independent research in their chosen field, as the groundwork for entering professional life. Lifelong learners continue to hone their knowledge and workplace skills.

The 21st century ushered in the promise of new ways of connecting people to new knowledge and to one another. UC Merced capitalizes on this promise by functioning as a network, not simply a single place, linking its students, faculty and staff to the educational resources of the state, nation and world.

The idea of network extends to UC Merced's relationships with neighboring institutions: educational, cultural and social. Born as a member of the distinguished network known as the University of California, UC Merced seeks strong and mutually supportive relationships with a variety of collaborators in its region: public and private colleges and universities; federal and state organizations that share UC Merced's educational and research goals; and cultural and social institutions.

This networking principle is also realized through the physical and intellectual integration between UC Merced and its surrounding community. The campus has been established as a model of physical sustainability for the 21st century, inviting all members of the campus and

surrounding community to think and act as good stewards of the environment that they will convey to future generations. UC Merced celebrates its location in the San Joaquin Valley, reflecting the poetry of its landscape, history, resources and diverse cultures, while capitalizing on and expanding the Valley's connections to the emerging global society. UC Merced recognizes that research that begins with the natural laboratory at home can extend what is known in the state, nation and world.

Recreation & Athletics Department Mission and Values

UC Merced Recreation and Athletics Department provides recreation and athletic opportunities for our students to lead healthy, engaging lifestyles that enhance student success, promote individual well-being, and foster a commitment to lead and serve the community.

Values

Excellence – We strive to promote an attitude of achievement by having purpose in all we do, setting high standards, and being committed to exceptional results.

Integrity – We hold that consideration of others is the cornerstone of community and encompasses trust, honesty and responsibility. Our respectful treatment of people and resources is the foundation of our department.

Student Focus – We prioritize students in our decision making and invest in creating a positive student experience. Students are exposed to opportunities and resources to gain life skills that will promote future success.

Teamwork – We embrace our diversity of talents and perspectives in order to foster an environment of collaborate effort and collective goals.

UC Merced Principles of Community

The University of California, Merced is a public, land-grant institution created to serve the communities of the San Joaquin Valley, the State of California, the nation, and the world through excellence in education, research, and public service.

These principles reflect our on-going efforts to increase access and inclusion and to create a community that nurtures lifelong learning and growth for all its members. Every member of the UC Merced community has a personal responsibility to acknowledge, practice and join us in our collective pursuit of the principles listed below:

We Recognize and Celebrate the identities, values, and beliefs of our community.

We Affirm the inherent dignity and value of every person while cultivating a campus climate rooted in mutual respect and compassion.

We Uphold the right to freedom of expression and encourage a culture of dialogue, understanding and civility in all interactions. We seek to create a campus where a rich tapestry of ideas is shared, collaboration is embraced and innovation is promoted.

We Pursue excellence in teaching and learning through contributions from all community members fostering a culture of open exchange.

We Promote opportunities for active participation and leadership in our communities.

We Champion civic engagement, environmental stewardship, research and teaching that connects theory and practice to learning and doing.

We Take Pride in building, sustaining and sharing a culture that is founded on these principles of unity and respect.

UC Merced Athletics Philosophy Statement

UC Merced athletics is committed to a student focused program which values excellence in all we do and provides an opportunity for our student-athletes to excel and grow into outstanding alumni and members of their community. We accomplish this through the engagement of campus and community partners to provide meaningful outside the classroom experience which fosters a sense of belonging within our community.

UC Merced Athletics believes in the following guiding principles and perspective of the value of Intercollegiate Athletics at UC Merced:

a. **Academic Excellence** is paramount to the experience of our student-athletes and at the core of what we do as a department and an institution. Our student-athletes graduate at a higher level than the rest of the student body and we strive to maintain that edge.

Working with our campus partners, we continue to provide opportunities for our student-athletes to obtain the skills, knowledge and experiences which will help them excel in their time after UC Merced.

b. Our value of excellence includes our commitment to **Athletic Excellence** for all our student-athletes. This is rivaled only by our commitment to academic excellence. Our coaches continue to build upon their success in their drive to win championships by recruiting outstanding student-athletes who will excel in their sport and in the classroom. We continue to strive to provide athletic financial aid, outstanding sports medicine services and to develop our student-athletes which will allow them to compete for conference and national championships.

c. **Integrity** is a vital cornerstone of our department. Everyone in the Recreation & Athletics department maintains a high level of integrity and ethical behavior and is committed to the fair treatment of others in all interactions. We value diversity, equity and inclusion which fosters a sense of belonging and respect for all members of our department, university community, and the surrounding region. We strive to maintain an

environment in which all members of our community feel valued and are empowered to provide their unique viewpoints and strengths to all we do.

d. Our **Focus on Students** encompasses our student-athletes, our student employees and our student body. We prioritize students in our decision-making process from hiring coaches and career staff to facility improvements. We provide students opportunities to be leaders not only on their teams, but as student employees and campus leaders. We are here because of our students. We strive to provide the support needed to navigate being a student-athlete to help our student-athletes manage the unique demands of being a student-athlete so they can thrive.

e. **Teamwork** is key to the success of any organization. We will maintain an environment in which everyone is valued and work towards the common goal of supporting our student-athletes and providing outstanding academic, athletic and life skills preparation.

f. **Community Engagement** is woven into the fabric of our department and our campus. Part of the mission of the University of California is public service. Our students demonstrate this through numerous opportunities to serve and give back to the community through athletics or through other avenues on campus. Our student-athletes, coaches and staff regularly give back to our campus and the greater Merced community in a meaningful way.

For many, athletics serves as the first interaction with a university. We take that responsibility to heart and the actions of our student-athletes, coaches and staff who model outstanding sportsmanship, servant leadership and a sense of fair play. We strive to create an environment at athletics events which is inviting, exciting, and entertaining for our students and members of the community.

NCAA Division II Philosophy Statement

University of California, Merced respects and fully supports the NCAA Division II Philosophy Statement. NCAA Division II members believe in a well-rounded intercollegiate athletics program based on sound educational principles and the promotion of the wellbeing of our student-athletes. Below is the NCAA Division II Philosophy Statement.

In addition to the purposes and fundamental policy of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, as set forth in Constitution 1, members of Division II believe that a well-conducted intercollegiate athletics program, based on sound educational principles and practices, is a proper part of the educational mission of a university or college and that the educational well-being and academic success of the participating student-athlete is of primary concern.

Higher education has lasting importance on an individual's future success. As such, Division II supports the educational mission of college athletics by fostering a balanced approach in which student-athletes learn and develop through their desired academic pursuits, in civic

engagement with their communities and in athletics competition. Division II athletics programs also are committed to establishing an inclusive culture in which persons of all backgrounds are respected and given the opportunity to provide input and to participate.

Division II members abide by the following principles that help define and distinguish the division:

(a) Division II colleges and universities are expected to operate their athletics programs with integrity and in a welcoming manner that complies with conference and NCAA rules and regulations. Institutional control is a fundamental principle that supports the institution's educational mission and assumes presidential involvement and oversight;

(b) Division II members fund their athletics programs in a manner that aligns with the institution's budget and educational mission. This method of funding features a "partial scholarship" model that allows Division II schools to recognize student-athletes for their skills through athletics-based grants, but student-athletes can accept merit-based aid and academic scholarships as well;

(c) Division II believes in a balanced approach that integrates athletics into the college experience and allows students to focus on their academic pursuits and participate in other campus and community activities. This "Life in the Balance" emphasis facilitates learning through:

(1) **Academics.** Division II offers exceptional teacher-student ratios that provide student-athletes with a quality education in the academic curriculum of their choice. The division structures its eligibility requirements to facilitate student-athletes earning their degrees, which is measured in part by an institution's student-athletes graduating at least at the same rate as the institution's student body;

(2) **Athletics.** Division II supports athletics achievement through highly competitive programs that strive to participate in the division's 25 national championships, which offer the best access ratio among the NCAA's three divisions. Division II also supports a regionalization model in scheduling that reduces time away from campus and keeps athletics participation in perspective within the educational mission;

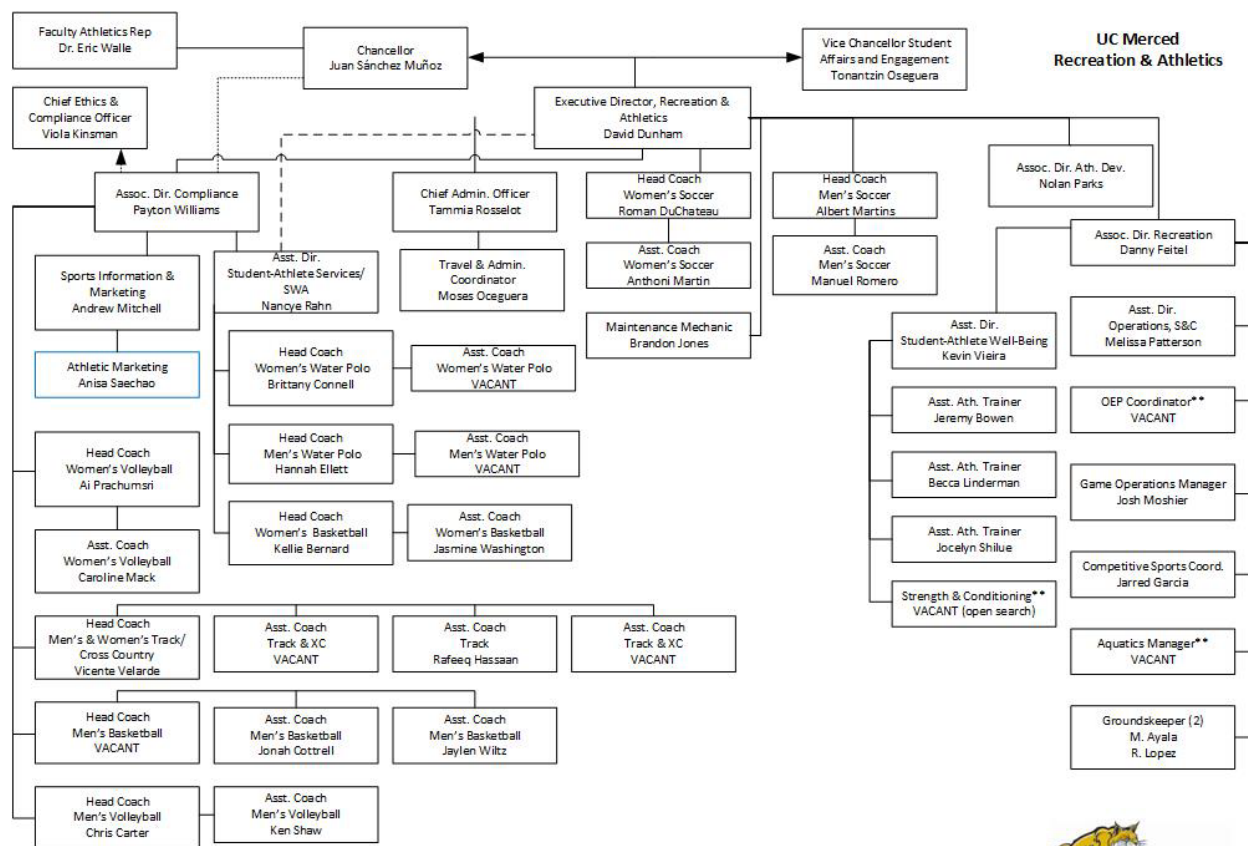
(3) **Community engagement.** Division II athletics programs actively engage with their communities to enhance relationships between student-athletes and community members and develop a shared civic experience. Division II promotes engagement at the local, conference and national levels, including at all Division II national championships; and

(4) **Post-graduation success.** Division II supports a higher education model that shapes student-athletes who graduate with the skills and knowledge to be productive citizens. The balanced approach allows student-athletes to focus on their academic pursuits, their internships, and whatever else it takes to prepare them for life after graduation;

(d) Division II members support the utmost in sportsmanship by committing to a “game environment” initiative that establishes an atmosphere at athletics contests that is both energetic and respectful; and

(e) Division II promotes student-athlete involvement in decision-making through campus, conference and national Student-Athlete Advisory Committees that provide leadership opportunities and offer a representative voice in the division’s governance structure.

Recreation & Athletics Organizational Chart



** Denotes Active Search Open

Revised August 2025



Conference Affiliation

California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) – NCAA Division II

<https://goccaa.org/>

UC Merced is a member of the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) which is regarded as one of the strongest conferences in NCAA Division II athletics. The conference consists of 12 members, 11 California State University institutions and one University of California institution. The CCAA sponsors 12 sports including basketball, cross country, soccer, track, men's golf, baseball, softball, and women's volleyball.

The conference was formed in 1938 and has won 156 national championships, the most of any Division II conference.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) – Men's Volleyball – NCAA Division I

The MPSF was established in 1992 to serve the competitive needs of member institutions from the Big West, Pacific-10 and the Western Athletic Conference, as well as other selected universities in the western United States; to provide championship competition for Division I Intercollegiate Olympic sports in a conference setting.

The men's volleyball conference is comprised of five NCAA Division I institutions (Pepperdine, USC, Stanford, BYU, and UCLA) and five NCAA Division II institutions (Concordia University, Irvine, Menlo College, Jessup University, Vanguard and UC Merced).

Western Water Polo Association (WWPA) – NCAA Division II

<https://www.thewwpa.com/>

The Western Water Polo Association (WWPA) was established in 1981 for men's water polo and added women's water polo in 1999. The WWPA consists of two divisions, East and West, and has an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships in both men's and women's water polo.

Department and Campus Policies

Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) or Buckley Amendment is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. Therefore, UC Merced, including the Recreation & Athletics Department, must have written permission from the student in order to release any information from a student's education record. This privacy act and permission requirement applies not only to parents and guardians, but also to the NCAA, California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA), and the Western Water Polo Association (WWPA).

Each year student-athletes will be informed of their privacy rights and will be provided with opportunity to give their consent to disclose their educational records to authorized

representatives of UC Merced, CCAA, and NCAA and other outside parties. Per NCAA rules, a student-athlete may not be able to participate in intercollegiate competition unless they agree to disclose their educational records for the purpose of determining eligibility for intercollegiate athletics, eligibility for athletically related financial aid, for evaluation of school and team academic success, for awards and recognition programs highlighting student-athlete academic success, for purposes of inclusion in summary institutional information reported to the NCAA (which may be publicly released by it), for NCAA longitudinal research studies, and for activities related to NCAA compliance reviews and athletics certification. Student-athletes will not be identified by name by the NCAA in any such published or distributed information.

FERPA does allow UC Merced to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties under the following conditions:

- School officials with legitimate educational interests.
- Other schools to which the student is transferring.
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes.
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student.
- Organization conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school.
- Accrediting organizations.
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.
- State and local authorities, with a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State Law.

UC Merced, in accordance with Federal and State Laws and the University Policies, has designated the following categories for personally identifiable information as “Directory Information” and may be published without the student's prior written consent: lived name, telephone number, UC Merced email address, major field of study, class (year in school), dates of attendance, enrollment status (full-time, part-time), degrees and awards received, participation in officially recognized activities, and photographs. Students may request to have this information withheld by completing a form with the Office of the Registrar. More information can be found at <https://registrar.ucmerced.edu/policies/ferpa>.

Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPPA)

HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) is a federal law regarding, among other things, the right to privacy of certain medical information. You may have signed forms informing you of these rights by your personal physician or dentist. In athletics the need sometimes arises to share your medical information with individuals normally covered by the statute. As a result, the University of California has made it mandatory for all student-athletes to sign an *Authorization to Release Health Information*. This allows UC Merced sports medicine staff and physicians to release medical information concerning any illness/injury relative to your participation in athletics to UC Merced coaches, administrators, and sports information. In addition, you may choose to complete the *HIPPA Release Form*. This allows each student-

athlete to provide advance consent to share specific health information with parents, guardians, or any individual of their choice.

Required Student-Athlete Forms

All required forms related to compliance, sports medicine, and eligibility will be provided to student-athletes via ARMS. ARMS is the online platform UC Merced uses to manage compliance and eligibility and to communicate with student-athletes. More information on how to access ARMS will be provided during your fall intake meetings. All forms must be completed and submitted prior to participation in any team activities, including practices. A complete list of required pre participation forms is found in the appendix of this document.

Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR)

The Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) is a faculty member and is appointed by the Chancellor to serve as a liaison between the institution and the Recreation & Athletics Department. The Faculty Athletics Representative also serves as a representative of UC Merced in conference and NCAA affairs. The Faculty Athletics Representative shares responsibility for the athletics program's integrity and assists the Recreation & Athletics Department in establishing a culture of compliance, institutional control, academic integrity and student-athlete well-being.

The FAR will also review the NCAA legislative grids with the SAAC each October when they are released to receive feedback from the SAAC on the proposed legislation.

The UC Merced FAR is Dr. Eric Walle. Dr. Walle is a professor of Psychology and can be reached at ewalle@ucmerced.edu.

Title IX & Athletics Information

Title IX of the 1972 Education Act states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

The Title IX regulations require schools to provide equal opportunity based on sex. This requirement applies to schools' athletic programs, including club, intramural, and intercollegiate teams. Equal opportunity in college and university athletic programs is measured by:

1. The benefits, opportunities, and treatment given to men's and women's teams;
2. How a school is awarding athletic scholarships and financial assistance;
3. How a school is meeting students' athletic interests and abilities.

Educational programs or activities include UC Merced's Athletics Department. Title IX gives colleges and schools options for demonstrating that they provide equitable opportunities to both sexes. UC Merced demonstrates equitable opportunities through intercollegiate level

participation opportunities for male and female students in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments.

If you have questions regarding Title IX or want to file a complaint/report, please contact:

Kim Overdyck
Director and Title IX Officer
Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination
Kolligian Library, 3rd floor room 323
ophd@ucmerced.edu

Recreation & Athletics
Payton Williams
Associate Director, Compliance
paytonwilliams@ucmerced.edu

More information is available online at [Title IX and Athletics](#) on the OPHD website.

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Resources

UC Merced is committed to the prevention of and addressing sexual violence and sexual harassment. To receive information or advice or to file a complaint, students are encouraged to contact the [Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination \(OPHD\)](#). OPHD responds to reports of sexual harassment, including sexual violence, as part of its efforts to stop and prevent its reoccurrence.

UC Merced's primary concern is the safety of our campus community. All university employees, except for Confidential Resources (e.g., Student Health Center medical staff, the Ombuds, CAPS staff, and the CARE Advocate), are Responsible Employees and have a duty to promptly report incidents of sexual violence, sexual harassment, relationship violence, and stalking to the Title IX Officer or their designee (any member of the [OPHD team](#)). Reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment can be made to OPHD, a campus administrator, or the UC Merced Police Department. Detailed information on [how to report](#) can be found on the OPHD website.

You also have access to Confidential Resources who are not obligated to report to OPHD.

The [Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education Office \(CARE\)](#) Advocate is a confidential resource that supports survivors of sexual violence, responding to the needs of students, staff, faculty, and non-affiliates impacted by stalking, dating/domestic violence, and sexual assault by providing free and confidential advocacy and support. CARE provides accompaniment services for victims to the police, evidentiary exams, and the court system. CARE can be reached during normal business hours at 209-386-2051.

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) offers free and confidential counseling services, as well as referrals to current students by appointment or on an urgent basis. CAPS can be reached at 209-228-4266. CAPS has also partnered with ProtoCall, Inc. to provide after-hours emergency clinical services by calling the same number. A UC Merced professional counselor will follow-up with you as needed the following business day.

The Office of the Ombuds provides confidential, neutral, and informal dispute resolution services to everyone in the University community, provides information about University policies and procedures, and makes referrals. The Office of the Ombuds can be reached at 209-228-4410.

More information concerning the NCAA and sexual assault can be found at the follow website: <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2014/9/3/ncaa-releases-new-handbook-addressing-sexual-assault.aspx>

Social Media Policy

Any electronic or online postings must be consistent with federal, state, and local laws, and team, department, University, and NCAA standards, rules, regulations, and policies.

The athletic department may request a student-athlete remove any online posts that may embarrass or show the athletic department in a negative light. Similar to in-person communication, the Athletic Department will not tolerate disrespectful, derogatory, damaging, or false commentary online. Illegal content or content showing illegal activities or activities that violate policy may result in additional discipline including potential dismissal from intercollegiate athletics.

Considerations When Using Social Media

UC Merced supports and encourages individual expression of the First Amendment rights of free speech. At the same time, student-athletes are representatives of the University and the athletic department. Student-athletes should keep in mind when posting on social networking sites, such as Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok, etc.:

- Anything posted online (text, photos, or comments) is accessible to anyone.
- Student-athletes should not allow themselves to be photographed in a compromising situation. Anyone can post photos, leaving the athlete with little/no control over the content or usage of the photo.
- Coaches, athletic department administrators, the NCAA, faculty, staff, and residential life can and do review these websites.
- Student-athletes should use caution about the information posted on websites (phone numbers, address or plans). Predators, such as stalkers, or thieves often use these sites to gain information about individuals.

Social Media Privacy - California Senate Bill 1349

SB 1349 addresses the interaction between University staff and students as it pertains to social media. For the purpose of this law, social media is defined as “an electronic service, an electronic account, or electronic content, such as videos, photographs, blogs, podcasts, text messages, e-mail, internet web site profiles.” The law prohibits requiring or requesting a student either disclose a user name or password for accessing personal social media, access personal social media in the presence of an institution’s employee or representative, or divulge any personal social media information or disciplining or penalizing a prospective or current student or student group for refusing to comply with a request or demand that violates the law.

In essence, SB 1349 prohibits University staff from sending friend requests on Facebook, requests to connect on Linked In, sending a request to follow a student on X, or Instagram if the student has a private account. It also prohibits asking students for their usernames, account names, X handles and other personal identifying information. Asking or requiring students to share email communications or text messages on personal e-mail or text message accounts is also prohibited. Requesting or requiring students to share photos, videos, emails stored on private cell phones, iPod, iPads or other mobile devices is also prohibited.

University staff may accept unsolicited friend/connection/follow requests from student and/or prospective students. Reviewing publicly available social media content is permissible. University staff may promote and provide their social media information and let students know they are welcome to follow them on Twitter, Facebook or other social media.

Program Evaluation

Student-athletes will have the opportunity to evaluate the athletics program and their experience on their team each year. A survey will be sent to student-athletes via Qualtrics or ARMS at the completion of their championship season or academic year.

Exit Evaluation

Student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility will be sent an Exit Interview survey which is based upon the NCAA “Student-Athlete Experience Evaluation.” This survey will be sent via Qualtrics or ARMS. If the FAR determines any follow-up is needed, the FAR will coordinate a time to meet with the student-athlete to review any concerns from the survey.

Emergency Protocol for Student-Athletes When Traveling

This protocol is designed to provide guidance to coaches and staff who are traveling and involved in an emergency. Understanding that the emergency may incapacitate members of the staff traveling with the team, the following is the order of responsibility in the event of an emergency: athletic department administrative staff, head coach, athletic trainer, assistant coach. A major emergency would include, but not be limited to a motor vehicle accident where an individual in the travel party has been transported to a hospital, injury to a member of the travel party which requires an ER visit or hospitalization, death, or incapacitation of a member

of the travel party, or other incidents where the ranking staff member feels Recreation & Athletics Department leadership should be notified.

The designated individual(s) (as outlined above) should follow the following steps:

- Remain calm.
- Designate a member of the staff, or a student-athlete to contact emergency services by dialing 9-1-1 and give the dispatcher clear, concise information regarding the emergency, location and how many individuals involved. Remain on the line until the dispatcher disconnects.
- Ask everyone in the travel party to remain calm and make sure everyone is safe and removed from danger, if safe to do so.
- The designated staff should contact their sport supervisor. If the sport supervisor is not available, they should contact the executive director, recreation & athletics.
- All coaches, SAAC representatives and team captains will have contact information for all Recreation and Athletic Department leadership and what sports they supervise.
- Staff and student-athletes should refrain from contacting parents until the situation is no longer dangerous.
- Members of the travel party should refrain from posting anything about the incident on social media or speaking with the media.

Emergency Protocol for Student-athletes When Traveling-No Staff Available

This protocol is designed to provide guidance to student-athletes who are traveling and involved in an emergency which has incapacitated the coaching staff and/or the coaching staff is unable to lead the student-athletes through the situation. Each team should designate 1-2 student-athletes (potentially SAAC representatives) on each trip to be the designated individual in charge if this protocol is needed.

The designated individual(s) should follow the following steps:

- Remain calm.
- Designate a fellow student-athlete to contact emergency services by dialing 9-1-1 and give the dispatcher clear, concise information regarding the emergency, location and how many individuals involved. Remain on the line until the dispatcher disconnects.
- Ask fellow teammates to remain calm and make sure everyone is safe and removed from danger, if safe to do so.
- The designated student-athlete should contact their sport supervisor. If the sport supervisor is not available, they should contact the executive director, recreation & athletics.

- All SAAC representatives and team captains will have contact information for all Recreation and Athletic Department leadership and what sports they supervise.
- Student-athletes should refrain from contacting parents until the situation is no longer a danger.
- Student-athletes should refrain from posting anything about the incident on social media.

Student-Athlete and Athletics

Role of the Student-Athlete

The role of each student-athlete whether recruited, not recruited, receiving an athletic scholarship, redshirting or walking on, will be determined by the head coach. The head coach will outline the role for each student-athlete and expectations for student-athletes as members of the team.

Student-Athlete Responsibilities

Student-athletes are expected to be good citizens and to engage in responsible behaviors that reflect well upon their university, to be civil to one another and to others in the campus community and contribute positively to student and university life. Additional responsibilities include:

- Attend all classes and stay current with all coursework.
- All student-athletes must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units and for those receiving athletic aid, each student-athlete will need to follow the criteria listed on the offer letter to maintain the award.
- Pass at least 24 degree applicable units for the academic year.
- Pass at least 9 degree applicable units the prior full time semester to be eligible for the following semester.
- Declare a major for those entering their fifth full time semester (third year).
- Do not change your major after your fifth full time semester without consulting with the associate director, compliance.
- Any student-athlete who takes courses off campus must receive approval to do so by submitting the *Off Campus Coursework Approval Form* in ARMS.
- Any student-athlete taking courses off campus must submit an official transcript to the Registrar's Office. Coursework must be evaluated, unit and GPA totals must be adjusted, and eligibility confirmed before a student-athlete will be allowed to compete.
- All student-athletes should strive to maintain good academic standing and good standing under student affairs. All student-athletes will be required to maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA to compete.

- Student-athletes should schedule appointments to meet with their primary advisors prior to priority registration each semester and summer term.
- All student-athletes must keep a current medical history and medical information on file with the sports medicine staff. Please notify one of the sports medicine staff IMMEDIATELY of any medical changes.
- Student-athletes must notify one of the sports medicine staff as soon as possible when injured or ill.
- Student-athletes are required to attend treatment/physical therapy sessions when injured.
- Class attendance is mandatory.

Informal Resolution Process

Recreation & Athletics encourages all student-athlete/head coach concerns to be resolved between parties involved. The purpose of the informal resolution is to resolve concerns at the lowest administrative level.

A student-athlete may discontinue the informal resolution process at any time and the student-athlete may contact the Dean of Students Office at any time for assistance.

Guidelines for informal resolution process:

1. Student-athlete schedules a meeting with the head coach to discuss the issue.
2. The head coach should try to resolve the issue with the student-athlete immediately.
3. If the issue is resolved, no further action is needed.
4. If a resolution is not achieved and the student-athlete would like to seek further assistance, the student-athlete can email the associate director, compliance to request a meeting. The associate director, compliance will schedule a meeting with the student-athlete. The student-athlete is permitted to bring an advisor. The associate director will work with the student-athlete to find a resolution to their concern.
5. If a resolution is not reached and the student-athlete would like to seek further assistance, the student-athlete can email the associate director, compliance requesting support from the Student-Athlete Review Committee.
6. The associate director, compliance will schedule a meeting with the committee (Faculty Athletics Representative, SWA and executive director, recreation & athletics) within 5 business days of the request. Both the student-athlete and head coach will be asked to submit a summary of the conflict to the associate director, compliance in writing at least 2 business days prior to the scheduled meeting. The associate director, compliance will forward the summaries to the committee members.
7. The student-athlete may choose to be accompanied by an advisor to any meeting(s) or interview(s) regarding the concern. The advisor may not speak on behalf of the student-athlete, the advisor's role is limited to observing and consulting with their client. If the student-athlete chooses an advisor, the student-athlete should submit the name and relationship to the associate director of athletics at least 1 business day prior to the

meeting. The student-athlete and head coach will present their concerns and possible remedies to the committee separately.

8. After all meetings have concluded the Student-Athlete Review Committee will review all details of the issue and formulate a recommended resolution submitting it to the associate director, compliance.
9. The associate director, compliance will notify the student-athlete of the committee's decision. If the student-athlete agrees to the resolution presented, the process will conclude upon implementation of the recommendation.
10. If the student-athlete is not agreeable to the resolution, the student-athlete may request a meeting with the executive director, recreation & athletics to seek additional resolution to the issue. This meeting request must be made with the associate director, compliance.
11. The executive director, recreation & athletics will meet with the student-athlete within 5 business days to discuss next steps and possible resolution.
12. If the suggested resolutions are not acceptable to the student-athlete, the student-athlete will be referred to the Dean of Students Office where the student-athlete may make a request for further review.

Campus Email

Student-athletes are expected to check their UC Merced email daily. Official communication from the campus and from our department will be sent via your UC Merced email account. It is recommended that student-athletes check their UC Merced email at the beginning of and end of the day in order not to miss important communications.

Ethical Conduct

Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct

A competitive nature is encouraged; however, competitiveness should be directed towards opponents and teammates in a positive way. The athletic department discourages negative comments or rudeness directed towards specific athletes or officials. Student-athletes are required to always behave in a sportsmanship-like manner, in and out of uniform, in the classroom, supporting other student-athletes/teams at home or away and while traveling.

Student-athletes may not:

- Come to athletic contests intoxicated or bring alcohol or other banned substances to the games.
- Say/shout anything that is a personal attack and/or derogatory.
- Fight or attempt to fight.
- Incite participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.

Student-athletes showing poor sportsmanship will be asked to leave the event and may have additional consequences set forth by the athletic director.

Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

The UC Merced Recreation & Athletics Department has high expectations for student-athlete behavior, listed below:

- Understand and adhere to the code of conduct listed in the student-athlete and university handbook.
- Obey all federal, state, local laws and campus policies.
- Student-athletes are required to attend all practices, games, team travel, team bonding, community outreach and all other team-related activities by the direction of the coaching staff and/or athletics administration.
- Do not use drugs, alcohol (if under 21 years of age) or tobacco products.
- Understand the overall philosophy of the athletic program. Act with class, pride, and dignity and represent the team, coach, Athletic Department, and UC Merced in a positive manner.
- Understand and adhere to the protocol for medical and insurance policies.
- Be familiar with the academic eligibility requirements set forth by UC Merced and the NCAA.
- Exhibit sportsmanship always when practicing and competing.
- Achieve and maintain optimal physical condition within accepted health standards.
- Take proper care of equipment and return it in good condition at designated dates.
- Treat visiting teams and officials with respect.
- Help teammates, whenever possible, on and off the field and most importantly, with their schoolwork and projects. The success of a team depends on how much each student-athlete puts in as an individual.
- Take all academic progress reports and communications very seriously. When an administrator, professor, teacher's assistant, trainer, or coach issues you a report or letter, return it promptly with accurate and beneficial information.
- Be accountable and responsible for your behavior in Student Housing.
- Be on time to practice, meetings, class, and all Department functions.
- Treat faculty, staff and all UC Merced employees with respect and common courtesy.

Each head coach is responsible for creating and implementing team specific rules annually. These team rules are to be submitted to their sport supervisor at the beginning of each academic year.

The Recreation & Athletics Department along with the appropriate campus department will investigate all possible violations of departmental and campus policies. Any staff member who

is aware of a potential violation of campus or departmental policies must report this to their supervisor.

The associate director, compliance will conduct inquiries into all student-athlete related issues not addressed by campus partners (Dean of Students, Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination). A formal report of their findings will be provided to the executive director, Dean of Students and Faculty Athletics Representative.

Student-Athletes Convicted of a Felony

Student-athletes are expected to abide by all federal, state, and municipal laws.

Student-athletes who are arrested or charged with a crime are subject to the criminal justice system and the University discipline process. However, Recreation & Athletics reserves the right to suspend student-athletes who are arrested or charged with a crime from participation in athletic activities while the crime is being investigated or while a matter of criminal activity is being resolved through the legal system.

Student-athletes who are convicted of a misdemeanor or felony are subject to being dismissed from their team and the reduction or elimination of athletic aid. UC Merced is governed by California Education Code §67362.

Assembly Bill 2165 makes it illegal for a college athlete convicted of a violent felony to participate in any collegiate athletics event until the full sentence is served.

Hazing

Hazing is against the law. Campus hazing policies embody the University's concerns for protecting the safety and welfare of students; these policies prohibit any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a campus organization or other activity engaged in by the organization or its members that humiliates or degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

Any student who participates in hazing or being hazed will be held accountable under these policies. Individuals who are victims of hazing and report the incident to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities or athletics staff will be exempt from student disciplinary action. These rules apply to all registered student organizations, sports teams, and student groups.

Actions and activities that may constitute "hazing" include, but are not limited to:

- Forcing, coercing, or permitting one to participate in forms of physical activity not part of an organized, voluntary athletic contest or not specifically directed toward constructive work.
- Requiring activities that are likely to cause physical harm to the individual.
- Paddling, beating or otherwise permitting someone to hit another individual.
- Requiring one to wear any degrading or uncomfortable garments.

- Depriving one of the opportunities for sufficient sleep (six hours minimum per day), decent and edible meals, or access to means of maintaining daily bodily cleanliness.
- Activities interfere with one's academic efforts by causing exhaustion, loss of sleep or reasonable study time.
- Requiring one to consume large amounts of food, alcohol, or other substances or beverage.
- Forcing, coercing, or permitting one to eat or drink foreign or unusual substances such as raw meat, raw eggs, salt water, onions, etc.
- Throwing, pouring, or otherwise applying to the bodies or clothing of individuals, substances such as eggs, paint, honey, etc.
- Morally degrading or humiliating games or other activities that make an individual the object of amusement, ridicule, or intimidation.
- Kidnaps, road trips, or other activities that endanger the health and safety of an individual.
- Subjecting one to cruel or unusual psychological treatment for any reason.
- Depriving one of 'sense of awareness' (sight, sound, etc.) which may cause mental and/or physical stress.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

UC Merced and University of California policy prohibits tobacco use on all UC property. Cigarettes, cigars, oral tobacco, electronic cigarettes ("vapes"), chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products are prohibited from use on all properties owned or leased by UC Merced. In addition, the use of tobacco products by student-athletes, coaches, officials and game personnel during practice and competition—at home or away—is prohibited. Tobacco products are also prohibited while traveling as part of an official department or team function.

Student-athletes must conform to NCAA policies and regulations regarding the use of prescribed drugs. Failure to do so can jeopardize further collegiate eligibility. Further, the use of any drugs must be within the limits of federal, state, and local laws. Each student-athlete is solely responsible for being aware of and obeying legal statutes that prohibit the use of various drugs.

- A. University policy prohibits alcoholic beverages from being sold, furnished, possessed by or given to any person under the age of 21. In addition, possession or transportation of open containers or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed in public areas by any person, regardless of age.
- B. Student-athletes will not drink, be under the influence of, or be in possession of alcohol during any intercollegiate event or practice.
- C. Before consuming any nutritional/dietary supplement product, review the product and its label with your athletics department staff. Dietary supplements are not well regulated and may cause a positive drug test result. Any product containing a dietary supplement ingredient is taken at your own risk.

For additional information regarding campus policy, see the UC Merced Student Policies and Regulations Handbook.

NCAA Drug Testing Program

UC Merced ICA student-athletes will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is congruent to the NCAA Drug Testing Policy as well as to the mission of our institution. This program will implement specific measures to ensure student-athletes maintain the highest level of accountability in upholding the mission of the NCAA and UC Merced.

This policy is designed to educate student-athletes about the adverse effects of substance abuse, detect the use of banned substances by UC Merced ICA student-athletes, discipline those who choose to use banned substances, and assist them to the best of our ability in their recovery and rehabilitation.

UC Merced follows the NCAA's banned list of drugs including nutritional and dietary supplements and implement NCAA procedures for drug testing. NCAA drug testing procedures were implemented in the fall 2024 semester.

The assistant director of student-athlete well-being and associate director, compliance will assist in coordination of the program. The primary components of the program will be to educate, screen for banned substances, and discipline.

The National Center for Drug Free Sport (Drug Free Sport) is the official administrator of the NCAA's drug-testing programs. UC Merced shall administer annually, on a form prescribed by the NCAA Management Council, a signed drug-testing consent form for each student-athlete and shall ensure compliance with the requirements of the NCAA Drug-Testing Program. In preparation of NCAA year-round drug testing, all student-athletes must sign the *NCAA Student-Athlete Statement* and the *NCAA Drug-Testing Consent Form* pursuant to NCAA Bylaw.

The institutional staff members who ensure compliance with NCAA year-round drug-testing protocol are the Executive Director, Recreation & Athletics, the associate director, compliance, and the designated NCAA Drug-Testing Site Coordinator (assistant director of student-athlete well-being). Specific procedures for NCAA drug testing can be found in the "Drug Testing" section of the *UC Merced Athletics Compliance Manual*.

- Every NCAA Division II institution is subject to drug testing.
- Institutions may be selected for testing more than once each academic year.
- The number of student-athletes selected for each drug-testing event may vary.
- Notification of a NCAA testing event may be on short notice or "no-notice."
- Each student-athlete is required to provide summer contact information with the associate director, compliance prior to the end of the spring semester.

UC Merced Drug Testing Program

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The institutional staff members who ensure compliance with campus drug-testing protocol are the executive director, recreation & athletics, the associate director, compliance, and the assistant director of student-athlete well-being.

Any information concerning a student-athlete's alleged or confirmed improper use of banned substances shall be restricted to institutional personnel identified within this document and to parents or legal guardians of minors. The Recreation & Athletics Department will follow HIPAA guidelines to ensure the utmost confidentiality.

Before consuming any nutritional/dietary supplement product, review the product and its label with the Sports Medicine staff. Dietary supplements are not well regulated and may cause a positive drug test result. Any product containing a dietary supplement ingredient is taken at your own risk.

Full details on NCAA banned substances can be found at:
https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/substance/2023-24/2023-24NCAA_BannedSubstances.pdf

It is your responsibility to check with the appropriate or designated athletics staff before using any substance.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

The Student-athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is a committee made up of student-athletes assembled to provide insight on the student-athlete experience. SAAC also offers input on the rules, regulations and policies that affect student-athletes' lives on the UC Merced campus and within the NCAA.

The mission of the University of California, Merced SAAC is to enhance the student-athlete experience by developing leadership skills, protecting student-athletes' well-being, acting as a liaison between student-athletes and administration and fostering a sense of community.

The purpose of SAAC is:

- To generate a student-athlete voice within the institution.
- To provide insight into the student-athlete experience.
- To solicit student-athlete response to current or proposed rules, regulations and policies that affect student-athletes' lives on the UC Merced campus and within the NCAA.
- Annually review the Student-Athlete Handbook each spring.
- Review NCAA proposed legislation each October with the FAR to provide input to the athletic department leadership.
- To act as a key communication component within the athletic department and campus-wide to disseminate information to all student-athletes.
- To create an avenue for student-athlete representation on campus, conference-wide and nationally.
- To organize student-athlete events.
- Represent UC Merced at conference and national organizations.
- To provide representation of UC Merced student-athletes in the community.

Community Service and Engagement

For Division II, community *engagement* is much more than just community *service*. That sense of engagement is achieved when the athletics program truly interacts with both its campus and regional communities. Division II athletics programs actively engage with their communities, which not only helps drive attendance at athletics contests but also fosters relationships between student-athletes and community members and develops more of a shared civic experience.

Options for community engagement include, but are not limited to:

- Raise money for Make-A-Wish or a local charity.

- Volunteer in your community at places like these:
 - Nursing homes.
 - Kids centers.
 - Groups that your school already partners with.
 - Your city: Parks and facilities always need some help.
- Do a campus cleanup. Partner with your campus facilities team to speed up projects.

Benefits, Awards, and Recognition

Awards and Benefits

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee, booster, or anyone that the student-athlete is not legally dependent upon, which provides the student-athlete or the student-athlete's relative or friend, a benefit not authorized by the NCAA. Receipt by a student-athlete of an award, benefit, or expense allowance not authorized by the NCAA legislation renders the student-athlete ineligible.

Student-athletes are permitted to receive expenses from the institution that are directly related to travel and competition while representing the institution, as well as the expenses included in the scholarship agreement. Receipt of any monetary or tangible benefit or award from persons outside of the Recreation & Athletics Department is not permitted and renders the student-athlete ineligible.

Student-Athlete Awards

UC Merced awards the following honors annually:

- Bobcat Award – One student-athlete will be recognized who best reflects the competitive spirit, sportsmanship, leadership and values of the UC Merced Athletics Department. This person could best be described as the “Ambassador of Athletics.”
- Male Athlete of the Year – Awarded to the male student-athlete based upon their impact and contribution to their team, their team's overall success, individual honors and awards.
- Georgette “Ma” Kelley Female Athlete of the Year – Awarded to the female student-athlete based upon their impact and contribution to their team, their team's overall success, individual honors, and awards.
- UC Merced Scholar-Athletes – Student-athletes eligible for this distinction must be in good academic standing with the university and must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher.

Student-athlete Sash Honors

UC Merced athletics is proud to recognize student-athletes' commitment to excellence not only on our fields and courts, but also in our classrooms. Student-athletes are encouraged to proudly wear their student-athlete SASH during the University commencement ceremonies. To be eligible to receive a SASH, student-athletes must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Graduated or planning on graduating within the subsequent semester.
2. Nominated by a coach or athletics administrator to receive the SASH.
3. Fulfilled at least one of the following factors:
 - On the official roster the year of graduation.
 - Finished/exhausted eligibility while rostered at UC Merced.
 - Finished eligibility within the subsequent semester while rostered at UCM.
 - Sustained a career-ending injury while rostered at UC Merced.

NOTE: The executive director of recreation and athletics maintains the discretion to honor or not honor any student-athlete as seen deserving within the spirit of the award.

Student-Athlete Awards Banquet

The Recreation & Athletics Department hosts its annual student-athlete awards banquet each spring to recognize the academic and athletic achievements of our student-athletes.

Teams may hold their own banquets during the year with approval from their sports supervisor and the associate director, compliance.

Name Image Likeness (NIL)

UC Merced supports the ability of our student-athletes to earn compensation from third parties for the use of their name, image, and likeness ("NIL"). UC Merced reserves the right to impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions consistent with this Policy, NCAA rules, and California's Fair Pay to Play Act.

Student-athletes may:

- Earn compensation from third parties because of the use of their NIL. Permissible activities include, but are not limited to, appearances, in television, print, or social media advertisements for products or services; sale of autographs; and personal appearances.
- Retain professional representation, including but not limited to representation provided by athlete agents or legal representation provided by attorneys, to assist with securing

opportunities for NIL compensation. Professional representation must be for NIL opportunities only and not for future professional contract negotiations.

- Individuals providing professional representation to student-athletes must be licensed by the appropriate licensing authority in the state of California.
- An individual providing professional representation to a student-athlete as an athlete agent must be and comply with the federal Sports Responsibility Trust Act.
- An individual providing legal representation to a student-athlete must be a licensed attorney.
- To help ensure compliance with state law and NCAA rules, student-athletes must disclose to Compliance (in ARMS or Opendorse) any agreements with and/or representation by professional service providers.

Prohibited Activities

Student-athletes may not receive compensation for the use of their NIL for any of the following purposes or manners:

- Athletic performance or participation (e.g., dollars or goods per win or points scored).
- Decision to attend UC Merced (e.g., “signing bonus” for commitment).
- Work not performed.
- Compensation in excess of the fair market value of services performed.
 - For the avoidance of doubt, compensation includes anything of value including money, goods, or services.
- Enter into endorsements of goods or services in Prohibited Categories.
 - Prohibited Categories means illegal gambling, pornography, and performance enhancing drugs.
- Use UC Merced marks or logos in endorsements involving alcohol/other drugs, professional sports teams and/or organizations, assault weapons and/or other related firearms.
- Use UC Merced facilities without approval from University.
- Enter agreements with third parties that conflict with a provision of a UC Merced Contract.
 - UC Merced Contract means a contract between UC Merced or UC Merced Athletics and a sponsor or a third party authorized to enter into a sponsorship agreement or agreements on behalf of UC Merced.
 - The contractual conflicts include but are not limited to: Adidas, Pepsi, etc.
- Utilize UC Merced marks or logos during the course of NIL activities without obtaining prior approval from UC Merced Licensing.

UC Merced employees, the athletic department staff and coaches, or boosters may not compensate or arrange compensation for a current or prospective intercollegiate athlete for their name, image, or likeness.

Student-Athlete's Responsibilities While Engaging in NIL Activities

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to:

- Understand and comply with this policy, NCAA rules, and applicable law.
- Obtain prior approval for the use of Recreation & Athletics facilities for NIL activities.
- Facility usage must be coordinated through UC Merced Recreation & Athletics Department.
- Use of campus facilities for NIL activities, including but not limited to, photo shoots, private lessons, camps, etc. are subject to general campus policies related to use of facilities and may include, but are not limited to, rental agreements, licensing agreements, liability and insurance requirements.
- Obtain approval for commercial photography and filming on campus outside of athletic facilities from Campus Communications.
- Disclose to the Recreation & Athletics Department prior to entering into any oral or written NIL agreements. This disclosure must be submitted via the *Name Image Likeness Disclosure* form via Opendorse. These forms will initially be reviewed by associate director, compliance and executive director, recreation & athletics.

Marks and logos include but is not limited to:

- The University's name, nicknames, team names, mascot name, slogans, colors, and other identifying indicia or
- Copyrighted content unless an applicable agreement is secure. Ensure NIL activities do not conflict with academic or team related activities.

Team Related Activities means all activities deemed as Countable Athletically Related Activities per NCAA Bylaw 17.02.1 or Required Athletically Related Activities per NCAA Bylaw 17.02.14.

Team Activities includes but is not limited to:

- Practice and training.
- Competition (including exhibitions and scrimmages).
- Travel to and from away-from-home competition.
- Organized team promotional activities and public appearances.
- Community engagement events.
- Media activities.

International student-athletes remain subject to federal visa guidelines while participating in NIL activities. Thus, student-athletes should not enter into any NIL agreements without guidance from UC Merced Services for International Students and Scholars (A part of Global Affairs) to guard against any potential immigration issues.

Pell grant or need-based financial aid could be impacted because of compensation earned from NIL activity. Questions should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship.

Compensation from NIL activity will be considered taxable income, thus may need to be factored into whether a student-athlete is required to file taxes. Tax obligations incurred are the sole responsibility of the student-athlete. UC Merced will not provide tax advice for a current or prospective intercollegiate student-athlete, and it is recommended that the student-athlete consult with a tax professional prior to entering a NIL agreement.

Eligibility Requirements

Amateurism Requirements

To properly control competition, the NCAA only allows amateur students eligibility to participate in a given sport. An amateur is a student who engages in athletics contests for educational values, personal pleasure, satisfaction, and for the love of the sport, not for monetary or material gain. All student-athletes representing UC Merced must comply with the NCAA's definition of amateurism and an amateur student-athlete.

Initial enrollment amateurism determinations will be provided by the Eligibility Center, however further initial verification, and continuing verification, is the responsibility of the head coach and associate director, compliance.

The associate director, compliance will meet with each team before beginning sport participation and at the end of the academic year to review many compliance-related topics, including amateurism. The associate director, compliance will review certain acts and recognized awards received by student-athletes that are permitted that will not jeopardize amateur standing and those acts that result in loss of amateur standing. The associate director, compliance will collect the Amateur Status Form annually at the beginning of the year from both new and returning student-athletes. Any acts that may have jeopardized a student-athlete's status as an amateur will be reviewed by the associate director, compliance prior to allowing a student-athlete to represent UC Merced in competition.

All incoming student-athletes will need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Student-athletes can register here: www.eligibilitycenter.org. Initial enrollment amateurism determinations will be provided by the Eligibility Center. However, further initial verification, and continuing verification, will be conducted by the associate director, compliance with assistance from each head coach.

The NCAA membership has adopted amateurism rules to ensure that student-athletes' priority remains on obtaining a quality educational experience and that all of student-athletes are competing equitably. In general, amateurism requirements do not allow:

- Contracts with professional teams.

- Salary for participating in athletics.
- Prize money above actual and necessary expenses.
- Play with professionals.
- Tryouts, practice, or competition with a professional team.
- Benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
- Agreement to be represented by an agent.
- Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition.

A student-athlete shall not be eligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if, following initial full-time collegiate enrollment, the individual takes or has taken pay, or has accepted the promise of pay in any form, for participation in that sport, or if the individual has violated any of the other regulations related to amateurism set forth in NCAA Bylaw 12.

NCAA rules do not prohibit student-athletes from receiving information about prospective agents or financial advisors. Nor do they prohibit engaging in telephone or in-person meetings or discussions with an agent or financial advisor. However, there is not anything that an agent, financial advisor or their representatives can legally do for a student-athlete's professional athletic career or their family prior to completion of the student-athlete's eligibility.

Gambling and Sports Wagering

Per NCAA bylaws, sports wagering is strictly forbidden. UC Merced will educate student-athletes, coaches, and staff members annually on the sports wagering prohibition.

Sports wagering includes placing, accepting, or soliciting a wager (on a staff member's or student-athlete's own behalf or on the behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur, or professional team, player or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; Internet sports wagering (including daily fantasy sites like DraftKings and Fan Duel); auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals, or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.

The following individuals shall not knowingly participate in sports wagering activities or provide information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activities concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics competition:

- (a) Staff members of an institution's athletics department;
- (b) Non-athletics department staff members who have responsibilities within or over the athletics department (e.g., chancellor or president, faculty athletics representative, individual to whom athletics reports);
- (c) Student-athletes.

Competitive Experience Outside of Intercollegiate Athletics

The amateur status of all incoming student-athletes will be determined by the NCAA eligibility Center. UC Merced will monitor the amateur status of continuing student-athlete annually. This is completed each year when student-athletes complete the Amateur Status form in ARMS.

Student-athletes are allowed to participate in outside competition as long as their team is not in season (both championship and non-championship segments). You are not allowed to accept any form of payment or expenses beyond the actual and necessary expenses associated with your participation on that team. You must notify, and receive approval from, the associate director, compliance by completing the Permission for Outside/Unattached Competition form in ARMS.

Note: Student-athletes in individual sports who are not eligible to compete for UC Merced are also ineligible for outside competition during the academic year. Upon being declared ineligible, the associate director, compliance will assign via ARMS the Acknowledgement of Ineligibility for Outside Competition Form to the student-athlete. This form will need to be signed and submitted via ARMS upon receipt.

Academic Requirement

Each student must maintain at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA to be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics at UC Merced.

Mid Semester Grades

Mid-Semester grades are not recorded on transcripts and do not impact GPA, rather, they are a “progress report” from instructors to help students know how they are doing at the mid-point of the semester. In collaboration with academic advisors, athletics will hold mid-semester grade interventions each semester for students who receive the following mid-semester grades:

- 1 D/F/NP – complete all assignments in Mid-Semester Academic Success Module
- 2 D/F/NP – complete all assignments in Mid-Semester Academic Success module and mandatory meeting with athletic academic support staff
- 3+ D/F/NP – complete all assignments in Mid-Semester Academic Success module, mandatory meeting with athletic academic support staff, and mandatory meeting with academic advisor.

Full Time Enrollment

Under NCAA Division II eligibility rules, a student-athlete has 10 full-time semesters to complete four seasons of competition in their sport(s). (Note: Summer terms are not counted against a student-athlete’s terms of attendance.)

Initial Eligibility

All incoming student-athletes will be required to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Registration can be found at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

The NCAA Eligibility Center certifies the academic and amateur credentials of all students who want to participate at an NCAA Division II institution. Students need to meet certain academic standards to practice, play and receive an athletic scholarship. There is an additional certification process to verify the amateur status of a student prior to their competition.

Continuing Eligibility

During the first four semesters of enrollment, student-athletes must take and pass 24 units per year. Beginning in the student-athletes third year (fifth full time semester) they must declare a major and take and pass 24 units in courses which fulfill their academic graduation (major and/or courses that count toward degree) requirements. This can be tracked using the [My Degree Path](#) tool.

Per NCAA continuing eligibility requirements, a student-athlete must meet all of the following to be eligible:

- 9-unit requirements each semester – student-athlete must pass at least 9 units towards their degree in the prior full-time semester to be eligible in the following semester.
- Pass at least 24 units towards their degree for the calendar year.
- Declare a major for student-athletes entering their fifth full time semester.
- At least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- Good academic standing for extracurricular activities and good standing as a student

Official Transcripts

Processing of official transcripts by the Office of the Registrar may take up to two weeks. Student-athletes cannot be certified for practice and competition until all official transcripts from previous institutions have been processed and the course credit appears on your UC Merced transcript. For those student-athletes transferring to UC Merced, it is important to have official transcripts from all previous institutions sent to UC Merced as early as possible to avoid a delay in certification.

Current UC Merced students who complete coursework outside of UC Merced must receive approval in advance by completing the *Off Campus Coursework* form in ARMS. Eligibility certification cannot occur until all the transcripts have been received and processed into your UC Merced academic record.

For questions regarding sending official transcripts to UC Merced please contact the Students First Center.

Declaring Major/Change of Major

During the first two years (four semesters) of enrollment at UC Merced student-athletes may use credits applicable to any major. Student-athletes must declare a major by the beginning of their third year (fifth semester) and must take courses towards their declared major. This can be confirmed using the [My Degree Path](#) tool.

Prior to changing majors, student-athletes must complete the Change of Major/Minor form in ARMS and meet with the associate director, compliance and assistant director, student-athlete services to understand the impact of the major change on their eligibility. Student-athletes should meet with their academic advisor to discuss the proposed major/minor change prior to meeting with the associate director, compliance so they have an understanding of the different academic requirements.

Progress Towards Degree

The associate director, compliance will monitor progress towards a degree for all student-athletes by working with the FAR and athletic eligibility coordinator in the Office of the Registrar.

Dropping/Withdrawing from a Course

To avoid becoming ineligible for competition, student-athletes must consult with the associate director, compliance prior to dropping or withdrawing from a course. Dropping or withdrawing from courses may have an adverse impact on athletic eligibility. The associate director compliance will work with the student-athlete to discuss the implications, if any, on their eligibility if the course is dropped.

Study Abroad

All student-athletes considering a Study Abroad program prior to completing their four years of athletic eligibility should consult with the associate director, compliance at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss impacts on athletic eligibility.

Repeat Courses

To avoid becoming ineligible for competition, student-athletes who are considering enrolling in any repeat courses should consult with the associate director, compliance prior to registering for the repeat course.

Credit for courses that are repeated may be used by a student-athlete to satisfy the 9 unit, and 24 unit progress-toward-degree requirements of Bylaws 14.2.9.3.2, 14.2.9.3.3 and 14.2.9.3.4 only under the following conditions:

- A course repeated due to an unsatisfactory initial grade may be used only once and only after it has been satisfactorily completed;
- Credit for a course that may be taken several times (e.g., a physical education activities course) shall be limited by institutional regulations; and

- Credits earned in courses that may be taken several times may not exceed the maximum institutional limit for credits of that type for any baccalaureate degree program (or for the student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree program once a program has been designated).

Taking Coursework Off-Campus (Winter, Summer, Regular Term)

Student-athletes needing or wanting to take coursework off-campus must obtain prior approval from the associate director, compliance using the Off-Campus Coursework Approval Form. Coursework will be checked by Academic Advisor and Registrar to determine transferability to UC Merced and to determine if the course(s) meet progress towards degree requirements.

These courses can be added to the student's university transcript and count in the student-athlete's total credit hours.

Procedure:

- The student-athlete must meet with their primary or faculty advisor to determine a course to take and then he/she needs to find a school offering the course.
- Upon identifying a course and school, a student-athlete will need to complete the Off-Campus Coursework Approval Form via ARMS.
- The associate director, compliance reviews and approves/denies the Off-Campus Coursework Approval Form.
- After final approval, the associate director, compliance sends an email to the student-athlete confirming or denying the request. The email will outline the student's obligations to register for the course(s) at the other institution, dropping the course(s), and his/her responsibility to have an official transcript sent to UC Merced upon completion of the course(s).
- The associate director, compliance will log the courses being taken by student-athlete in a spreadsheet and will follow up with the student-athlete after the course ends to ensure that the official transcript is turned into the Registrar's Office.
- Student-athletes will not be cleared for competition until official transcripts are received and processed by the Registrar's Office.

Eligibility Infractions

Should an ineligible student-athlete be discovered to have competed in a regular or postseason intercollegiate athletic contest UC Merced shall automatically:

- Report violation to conference office and NCAA office.
- Forfeit all contests/times in which the ineligible student participated.
- Initiate campus review of the violation and how error occurred.

Additional penalties, forfeits, etc. may be necessary due to the severity of the infractions.

Compliance

Rules Compliance

UC Merced is committed to rules compliance and creating a culture of compliance. This will be achieved through continuous education, training, and updates to student-athletes, coaches and staff to comply with the standards and expectations of the NCAA. UC Merced is committed to the philosophy of institutional control and supports academic and fiscal transparency and integrity in the operations of our intercollegiate athletics program.

Student-athletes have direct access to all senior leaders within the Recreation & Athletics Department to address any concerns they may have and to address any rules questions which may arise.

Rules Education

The associate director, compliance will conduct regular rules educational sessions to all student-athletes covering critical rules and regulations. These rules education sessions will take place at the beginning of each year during individual team meetings and throughout the year at various SAAC meetings. Information regarding rules and eligibility may be directed to the associate director, compliance, assistant director, student-athlete well-being, assistant director, student-athlete services.

Reporting and Investigating Potential Violations

The associate director, compliance works with the Compliance Committee to identify areas of potential risk and works to develop policies and processes to mitigate those risks. UC Merced is policy is to self-report any instances where compliance has not been achieved. It is the responsibility of the associate director, compliance, to determine the nature of the issue, how it occurred and work with the Compliance Committee to reduce the chance of a repeated violation in the future.

Any student-athlete, coach or staff member who becomes aware of behavior or actions that might lead to a violation or any alleged violation shall immediately report the information to the associate director, compliance.

1. The associate director, compliance shall make a complete record of what is reported including dates, times, circumstances, events, names, and any other relevant information. A preliminary inquiry and research of interpretations will be conducted to obtain complete information regarding the alleged violation. The information will include:
 - The date and location of the incident.
 - A description of the incident.
 - The identity of the coaches, prospective and enrolled student-athletes and other individuals involved in the incident.

- How and why the incident occurred.
 - The means by which the individual became aware of the possible violation.
 - Any other information that should be considered in reviewing the case.
 - Date the report is issued.
2. The associate director, compliance will then communicate with the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and the executive director to discuss the issue and determine if a violation occurred.
 3. If it is determined that no violation has occurred, no further action will be taken.
 4. If a violation has occurred, the associate director, compliance will discuss whether it is major or secondary, along with corrective and disciplinary actions with the FAR and executive director.
 5. In the case of a major violation, the FAR and executive director will inform the vice-chancellor of student affairs and chancellor prior to submitting the violation(s) to the NCAA. The Office of Ethics and Compliance will be notified as well. Information provided will include but not be limited to:
 - The date and location of the violation.
 - A description of the violation, including the rule that was violated.
 - The identity of the coaches, prospective and enrolled student-athletes and other individuals involved in the violation.
 - The reason(s) the violation occurred.
 - The means by which the institution became aware of the violation.
 - All investigative actions the institution completed.
 - A list of corrective and disciplinary actions taken by the institution (self-imposed) and conference (if any).
 - An acknowledgement that a violation occurred and the institution's position regarding whether the violation is major/secondary.
 - A statement indicating whether any eligibility issues need to be resolved and, if so, whether the institution is requesting restoration of eligibility for any prospective or enrolled student-athletes.
 - Any other information that should be considered in reviewing the case.
 - Date of the self-report.

The report must be sent to the NCAA and the conference office. Copies of complete report(s) should be forwarded to the president or chancellor, director of athletics, faculty athletic representative, athletics compliance committee and all involved staff members/student-athletes.

6. All secondary violations will be reported to the chancellor (via the executive director and FAR), vice chancellor student affairs, FAR and executive director. The department will impose the prescribed penalties and report the violation. The entire coaching staff will be made aware of the violation by using the violation as a training opportunity in compliance/rules education meetings.
7. A copy of the violation and letter of admonishment/reprimand is a part of the coach's

performance evaluation. These reports are kept on file in the Compliance Office.

8. If a possible major violation is reported against any athletic administrator, the FAR will lead the investigation of the allegations with the Chancellor's Office and the Office of Ethics and Compliance. They will follow the process of investigating an NCAA violation and present the findings to the chancellor. The Chancellor's Office will work with the FAR and Campus Compliance Office to prepare proper paperwork for the NCAA and contact the NCAA Enforcement Staff for recommendations, sanctions and/or fines.
9. If a student-athlete needs to have their eligibility reinstated, the FAR and associate director, compliance will submit the necessary documents for NCAA reinstatement.
10. A violation report will be submitted to the Conference Office, Athletic Advisory Committee and Compliance Committee-

Seasons of Competition

Under NCAA eligibility rules, a student-athlete has 10 full-time semesters to complete four seasons of competition in their sport(s). (Note: Summer terms are not counted against a student-athlete's terms of attendance.)

UC Merced has policies regarding the number of terms allowed to complete a degree which may be less than the 10 terms allowed under NCAA rules. See the current UC Merced Catalog for more information.

A student-athlete may not engage in more than four seasons of competition in any one sport. An institution shall not permit a student-athlete to represent it in intercollegiate competition beyond the 10 full-time semesters permitted under NCAA regulations. The associate director, compliance will track seasons of competition and terms attended and provide this information to student-athletes and head coaches.

Seasons of Competition ("redshirting")

"Redshirt" is not an official NCAA term. What a "redshirt" season refers to is a year in which a student-athlete does not use a season of competition. During a year in which the student-athlete does not use a season of competition, if NCAA eligible to do so, a student-athlete can practice with his or her team and may be able to receive financial aid. NCAA Division II student-athletes have 10 full-time semesters or 15 quarters of full-time enrollment to participate as a student-athlete. Of these 10 full-time semesters or 15 full-time quarters, a student-athlete only has four years of athletics eligibility (seasons of competition) in which he or she can participate against outside competition. Because of this, there is an extra year of time and many student-athletes choose to use this extra time as a "redshirt" year.

The head coach is responsible for determining and monitoring the playing status of each student-athletes. The head coach has the responsibility to clarify the role of each student-athlete on the team. If the role of a student-athlete is to redshirt, the head coach needs to make sure the student-athlete understands what it means to be a redshirt and what the expectations are as a redshirt. Student-athletes can redshirt for various reasons. If a head coach

and student-athlete agree that participation in an intercollegiate sport shall not take place during an academic year, the head coach will discuss the following topics with the student-athlete:

- Student-athlete's role on the team as a redshirt.
- Outline expectations (athletic, academic and indicate to student-athlete if they are required to participate in all team activities except intercollegiate competition).
- Travel: Redshirts are not part of a team's travel party to away contests. Student-athletes who choose to travel to an away contest on their own expense and who are not missing class or other academic requirements will not be allowed to sit on the away team bench.
- Redshirts are permitted to sit on the team bench during home games dressed in team issued warm-ups unless he/she is not NCAA eligible to do so and provided that the student is not missing class or other academic requirements.
- Athletic apparel and equipment (to be issued only after the associate director, compliance has cleared the student-athlete to begin team activities.)
- Conduct (student-athlete must comply with all team, department and university policies.)
- Complimentary admissions and ticket benefits will be available to those student-athletes who are NCAA eligible to receive them.

Student-athletes with questions regarding their redshirt status will be directed to the head coach or to the associate director, compliance.

Terms of Attendance

A student-athlete shall complete his or her seasons of participation during the first 10 semesters in which the student is enrolled in a collegiate institution in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the regulations of that institution.

A student-athlete is considered to have used a semester or quarter under this rule when the student-athlete is officially registered in a collegiate institution (domestic or foreign) in a regular term of an academic year for a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the institution, and attends the first day of classes for that term, even if the student-athlete drops to part-time status during that first day of classes.

Transfer Release Request

If a current UC Merced student-athlete has interest in speaking with other institutions regarding the possibility of transferring, the student-athlete must follow the following procedures prior to having contact with a new NCAA institution:

1. A student-athlete must complete the NCAA educational module regarding transferring and complete the NCAA Transfer Request form in ARMS which will be routed to the associate director, compliance.
2. The associate director, compliance will add the student-athlete to the NCAA Transfer Portal within seven calendar days of notification.

Academic Resources, Policies and Procedures

Student-athlete Learning Center

Student Activities and Athletics Center (SAAC), Room 205 and 209

The primary function of the Student-Athlete Learning Center is to provide a quiet workspace for student-athletes to complete any academic assignments. Several workspaces, including individual and group desks are in the Learning Center, along with couches, a whiteboard, and a printer. The Learning Center is also the location for any in-person SALA sessions. Room 209 is also available for quiet work as well.

Student-athlete Learning Assistant (SALA) Program

The UC Merced Athletics department employs Student-Athlete Learning Assistants (SALAs) to assist student-athletes in achieving independent growth as successful students. A SALA's primary function is to provide positive, enriching and inspiring academic support and encouragement to student-athletes beyond the classroom experience through individual and/or group tutoring. The objective is to provide supplemental academic support to existing campus support or where gaps exist related to the varied student-athlete schedule. The SALA Program is available for any student-athletes in good standing with team and department requirements/expectations.

If the availability of campus tutoring resources conflicts with a student-athlete's schedule, if tutors are unavailable for a specific subject, and/or if additional assistance is needed, then the student-athletes may request a SALA. All SALA requests are made through the [online request form](#).

Study Hall (SAAC 209 or 211)

Study hall provides a designated location for student-athletes to devote time to their academics. Study hall provides student-athletes with a quiet, supportive place to study, learn and complete coursework requirements. If assigned study hall hours, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to complete the hours administrated by the athletic department or to make specific arrangements with the assistant director, student-athlete services if conflicts arise.

Campus Resources

Student Health Services

<https://health.ucmerced.edu/>
Health and Athletics Center 2nd Floor, (209) 228-2273
Hours M-F 8:00am – 4:30pm

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

<https://counseling.ucmerced.edu/>
Health and Athletics Center 2nd floor, (209) 228-4266
Hours M-F 8:30am – 4:30pm
After Hours Assistance (209) 228-4266

Student Accessibility Services

<https://access.ucmerced.edu/>
ACS 140 (209) 228-6996
Hours: M-F 8:00am – 5:00pm

Student Career Center

<https://hire.ucmerced.edu/>
Kolligian Library KL 184, (209) 228-7272
Hours M-F 8:00am – 5:00pm

Campus Advocacy, Resources, and Education (CARE) Office

<https://care.ucmerced.edu/>
Kolligian Library KL 107, (209) 355-0763
Campus Advocate (209) 386-2051

LGBTQ+ Pride Center

<https://lgbtqpridecenter.ucmerced.edu/>
Kolligian Library KL 159, (209) 228-2250

Calvin E. Bright Success Center

<https://learning.ucmerced.edu/>
Kolligian Library KL222, (209) 228-7252

Tutoring

Tutoring is available on campus in a variety of subject areas to help students to achieve academically. The Peer Led Undergraduate Study (PLUS) Center, STEM Tutoring Hub, The Math Center (TMC), Undergraduate Research and Opportunities Center (UROC), and University Writing Center are available to facilitate and support student learning. In addition, the Student-Athlete Learning Assistant (SALA) program is available exclusively for UC Merced intercollegiate student-athletes (see below). Student-athletes are required to seek tutoring assistant from the

PLUS Center, STEM Tutoring Hub, or University Writing Center before requesting assistance from a SALA. For drop-in tutoring schedules, see: <https://success.ucmerced.edu/tutoring>

Advising

It is the responsibility of each UC Merced student to read and understand the [UC Merced Catalog](#), and to know and fulfill the necessary requirements for graduation in their major. Academic advisors are available year-round to assist students in planning the most successful and appropriate pathway to academic and personal goals. All students are strongly encouraged to visit their academic advisor each semester. In some cases, students may be required to visit with an academic advisor due to special circumstances or concerns regarding academic performance.

Academic advisors are available to assist students in navigating UC Merced's student services, to discuss successes, doubts, struggles, and future goals, and to refer students to other campus resources.

Appointments are recommended, but students can also receive advising services during drop-in hours. Students can find the name and office hours of their assigned advisor at <http://advising.ucmerced.edu>

Students First Center

The Students First Center is your one stop shop for Financial Aid, Registrar, Admissions, Billing located on the first floor of the Administration Building. This is the first stop for questions regarding financial aid, registration, add/drops and student billing.

<https://studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu/>

Administration Building 1st Floor (209) 228-7187

In Person and Phone Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm, Friday 8:30am – 3:00pm

Bobcat Advising Center

The Bobcat Advising Center is the advising home for all first-year students in all majors, undeclared and undeclared transfer students. They offer walk in appointments, workshops and can connect students with academic resources on campus.

<https://bobcat-advising-center.ucmerced.edu/>

Kolligian Library KL 122 (209) 291-9739

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

Dean of Students Office

The Dean of Students provides resources to help students navigate campus and community resources, supporting student success, provides advocacy on behalf of students and supports students through the students of concern program. The Dean of Students is a great resource for students who need assistance navigating the university or who need support during times of crisis.

<https://studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/dean-students>
(209) 228-4482

Basic Needs Services

Basic Needs Services provides resources and support to address the food, housing, and wellness security of the Bobcat community. The Basic Needs Center provides resources and programs in Financial Wellness, CalFresh Outreach, food support, Professional Clothing Closet and other community resources.

<https://basicneeds.ucmerced.edu/>

Terrace Center (TC) 106 (209) 891-9781

Hours: Monday 10:00am – 5:00pm; Tuesday – Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm; Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Academic Policies

Coaches' Involvement with Academics

You may be required to meet with your head coach regarding your academic progress. Coaches are permitted to ask questions regarding your academic progress but are not allowed to assist you or complete any academic work for you. Student-athletes should contact the assistant director, student-athlete support services for academic support resources.

Dropping/Withdrawing from a Course

To avoid becoming ineligible for competition, student-athletes must consult with the associate director, compliance prior to dropping or withdrawing from a course. Dropping or withdrawing from courses may have an adverse impact on athletic eligibility. The associate director, compliance will work with the student-athlete to discuss the implications, if any, on their eligibility if the course is dropped.

Academic Integrity

UC Merced has the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity. Student-athletes are expected to serve as leaders and role models. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students should refer to the UC Merced [Academic Honesty Policy](#) overseen by Student Conduct for additional information.

Student-athletes and staff must be aware of and comply with NCAA Division II bylaw 14.2.10 Academic Misconduct.

Priority Registration

All UC Merced student-athletes on an active intercollegiate athletic team roster will receive priority registration in coordination with the UC Merced Registrar's Office. For regular academic terms (fall and spring semesters), student-athletes are permitted to register for classes one business day prior to the start of the regular registration period.

Academic Standing

Detailed information about UC Merced Academic Standing policies can be found in the [catalog](#). At the end of each semester, students who are not in good standing will be notified about action items and next steps by their school dean.

Full Time Enrollment Hold

Full-time enrollment is required for practice and competition eligibility. A hold will be placed upon student-athletes records in Banner which prevents dropping below 12-units. Please meet with the associate director, compliance prior to dropping a course which will drop your enrollment below 12-units. The associate director, compliance will review the implications to eligibility.

Missed Class Policy

The Athletics Department requires student-athletes to take the following steps to ensure missed class time due to athletic competition does not negatively impact academic performance:

All student-athletes will receive a letter with an attached schedule of their prospective sport prior to the academic year. They are required to submit this letter to each academic instructor by the end of the first week of classes. The student should highlight the events with conflicts on the schedule.

This gives the instructor the opportunity to tell the student-athlete whether such an arrangement is satisfactory and what adjustments the student-athlete will have to make to successfully complete the course. In addition, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to remind the instructor one week in advance of each missed class, to ask what work can be done to compensate for missed days.

It is the student-athlete's responsibility to analyze each class syllabus during the first week of the semester. If there is any potential for missing classes due to competition (or any question about the possibility of losing points due to absence), student-athletes should speak directly with each instructor about procedures for turning work in early or taking quizzes and/or exams early.

If an instructor requires additional written or verbal verification, student-athletes should contact the associate director, compliance. For teams that advance to postseason competition, the executive director of athletics will prepare an additional letter detailing the postseason travel and competition schedule. Copies of these letters will be available from the head coach for each student-athlete to distribute to their professors.

Playing and Practice Season

Countable Athletically Related Activities (CARA)

CARA include any required activity with an athletics purpose, involving student-athletes and at the direction of, or supervised by, any member or members of an institutions coaching staff (including strength and conditioning coaches) and must be counted within the weekly and daily limitations. Administrative activities (e.g. academic meetings, compliance meetings) shall not be considered as countable athletically related activities.

The procedures for documenting weekly athletically related activities are as follows:

- The CARA log documents each student-athlete's weekly participation in countable activities to ensure compliance with daily and weekly hour limitations and required day(s) off.
- The CARA log is to be filled out daily in ARMS by the coaching staff to note all countable activities that took place that day. All coaches (including strength and conditioning coaches) need to be consulted to ensure a complete and accurate portrayal is documented.
- CARA must be submitted in ARMS no later than Wednesday at 5:00pm for the previous week.
- The CARA log will be submitted to student-athletes from each team to verify and sign the form.
- After the hours have been verified by the student-athlete, it will be reviewed by the associate director, compliance.
- Any violations or areas of concern raised because of the review of CARA logs will be addressed by the associate director, compliance immediately upon discovery.
- The executive director will be notified of multiple or continual violations of Countable Athletically Related Activities (CARA) restrictions.

Countable Activities

The following activities whether occurring in-person or virtually are considered countable athletically related activities for the purpose of practice hour limitations:

- Practice.
- Athletic meetings with a coach that are initiated or required by the coach.
- Competition (counts as three hours regardless of actual length).
- Setting up offensive and defensive alignments.
- Required weight training and conditioning activities.
- Required participation in camps/clinics.
- Visiting the competition site in cross country.
- Participation outside the regular season in individual skill-related instructional activities with a member of the coaching staff.
- Discussion or review of film.

Non-Countable Activities

The following activities are not considered countable athletically related activities for the purpose of practice hour limitations:

- Compliance meetings.
- Drug/alcohol educational meetings or professional development meetings.
- Study hall, tutoring, or academic meetings.
- SAAC meetings.
- Voluntary weight training not conducted by a coach.
- Voluntary sport-related activities, no attendance taken, and no coach present.
- Traveling to/from the site of competition.
- Training room activities.
- Recruiting activities (ex. Student host).
- Pregame meals.
- Attending banquets.
- Fundraising activities, public relations/promotional activities, or community service/engagement projects.

Financial Aid

Financial Aid and Scholarship

The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship and the Student's First Center are the two best resources to answer questions regarding financial aid. Additional information can be found on their website at: <https://financialaid.ucmerced.edu/>

Athletic Scholarships

Athletic Scholarships are awarded on an academic year basis. Scholarship amounts are determined by the head coach of each sport, which are then approved by the executive director, recreation & athletics and are awarded by the campus. All guidelines must be followed as presented in the athletic scholarship offer notice and each student-athlete is responsible for adhering to this contract for the entire academic year. Student-athletes with questions should discuss them directly with the head coach. If a scholarship is revoked, student-athletes can appeal the decision, and this process is outlined below.

Note: Please be aware that NCAA rules may prohibit the receipt of financial aid or athletic aid in combination with other aid in excess of the cost of attendance, or in some cases, the cost of a full grant in-aid. The Federal Pell Grant is exempt from these limits.

Monitoring individual and team limits is the responsibility of the executive director, recreation & athletics, director of financial aid and scholarships or designee and the associate director, compliance. Student-athletes at the institution may not receive athletic-related financial aid

over a full grant-in-aid as defined by NCAA Division II which includes tuition, required fees, room, board, books, and supplies required by a course.

UC Merced Athletics will comply with the requirements as set forth by Bylaw 15 of the NCAA Division II Manual and CCAA (California Collegiate Athletic Association) requirements including, but not limited to, maximum limits on financial aid, elements of financial aid, terms and conditions of awarding institutional aid, and maximum institutional grant-in-aid limitations by sport.

The awarding of athletic scholarships for student-athletes must be consistent with NCAA Division II and CCAA rules and regulations. Student-athletes may not receive athletically related financial aid over a full grant-in-aid as defined by NCAA Division II which includes tuition, required fees, room, board, books and required supplies for a course.

For more information on athletic scholarships and the NCAA, please refer to Bylaw 15 of the NCAA Division II manual. A free electronic version of the manual can be found at NCAA Publications; <https://www.ncaapublications.com/>

A student-athlete may receive other non-countable financial aid unrelated to athletic ability (e.g., academic or honors scholarships) up to the full cost of attendance or the value of a full grant-in-aid plus aid that is permissible by federal regulations. Any financial aid “that would result in a student-athlete’s total financial aid exceeding the value of tuition and fees, room and board, required course-related books and required course-related supplies” must be based on a student-athlete’s demonstrated financial need.

If a student-athlete has been selected for the federal or state verification process, any resulting changes to the federal or state aid shall be in accordance with all federal and state regulations, up to and including the loss or reduction of aid. Student-athletes must complete the entire financial aid process including verification.

Process for Renewal of Athletics Scholarships

All returning student-athletes will have to sign a new *Athletic Scholarship Agreement* in ARMS each subsequent year the scholarship is renewed. If a returning student-athlete who was considered a walk-on the previous year and is awarded an athletic scholarship for the new year, an *Athletic Scholarship Agreement* must be signed in ARMS.

If the athletic aid is being reduced or not renewed, the associate director, compliance will complete the *Athletic Aid Adjustment* form in ARMS and send it to the financial aid liaison in the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships. Any student-athlete whose athletic aid is being reduced or not renewed must be sent Award Amount Notification Letter from the director of the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships or designee regarding as to why their athletic award was reduced

or not renewed and any recourses. Every student-athlete whose athletic aid has been reduced or not renewed has the opportunity, under NCAA rules, to appeal this decision.

Returning student-athletes will not be awarded financial aid until a signed agreement is received. When received, the student-athlete will be awarded financial aid they are eligible for and sent an Award Letter

Changes to Aid Amount

Revisions to a student-athlete's financial aid awards may be necessary as a result of:

- Notification or receipt of an outside scholarship or grant
- Notification or receipt of a department or institutional scholarship or grant
- Any change in their financial information due to correction of FAFSA information submitted, including completion of the federal or institutional verification process.
- Approval of a *Professional Judgment (special circumstances) appeal*
- Any change in their enrollment status
- Any circumstance that under federal, state, or institutional law or policy requires a revision to any student-athlete's financial aid package.

If an adjustment to a student-athlete's financial aid awards is necessary during a term or after practices have begun, the financial aid liaison for student-athletes will update the system to reflect changes. All changes made will be updated with the assistant director, business and finance, and the associate director, compliance.

It is NCAA policy that institutional aid, based in any degree on athletic ability, may only be reduced or removed during the period of the award if the recipient:

- Renders him or herself ineligible for intercollegiate competition (through either becoming academically ineligible or through a violation of the amateurism regulations).
- Fraudulently misrepresents any information on an application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement.
- Engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty (ex. a violation of UC Merced's Code of Conduct).
- Voluntarily withdraws from a sport at any time for personal reasons.
- Student-athlete enters the NCAA transfer portal or provides notification of transfer.

Any such reduction or removal of aid during the period of the award will be approved only if such action is taken for proper cause and written documentation is submitted to the executive director, recreation & athletics and the associate director, compliance.

In addition, at the end of the period of the award, athletic aid may be increased, reduced or not renewed for the following year based upon the student-athlete's level of performance or any violation of institution, department or team policies.

Appeal Process for Cancellation and or Reduction of Athletic Scholarship Awards

1. The director of financial aid & scholarships or designee shall send written notification to the student-athlete regarding the opportunity for an appeal hearing. The student-athlete shall have fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days upon the date of issuance of this letter to respond, in writing, to the director of financial aid & scholarships or designee and formally request a hearing.
2. Failure by the student-athlete to submit a written request for a hearing within fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days shall be interpreted as a refusal of the opportunity for a hearing. As a result, the initial determination for non-renewal, removal, or reduction of athletic aid shall be made final and binding.
3. If the student-athlete requests in writing of their intent to appeal within the fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days, the Scholarship Appeals Committee chair will be immediately notified. The Scholarship Appeals Committee is a committee charged by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships and is not connected with Recreation & Athletics. The FAR serves as a member of the Scholarship Appeals Committee when student-athlete appeals are heard.
4. The Scholarship Appeals Committee chair shall conduct the hearing **within 30 consecutive calendar days of receiving written notification of a student-athlete's intent to appeal, in accordance with NCAA rules.** The committee chair will notify the student-athlete, head coach and the executive director of the time, date, and location of their respective hearings via email.
5. At this hearing, the student-athlete and head coach have an opportunity to present their case separately regarding the non-renewal, removal, or reduction of athletic aid.
6. Both parties are permitted to present witnesses and/or documents to the committee that may support their position. **Both the student-athlete and head coach will each be given a maximum of 30 minutes to present their documentation and/or testimony from witnesses.**
7. An adviser may accompany a student-athlete during an appeal. The adviser is generally a fellow student, faculty member, mentor, friend, or parent. Legal counsel may not accompany the student-athlete. On occasion, a student-athlete has been accompanied by a mentor, who is trained as a lawyer. In this event, the mentor serves strictly as an adviser and does not serve as legal counsel. The university will provide an Ombudsperson to assist the student-athlete, if requested.
8. The decision as to whether the student-athlete may be given an opportunity to compete for a roster spot on a UC Merced athletic team is beyond the authority of the Appeals Committee and rests with the head coach and/or executive director. The Scholarship Appeals Committee may only render a decision about the non-renewal, removal, or reduction of the athletic aid.
9. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Scholarship Appeals Committee shall have up to 5 business days to render a final decision as to the status of athletics aid. With written agreement from both the student-athlete and the Athletic Department, an extension to the 5 business days may be granted, if requested by the Appeals Committee.

10. The committee chair will notify the student-athlete, head coach and executive director the committee's decision in writing. **This decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.**

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students receiving institutional financial aid are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Detailed information regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress, and the process of appealing, can be found on the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships website:

<https://financialaid.ucmerced.edu/SAP>

Sports Medicine and Student Health Services

Policies

Athletic Training Room General Information

The athletic training staff utilizes two athletic training rooms. The main athletic training room is in the Student Activities and Athletic Center and the satellite athletic training room in the Health and Athletics Center. The use of the athletic training facilities is exclusively for current sports club and intercollegiate student-athletes who have completed the required paperwork through the compliance department and passed a pre-participation physical exam. The regular business hours—in addition to event coverage and scheduled practices—are posted and vary based on season. During the non-traditional seasons, it is recommended that student-athletes use the regular business hours for evaluation of new injuries and daily rehabilitation sessions. The athletic training staff often utilizes the Student Health Center as a primary step in the care of the student-athletes. The Student Health Center is open from 8:00am–4:30pm Monday through Friday.

To allow time for treatment, rehabilitation, taping, etc., the student-athlete needs to be in the athletic training room one hour prior to the team's practice or event. The student-athlete must comply with the treatment times established by their supervising athletic trainer. Since each athletic trainer and each team has individual needs, requirements by the supervising athletic trainer will be established and communicated to the team prior to the start of their season.

The athletic training program uses a network of providers and specialists. In the event of an athletically related injury, the athletic training and medical staff evaluates and recommends a treatment plan. When services are pre-authorized by UC Merced staff, the program covers any expense within the network that the family's insurance does not cover (e.g., co-payments and deductibles). The UC Merced insurance policy is secondary support to the student-athlete's insurance, which means that their insurance is primary and will be billed in every circumstance. Outside services will be authorized at the discretion of the athletic training staff or UC Merced health center physician.

The UC Merced Recreation and Athletics department will cover only those injuries that are a direct result of intercollegiate athletic practice or play. Department policies prohibit the department from paying for surgeries that were not a direct result from practice or competition, as well as expenses that occur during unsupervised summer workouts. This means that non-athletically related injuries (car accidents, home and dorm accidents, illnesses) cannot be covered.

Student-Athlete Responsibilities

- Information sports medicine staff of any existing or past injuries.
- All injuries and illnesses resulting from any ICA-related participation must be reported to the sports medicine staff.
- ICA-related participation includes official university competition, practices under coaches' supervision, and any strength and conditioning under the direction and supervision of coaching staff or strength and conditioning staff.
- Student-athletes must provide documentation when seeing any providers outside of UC Merced. This includes, but is not limited to imaging, notes, and reports. Failure to provide documentation may delay medical clearance for participation.
- If the student-athlete would like a referral to a specialist, or a second opinion, they must consult with the sports medicine staff.
- Not to return to play/practice without a clearance from the sports medicine staff.
- Attend all recommended treatment or rehabilitation sessions as directed by the sports medicine staff.
- Student-athletes must keep health insurance up to date with the sports medicine staff if there are any changes to coverage.

Sickle Cell Trait

UC Merced Recreation and Athletics requires ICA student-athletes to disclose their sickle cell status to the UC Merced sports medicine staff. All student-athletes must be able to provide proof of sickle cell status as mandated by the NCAA. If a student-athlete is unable to provide proof of sickle cell status, testing may be done with their primary care physician or SHS.

Knowing this information and providing the information to the UC Merced sports medicine staff will significantly decrease the likelihood of a life-threatening incident occurring during conditioning and games. Testing positive for the sickle cell trait will not preclude an athlete from participating in athletics at UC Merced. Being aware of their status and taking proper precautions can help carriers enjoy successful and healthy athletic careers.

Athletic Medical Clearance Policy

- Returning ICA student-athletes must complete the following items to be eligible for practice and competition:
 - Complete an annual sports physical.

- Only sports physicals completed by UC Merced Student Health Services will be accepted.
 - Update all required information in Sportsware.
 - Complete all assigned forms in ARMS.
 - All forms will be printed for minors to obtain parent/guardian signatures.
 - Complete the concussion safety course annually.
- Incoming student-athletes must complete the following items to be eligible for practice and competition:
 - Complete an annual sports physical.
 - Only sports physicals completed by UC Merced Student Health Services will be accepted.
 - Update all required information in Sportsware.
 - Sign the *Concussion Acknowledgement Form*.
 - Complete all assigned forms in ARMS.
 - All forms will be printed for minors to obtain parent/guardian signatures.
 - Complete the concussion safety course annually.
 - Complete the ImPACT concussion baseline test.
 - Proof of sickle cell trait status.
- Any student-athlete who has a complex medical history must provide medical records documenting the history and show clearance by their attending physician before completing their annual sports physical. UC Merced Student Health Services will review all documentation and provide a final clearance.
- Any student-athlete under the care of a specialist will need documentation of clearance prior to being cleared by UC Merced Student Health Services.
- Non-clearance status or medical disqualification is assigned to student-athletes who are discovered to possess a condition or injury that presents a danger to the student-athlete if they were to participate or if his / her injury or condition may present as a liability in the future. Further documentation may be needed from consulting physicians.
- UC Merced is not responsible for expenses related to student-athletes with pre-existing conditions. The student-athlete is responsible for the costs of physical therapy, appointments or any conditions incurred due to the pre-existing condition.

Sports Medicine Staff Communication

The sports medicine staff will notify head coaches of injury assessment, physician diagnosis, treatment plan, tests ordered, student-athletes' responsibility for treatment, and any other pertinent information regarding the medical care of a student-athlete on their team. The sports medicine staff are responsible for notifying the head coach of practice and competition limitations or restrictions for an injured student-athlete. These limitations and restrictions will come either from a physician order or from a sports medicine staff recommendation based on

the possibility of further injury to the student-athlete. The information will be communicated via daily injury reports from Sportsware, via email and in person to head coaches.

Care and Treatment

Student-athletes must report all injuries and/or illness that could impede their performance during practice or competition to the sports medicine staff as soon as possible. If an injury occurs away from campus and is athletics related, the student-athlete must report the incident to the sports medicine staff immediately via phone, text or email. The student-athlete should coordinate with the sports medicine staff to have the injury evaluated on campus as soon as possible. No matter how minor, all injuries should be reported to and evaluated by the sports medicine staff. The university is not responsible for injuries or illness not directly related to competing or participating in an intercollegiate activity. However, if the student-athlete is injured out of season, the sports medicine staff should be notified. The sports medicine staff will make necessary medical referrals as indicated.

Emergencies and Emergency Action Plans (EAP)

Student-athletes should call 911 or campus police if on campus if you experience a medical emergency. UC Merced athletic insurance does not provide coverage for accidents/illnesses not related to athletic participation.

The general Emergency Action Plan (EAP), can be found at each facility and on the athletics website at <https://ucmercedbobcats.com/sports/2023/3/15/athletic-training.aspx>

Withholding and/or Limiting Student-Athletes from Practice/Competition

- Any orders on limitations or holding a student-athlete from activity by Student Health Services is final and must be adhered to by the sports medicine staff and coaching staff.
- The sports medicine staff can limit or hold a student-athlete from participation if they assess that the student-athlete will further risk themselves of injury, or if participation is not in the best interest of the student-athlete.
- Coaching staff must adhere to the limitations.
- Any recommendation regarding participation by an outside physician will be reviewed by Student Health Services and they will have the final determination on any limitations or holds.
- Any limitations or holds will be communicated to the head coach by the sports medicine staff.
- Coaching staff should have no influence or attempt to pressure a student-athlete into participating or punish them in any way for injury limitations.

Concussion Protocol

All student-athletes are required to complete an online baseline testing prior to participation. This testing will be used as part of the return to play protocol. Any student-athlete suspected of

having a concussion should be referred to the sports medicine staff immediately. The student-athlete will be evaluated by the sports medicine staff and referred to the Student Health Center if a concussion is suspected. When a diagnosis of a concussion has been made, the student-athlete will be withheld from participation.

Student-athletes must complete the concussion return to play protocol prior to being cleared to return to activity. The Student Health Center providers will make the determination on when the student-athlete may start the stepwise protocol. The protocol will be monitored by the sports medicine staff.

No student-athlete will be allowed to return to play until medical clearance is obtained and has been electronically communicated to the athletic trainer via Point and Click software.

The entire policy may be found in Appendix #1 at the end of this handbook.

Student-athletes diagnosed with a concussion should contact Student Accessibility Services for academic accommodation, and the Faculty Athletics Representative for support of the return to learn process.

Medical Referrals

All appointments or referrals must be made by the sports medicine staff. Any coach or student-athlete who, on their own, makes an appointment with an outside medical specialist will be expected to cover all charges incurred. UC Merced will not cover any expenses from appointments or referrals without approval from the assistant director of student-athlete well-being.

Pre-existing Injuries

Neither the insurance carrier nor UC Merced will accept the responsibility of expenses for a student-athlete with a pre-existing condition/injury and will not pay for any treatment for a pre-existing condition.

Insurance Coverage

All students enrolled in UC Merced are required to have primary insurance, either through a private or parental policy or UC Merced's UCSHIP program. The athlete's primary insurance is responsible for medical costs incurred because of an intercollegiate athletics injury.

If a student-athlete's primary insurance is an HMO, based outside of Merced County, it is required by UC Merced that the student-athlete change their primary physician to an approved provider within Merced County. This allows for the student-athlete to seek care in a timely manner.

UC Merced Student Intercollegiate Athlete Excess Insurance: UC Merced Recreation and Athletics is insured through an independent insurance agency for secondary, or **excess**, accident medical and dental expense coverage. This means it responds **after** the athlete's primary

insurance is utilized. UC Merced's secondary athletic insurance policy is responsible for expenses up to \$35,000 or a two-year period, whichever occurs first. There is also a \$15,000 accidental death and dismemberment benefit for all qualified student-athletes.

UC Merced Catastrophic Insurance Coverage (Over \$35,000 in expenses): If medical bills for a covered injury exceed \$35,000 within two years from date of injury, catastrophic insurance will apply if student has no other medical coverage.

Claims are subject to policy exclusions or limitations. COVERAGE IS NOT PROVIDED FOR AN ILLNESS OR DISEASE unless it results directly from a covered injury. Injuries that occurred before the athlete began participating in intercollegiate athletics are also excluded.

Medical costs will be covered by the UC Merced secondary insurance provider, when the following conditions are met:

- a. The athlete is listed as a member of his/her respective team, the athlete has passed, and has on file, his/her medical history questionnaire that has been signed by a Medical Doctor, has completed, and has on file, the Intercollegiate Athletic Insurance Form, and has completed, and has on file, the Consent Forms.
- b. The injury is reported immediately or as soon as possible (but in no case later than 90 days after the injury) to the athletic trainer.
- c. A record of the injury is completed by the athletic trainer and a claim form has been completed by the athlete.
- d. The athlete has first submitted the claim to the primary insurance carrier. Once the primary insurance has covered its portion, all itemized bills, Explanation of Benefits or denial letters must be forwarded to the athletic training staff.

Treatment must begin and medical expenses must be incurred within 90 days of the injury.

Student-Athlete Pregnancy Protocol

The UC Merced Recreation and Athletics Department is committed to the personal health and development of all our members, and to the educational mission of our school. We strive to provide an environment that respects all pregnancy and parenting decisions and urges all participants to work cooperatively toward degree completion. This protocol sets forth the policies established for pregnant and parenting students, including those with pregnancy related conditions. It also prohibits retaliation against any student or employee who reports issues related to the enforcement of this pregnancy protocol. It is the goal of the Recreation and Athletics Department to protect every student-athletes' physical and psychological health, and their ability to complete their education. For more information, please review the [NCAA's Pregnant and Parenting Student-Athletes Resources and Model Policies](#).

What to do if you become pregnant

It is strongly recommended that student-athletes who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant inform UC Merced Student Health Services (SHS), athletic trainer, and others important to them. UC Merced Recreation and Athletics also wants to protect your athletics-

related financial aid. Do not immediately assume that you must withdraw from your sport. We want to give you time and help in considering your options.

Confidentiality

Pregnancy is treated just like any other temporary medical condition and the health, safety, and well-being of the student-athlete and unborn child will remain a priority. While not required, it is strongly recommended that the student-athlete notify the assistant director student-athlete well-being of a pregnancy as early as possible, regardless of whether the pregnancy will be carried to term or terminated. It is in the student-athlete's best interest to ensure that proper medical care and/or necessary counseling is being sought.

Confidentiality will be maintained. Notification of the coach(es)/other personnel is the decision of the student-athlete and will only become necessary once it no longer becomes safe for the student-athlete to participate or is limited due to pregnancy.

What happens to your athletics-related financial aid

If you are pregnant and you tell your coach or athletic trainer, and you do not voluntarily withdraw from your sport, then your scholarship will remain in place for the remainder of that academic year. Please refer to the terms and conditions section of your scholarship agreements or talk with the associate director, compliance if you have any questions.

Can you continue training and competing?

If you decide to remain pregnant and wish to continue in your sport, we will form a decision-support team that consists of you, your coach, SHS, assistant director student-athlete well-being, and others as appropriate. Depending on your sport and with your healthcare professional's approval, you may be able to continue training and competing up to your 14th week of pregnancy. The student-athlete will be educated on the effects of strenuous physical activity and the warning signs indicating the necessity to terminate exercise. The decision-support team will provide mandatory monitoring of your health and academic progress and will assist you in your return to competition if that is your desire.

What is covered by your insurance:

UC Merced will not cover pregnancy under their athletic injury medical insurance. The individual student-athlete will need to use their personal medical health insurance coverage. UC Merced SHS can refer patients with no medical insurance to the appropriate resources.

What if you're an athlete whose partner becomes pregnant

Although you will not be affected by physical changes associated with the pregnancy, you may suffer psychological stress, have concern about the health of your pregnant partner and their unborn child, and question your readiness for parenthood and the personal and financial obligations you face. In any of these circumstances, we encourage you to discuss them with

your partner and, whether they are a student-athlete or not, join them in assembling a decision-support team as outlined and recommended above in this policy.

Scheduling an appointment with UC Merced Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is an option to help cope with any psychological stress you may experience.

Medical Hardship and Eligibility

If the student-athlete becomes pregnant they are eligible for a medical hardship for that season of competition that they will miss due to pregnancy. The assistant director student-athlete well-being will collect the necessary medical documentation and submit it to the governing conference for review.

Student Health Services

Student Health Services serves all UC Merced students and serves as the primary health care providers for UC Merced Athletics.

<https://health.ucmerced.edu/>

Health and Athletics Center HAC second floor (209) 228-2273

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm; Tuesday 9:30am – 4:30pm

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS provides counseling services to support the mental health and well-being of all UC Merced students.

<https://counseling.ucmerced.edu/>

Health and Athletics Center HAC second floor (209) 228-4266

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm

After Hours assistance: Call (209) 228-4266 to access emergency after hours clinical support.

Appendix #1

Concussion Protocol

University of California, Merced

Concussion/Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Protocol

Concussion: A concussion is defined as a traumatic brain injury induced by biomechanical forces. Several common features that may be utilized to clinically define the nature of a concussion head injury include:

- May be caused either by a direct blow to the head, face, neck or elsewhere on the body with an impulsive force transmitted to the head.
- Typically results in the rapid onset of short-lived impairment of neurological function that resolves spontaneously. However, in some cases, signs and symptoms evolve over a number of minutes to hours.
- May result in neuropathological changes, but the acute clinical signs and symptoms largely reflect a functional disturbance rather than a structural injury and, as such, no abnormality is seen on standard structural neuroimaging studies.
- Results in a range of clinical signs and symptoms that may or may not involve loss of consciousness. Resolution of the clinical and cognitive features typically follows a sequential course. However, in some cases symptoms may be prolonged.
- Clinical signs and symptoms cannot be explained by drug, alcohol or medication use, other injuries (such as cervical injuries, peripheral vestibular dysfunction, etc.) or other comorbidities (e.g., psychological factors or coexisting medical conditions).

Purpose: The University of California, Merced Student Health Services recognizes that head injuries, particularly sports-related concussions, pose a significant health risk for those student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics and sports clubs at the university. Consequently, Student Health Services and UC Merced Recreation & Athletics sports medicine staff has implemented policies and procedures to: educate student-athletes, coaches and other staff of the signs and symptoms of concussion; ensure proper return to play guidelines are followed; and the early identification of student-athletes with symptoms consistent with a concussion.

Policy: Due to the serious nature of this injury and potentially dangerous results of returning to activity, concussions need to be recognized and diagnosed as soon as possible. Coaches, athletic trainers, student-athletes and other staff as appropriate will be trained to recognize the symptoms of a concussion. The student-athletes will be required to notify the athletic trainer or coach of their symptoms and they will be immediately removed from play. The athletic trainer is responsible for evaluating the student-athlete and will refer them to Student Health Services as soon as possible. The return to play protocol, which is a step-wise protocol, will be initiated by the attending physician then executed by the athletic trainer. The athletic trainer will guide the student-athlete through protocol and communicate with the attending physician as necessary to provide a high quality of care. No student-athlete will be allowed to return to play until medical clearance is obtained and has been electronically communicated to the athletic trainer via Point and Click Software.

Procedure:

Concussion Education

1. All coaches, athletic trainers and other staff as appropriate will receive annual concussion awareness training through the UC Learning Center (Concussion Safety Course). Verification is sent to the athletic training staff via the UC Learning Center's automated notification system.
2. Prior to any practice/competition, all new student-athletes will be asked to review information found on the [UC Merced Sports Medicine webpage](#) regarding concussion symptoms and e-sign a statement accepting the responsibility for truthfully reporting his/her injuries, symptoms to the athletic trainer, coach or Student Health Center immediately when the symptoms arise. This [statement](#) is found in their Sportsware profile, and a copy of this will be submitted into the student athlete's PNC file. New student-athletes will attend a concussion awareness training and discussion provided by Student Health Services. All returning student-athletes will receive annual concussion awareness training via the UC Learning Center (Concussion Safety Course). During each team's student-athlete onboarding meeting provided by Athletics, the athletic training staff will lead a discussion regarding concussion awareness and information.
3. Athletic trainers will utilize the latest recommended side line assessment tools for assessing concussions (SCAT).
4. Coaches will be provided an informational handout annually to assist the recognition of concussions.

Baseline Neuropsychological Testing and Pre-Participation Physical Examinations

1. The athletic training department will utilize ImPACT testing as a neuropsychological baseline. All student-athletes must complete the baseline testing prior to participation in practice or competition.
2. All student-athletes must have an annual pre-participation physical completed and on file with the Student Health Center prior to participating in practice/competition. The pre-participation physical exam will include a complete health history, neurological history and exam, and a history of concussions.
3. Medical clearance will be provided to the athletic training staff via a secure message through Point and Click.

Management of the Student-Athlete with Concussion Symptoms

1. Any student-athlete suspected of signs/symptoms of a concussion will immediately be removed from play. When an athletic trainer witnesses or is made aware of a suspected student-athlete who may be concussed, they will remove the student-athlete from activity and perform an assessment using the SCAT tool. When a member of the coaching staff or a member of the athletic training student staff witness or is made aware of a suspected concussion, they are to remove the student-athlete from activities and refer them to a member of the athletic training staff to complete an assessment.
2. The athletic trainer will do an assessment either away from activity or in the athletic training room using the most currently recommended Sideline Concussion Assessment Tool. If these

results indicate there is a possibility of a concussion, the student-athlete will not be allowed to return to play until medical clearance is complete. If the concussion is deemed mild and the student-athlete is in stable condition with normal arousal, the student-athlete will be notified to make an appointment with the Student Health Services as soon as possible. The coach will then be notified the student athlete will no longer be participating until they are cleared by Student Health Services. If any of the indications listed below are present, the athletic trainer will follow emergency protocol and call emergency services.

Indications for Immediate Referral to 911 dispatch:

- i. Prolonged loss of consciousness
 - ii. Deteriorating level of consciousness
 - iii. High index of suspicion of spine or skull injury
 - iv. Seizure activity
 - v. Evidence of hemodynamic instability/deterioration of vital signs
 - vi. Deterioration of neurological signs such as motor, sensory and cranial nerve deficits
 - vii. Loss of consciousness after the athletic event or initial injury
 - viii. Persistent vomiting
 - ix. Post-concussion symptoms that worsen
3. The student-athlete will be regularly reassessed during the athletic event or practice. If signs and symptoms begin to deteriorate or worsen, emergency services will be called and that student-athlete will be sent to the nearest emergency room.
4. If the student-athlete's symptoms are improving or unchanged, they will be permitted to return to their home/dorm with an information packet detailing instructions and actions which should be taken if symptoms worsen. The information packet will be explained and discussed with a designated person who agreed to care for the concussed student-athlete, which may be a family member, roommate/housemate or reliable friend. This designated person who agrees to stay with the concussed athlete will be instructed to monitor them for any changing or worsening symptoms for the first 24 hours. The athletic trainer will contact the student-athlete or the designated person later in the day or before the student-athlete goes to bed to ensure there is appropriate arousal and cognitive function. If the student-athlete or designated person cannot be contacted within the first 24 hours, the situation will be deemed emergent and the Campus Police Department will be contacted and asked to do a wellness check of the student-athlete. See the list of "Indications for Immediate Referral to 911 dispatch" above in section 2 for scenarios calling for immediate 911 dispatch.
5. When a concussion is suspected, the student-athlete will be referred and evaluated by a licensed health care provider in Student Health Services. Complete cognitive and physical rest will be recommended for the first 24-48 hours after injury. The student-athlete will be referred to UC Merced Student Accessibility Services if further accommodations are needed. The student-athlete will be able to gradually return to their academic commitments based on

recommendations by the attending physician. The student-athlete may begin vestibular oculomotor rehabilitation with the athletic trainer after the initial resting period, if recommended by the treating physician. When initiated by the physician, the patient will begin a step-wise progression of the return to play protocol with the athletic training staff. Student-athlete symptom score and progression of the return to play protocol will be documented daily. Upon completion of the Return to Play Protocol, the athletic training staff will send the return to play notes and ImpACT post-test results to Student Health Services for final clearance. The SHS provider will then review the documentation and provide clearance based on the recommendations of the athletic training staff. Via PNC.

Return to Learn

Return to learn implies a return to normal academic activities and should follow a similar concept to return to play. Return to learn guidelines assume that both physical and cognitive activities require brain energy and utilization, and that after a sport-related concussion, brain energy may not be available for physical and cognitive exertion because of a brain energy crisis. The return-to-learn aspect of this policy will be managed by Student Health Services. Return to learn will approach each individual in a multi-disciplinary method as needed, this includes physicians, athletic trainers, coaches, psychologists/counselors, neuropsychologists, administrators, Faculty Athletics Representative, as well as academic (e.g. professors, deans, academic advisors) and office of Student Accessibility Services representatives. The student-athlete may appear physically normal but may be unable to perform as expected due to concussive symptomatology. It is expected that all student-athletes should be fulfilling their academic responsibilities prior to fulfilling their athletic responsibilities.

Return to Play Guidelines

Return to play is the process of evaluating when a concussed student-athlete may safely return to practice or competition. It is the goal of UC Merced that a concussed student-athlete will be allowed to return to play without putting the individual at undue risk for further injury. The return to play progression will begin when initiated by the Student Health Center. The athletic trainer will be responsible for the progression of the Return to play protocol. If this student-athlete is symptom free during the activity and for 24 hours after, the athletic trainer will progress to the next phase the following day. One phase should be completed each day, except for the neuropsychological testing, which can be completed any time between phases four and six. If symptoms arise at any phase throughout protocol, it is recommended the student-athlete re-start the failed phase the following day. The athletic trainer will make any necessary adjustments to the return to play protocol according to the student-athlete's symptoms, which may include referring them back to Student Health Services.

Return to Play Protocol

1. **Symptom Limited Physical and Mental Activity-** Directly after being diagnosed with a concussion, the student-athlete will be evaluated by a medical provider and should follow symptom limited physical and mental rest for at least 24-48 hours. The athletic trainer may begin vestibular oculomotor exercises with the student-athlete upon the request of the attending physician. Once the student is asymptomatic, they may progress through the remainder of this protocol with involvement of the athletic trainer.
2. **Aerobic Exercise-** Walking or biking for a minimum of 15 minutes while keeping heart rate between 55-70% of maximum. The student-athlete must remain asymptomatic during this step.
3. **Individual Sport-specific Exercise-** Basic low impact drills associated with the student-athlete's sport for a minimum of 30 minutes. No head impact activities and no contact is permitted during this phase. The student-athlete must remain asymptomatic during this step. Recommended activities for each sport are listed in Appendix I.
4. **Non-contact Practice.** Progress to more complex drills and resistance training. This phase will consist of a full practice session but is restricted to non-contact activities. No head impact activities and no contact is permitted during this phase. The student-athlete must remain asymptomatic during this step.
5. **Complete Neuropsychological Testing-** The student-athlete's scores must return to baseline status before full contact practice. This test can be completed any time after completion of phase 4 but must be completed prior to phase 6.
6. **Unrestricted/Full contact Practice-** Resume normal training activities. The student-athlete must remain asymptomatic during a full speed, full contact practice.
7. **Return to Play-** Upon completion of the prior phases, the athletic trainer will message the provider and submit all return to play documentation and ImPACT post-injury test results into PNC for the provider to review. The provider will then clear the student athlete with any recommendations necessary.

Appendix #2

Emergency Action Plans (EAPs)

JOSEPH EDWARD GALLO RECREATION BUILDING WEIGHT AND EXERCISE ROOM

Immediate Care of the patron/athlete

Provide basic first aid care to the injured patron/athlete. Determine severity of the injury and if CATS COPS should dispatch an ambulance.

If an Ambulance is needed: Notify CAT COPS (228-2677) or 911

Provide the following information, **be specific**

- State your name.
- "I am in the weight room of the Joseph Gallo Recreation Building."
- The number you are calling from.
- The situation that has occurred
- Care you have provided.
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up**

CAT COPS will provide directions to the facility to the ambulance

If an Ambulance is not needed:

- Provide first-aid care to the athlete.
- Notify the appropriate administrator.
- Fill out an accident report.
- Ask if there is someone they wish to contact.
- Request they visit the Reddy Health Center Immediately

Notify the appropriate administrator

Athletics and Sports Clubs

Kevin Vieira
(916)718-8911

Gallo Building

Melissa Patterson
(209) 228-2335

Special Events

David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Intramurals and Sports Clubs

Jarrood Garcia
(209) 228-4133

Outdoor Adventures

Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Retrieve necessary emergency supplies.

Medical Kit

AED

Splints

Have coaches and staff serve as crowd control.

Have one staff member stand outside to get the attention of the ambulance.

Joseph Edward Gallo Recreation Center

Hostetler Court

Immediate Care of the athlete

Provide basic first aid care to the injured athlete. Determine severity of the injury and if CATS COPS should dispatch an ambulance.

If an Ambulance IS needed:

- Refer to the back of the binder

If an Ambulance is NOT needed:

- Provide first-aid care to the athlete.
- Notify appropriate administrator
- Fill out an accident report.
- Ask if there is someone they wish to contact.
- Request they visit the Reddy Health Center Immediately

Notify the appropriate supervisor

Athletics and Sports Clubs

Kevin Vieira
(916) 718-8911

Recreation and Athletics Director

David Dunham
(209) 228-7732

Gallo and SAAC Building

Melissa Patterson
(209) 228-2335

Intramurals/

Sports Clubs

Jarrold Garcia
(209) 228-4133

Events

Joshua Moshier
(209) 228-4755

Retrieve emergency supplies

Medical Kit

AED – located at AT table for games; on water cart for practices

Splints

Have coaches and staff serve as crowd control

Have one staff member stand outside to get the attention of the ambulance

Student Activities and Athletics (SAAC) Building

Immediate Care of the patron/athlete

Provide basic first aid care to the injured patron/athlete. Determine severity of the injury and if CATS COPS should dispatch an ambulance.

If an Ambulance is needed:

Notify CAT COPS (228-2677) or 911

Provide the following information, **be specific**

- State your name.
- "I am at the Student Activities and Athletics Building."
- The number you are calling from.
- The situation that has occurred
- Care you have provided.
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up**

CAT COPS will provide directions to the facility to the ambulance

If an Ambulance is not needed:

- Provide first-aid care to the athlete.
- Notify appropriate administrator.
- Fill out an accident report.
- Ask if there is someone they wish to contact.
- Request they visit the Reddy Health Center Immediately

Notify the appropriate supervisor

Athletics and Sports Clubs

Kevin Vieira
(916)718-8911

Gallo Building

Melissa Patterson
(209) 228-2335

Special Events

David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Intramurals and Sports Clubs

Jarrold Garcia
(209) 228-4133

Outdoor Adventures

Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Retrieve emergency supplies.

Medical Kit
AED
Splints

Have coaches and staff serve as crowd control.

Have one staff member stand outside to get the attention of the ambulance.

BOBCAT FIELD AND RECREATION FIELDS

Immediate Care of the patron/athlete

Provide basic first aid care to the injured patron/athlete. Determine severity of the injury and if CATS COPS should dispatch an ambulance.

If an Ambulance is needed:

Notify CAT COPS (228-2677) or 911

Provide the following information, **be specific**

- State your name.
- "I am at the Recreation Fields."
- The number you are calling from.
- The situation that has occurred
- Care you have provided.
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up**

CAT COPS will provide directions to the facility to the ambulance

If an Ambulance is not needed:

- Provide first-aid care to the athlete.
- Notify the appropriate administrator.
- Fill out an accident report.
- Ask if there is someone they wish to contact.
- Request they visit the Reddy Health Center Immediately

Notify the appropriate administrator

Athletics and Sports Clubs

Kevin Vieira
(916)718-8911

Gallo Building

Melissa Patterson
(209) 228-2335

Special Events

David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Intramurals and Sports Clubs

Jarrold Garcia
(209) 228-4133

Outdoor Adventures

Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Retrieve emergency supplies.

Medical Kit

AED

Splints

Have coaches and staff serve as crowd control.

Have one staff member stand outside to get the attention of the ambulance.

AQUATICS CENTER

Immediate Care of the patron/athlete

Provide basic first aid care to the injured patron/athlete. Determine severity of the injury and if CATS COPS should dispatch an ambulance.

If an Ambulance is needed:

Notify CAT COPS (228-2677) or 911

Provide the following information, **be specific**

- State your name.
- "I am at the Aquatics Center."
- The number you are calling from.
- The situation that has occurred
- Care you have provided.
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up**

CAT COPS will provide directions to the facility to the ambulance

If an Ambulance is not needed:

- Provide first-aid care to the athlete.
- Notify the appropriate administrator.
- Fill out an accident report.
- Ask if there is someone they wish to contact.
- Request they visit Student Health Services Immediately

Notify the appropriate administrator.

Athletics and Sports Clubs

Kevin Vieira
(916)718-8911

Gallo Building

Melissa Patterson
(209) 228-2335

Intramurals and Sports Clubs

Jarrold Garcia
(209) 228-4133

Special Events

David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures

Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Retrieve emergency supplies.

Medical Kit
AED
Splints

Have coaches and staff serve as crowd control.

Have one staff member stand outside to get the attention of the ambulance.

TENNIS COURTS and BASKETBALL COURTS

Immediate Care of the patron/athlete

Provide basic first aid care to the injured patron/athlete. Determine severity of the injury and if CATS COPS should dispatch an ambulance.

If an Ambulance is needed:

Notify CAT COPS (228-2677) or 911

Provide the following information, **be specific**

- State your name.
- "I am at the Tennis courts" OR "I am at the outdoor basketball courts."
- The number you are calling from.
- The situation that has occurred
- Care you have provided.
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up**

CAT COPS will provide directions to the facility to the ambulance

If an Ambulance is not needed:

- Provide first-aid care to the athlete.
- Notify the appropriate administrator.
- Fill out an accident report.
- Ask if there is someone they wish to contact.
- Request they visit the Reddy Health Center Immediately

Notify the appropriate administrator.

Athletics and Sports Clubs

Kevin Vieira
(916)718-8911

Gallo Building

Melissa Patterson
(209) 228-2335

Intramurals and Sports Clubs

Jarrold Garcia
(209) 228-4133

Special Events

David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures

Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Retrieve emergency supplies.

Medical Kit
AED
Splints

Have coaches and staff serve as crowd control.

Have one staff member stand outside to get the attention of the ambulance.

FIRE EMERGENCY

Upon discovery of evidence that a fire emergency exists, an individual shall accomplish, or cause to be accomplished, the following actions.

- **Stay calm, panics create more emergencies.**
- **Be sure to have your keys and ID.**
- Activate the building fire alarm in buildings equipped with a manual fire alarm system.
- Begin the evacuation of the building.
- If safe to do so, shut off all machinery and equipment in the area.
- Leave the building at once.
- **Call CAT COPS (228-2677) or 911 from a safe location**

Provide the following information, **be specific.**

- State your name.
- “I am at the Joseph Gallo Recreation building.”
- The number you are calling from.
- The situation that has occurred
 - “There is a fire in the _____ location _____ of the building.”
- We have begun to evacuate the building.
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up.**

Notify the appropriate administrator.

Gallo and SAAC Building

Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

Intramurals and Sports Clubs

Jarrold Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events

David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures

Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Fill out an incident report.

All fires — even extinguished fires — as well as all fire alarms — even if suspected to be false or accidental — must be reported to CAT COPS (228-2677).

If you have a safe evacuation route (no fire and minimal and/or no smoke) from the area:

- Evacuate the building to the designated emergency assembly area
- Pull the fire alarm and warn others nearby as you are leaving.
- Move away from the fire and smoke whenever possible.
- Use stairs only, do not use elevators.
- Do not re-enter the building until you have been instructed to do so by emergency responders.

Door Alarms / Fire Alarms

If a door alarm was set off:

- Locate the key ring at the front desk.
 - Use the master key to turn the alarm off by turning the key to the “OFF” position.
 - Reset the alarm by turning the key to the “ON” position.
 - The lights will turn green.
 - Wait for the alarm to chirp three times, this means it is reset.
 - Be sure to educate patrons one why the alarms are set so they can avoid future occurrences.

If a fire alarm goes off:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locate where the alarm was pulled.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the alarm was pulled<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ begin to evacuate the building.◦ report the alarm to CAT COPS (228-2677) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the cover of the alarm was hit and is not properly in place<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Place the cover back into its proper position.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This should rest the alarm. |
|---|---|

Provide the following information, **be specific**

- State your name.
- “I am at the Joseph Gallo Recreation building.”
- The number you are calling from.
- The situation that has occurred
 - “There is a fire alarm in the building.”
- We have begun to evacuate the building.
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up**

Fill out an incident report.

Notify the appropriate administrator.

Gallo and SAAC Building
Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

Intramurals and Sports Clubs
Jarrod Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events
David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures
Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

EARTHQUAKES

When Indoors

- Stay calm.
- Grab your ID, keys and a first aid kit.
- Begin to evacuate the building and keep patrons calm.
- Provide first aid to anyone who may need it. Follow First Aid / Ambulance Protocol below if necessary.
- Do not re-enter the building until Campus Police have instructed you to do so.

When Outdoors

- Stay calm.
- Clear patrons from any tall trees or structures.
- Grab your ID, keys and a first aid kit.
- Provide first aid to who may need it. Follow First Aid / Ambulance Protocol below if necessary.
- Do not enter any buildings until Campus Police have instructed you to do so.

If an Ambulance is needed: Notify CAT COPS (228-2677) or 911

Provide the following information,
be specific

- State your name.
- "I am at the location ."
- The number you are calling from.
- The situation that has occurred
- How many people injured.
- Care you have provided.
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up**
- Notify Athletic Training Staff of any athletes who were injured.

CAT COPS will provide directions to the facility to the ambulance

If an Ambulance is not needed:

- Provide first-aid care to the athlete.
- If an athlete, notify athletic training staff
- Fill out an incident report.
- Ask if there is someone they wish to contact.
- Request they visit the Reddy Health Center Immediately

Fill out necessary incident/accident reports.

Notify appropriate administration.

**Gallo and SAAC
Building**
Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

**Intramurals and
Sports Clubs**
Jarrod Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events
David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures
Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Broken Door Locks

If your building has a broken door lock, or key stuck in a door:

- One person should notify **Facilities Services** at **228-2986**
 - If it is after business hours, call **CAT COPS** at **228-2677**
- Another person(s) should stay by door if it cannot lock, or access can easily be gained by patrons.

Provide the following information, **be specific**

- State your name.
- "I am in the Joseph Gallo Recreation Building."
- The situation that has occurred
 - "There is a door/lock which _____."
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up.**

Notify the appropriate administrator.

**Gallo and SAAC
Building**
Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

**Intramurals and
Sports Clubs**
Jarrod Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events
David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures
Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Fill out an incident report.

Power Outages

In the event of a power failure:

- One person should notify **Facilities Services** at **228-2986**
 - If it is after business hours, call **CAT COPS** at **228-2677**
- Another person(s) should keep the patrons calm and begin to evacuate the building proceed to the emergency assembly area.
 - Panic creates danger

Provide the following information, **be specific**.

- State your name.
- "I am in the Joseph Gallo Recreation Building."
- The situation that has occurred
 - "We have lost power in the building."
- Actions being taken.
 - "We have asked the patrons to stay calm and began to evacuate the building."
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up**

Notify the appropriate administrator.

Gallo and SAAC Building
Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

Intramurals and Sports Clubs
Jarrod Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events
David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures
Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Fill out an incident report.

Flooding, Plumbing or Steam Line Failure

If your building has a plumbing failure, a flood, or a steam-line failure:

- Cease using all electrical equipment.
- One person should notify **Facilities Services** at **228-2986**
 - If it is after business hours, call **CAT COPS** at **228-2677**
- Another person(s) should evacuate the building if necessary and proceed to the emergency assembly area.

Provide the following information, **be specific**.

- State your name.
- "I am in the Joseph Gallo Recreation Building."
- The situation that has occurred
 - "There is flooding/broken pipe in the _____ location _____ of the building."
- Actions being taken.
 - "We have begun to evacuate the room / building."
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up**

Fill out an incident report.

Notify the appropriate supervisor.

**Gallo and SAAC
Building**
Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

**Intramurals and
Sports Clubs**
Jarrod Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events
David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures
Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Hazardous Material Spill

If your building has a hazardous material spill:

- Calmly warn others to stay away from the area.
 - Isolate the area to keep others safe, post signs if necessary.
- Notify your supervisor of the spill.
- One person should notify **Environment, Health and Safety (EH&S)** at **228-7864**
 - If it is after business hours, call **CAT COPS** at **228-2677**
 - Retrieve the MSDS Binder in the Custodial Closet
- Another person(s) should **EVACUATE** the building if necessary and proceed to the emergency assembly area.

Provide the following information, **be specific**.

- State your name.
- "I am in the Joseph Gallo Recreation Building."
- The situation that has occurred
 - "There has been a hazardous materials spill in the _____location_____ of the building."
- Actions being taken.
 - "We have begun to evacuate the room / building."
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up**

Notify appropriate administration.

Gallo and SAAC Building
Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

Intramurals and Sports Clubs
Jarrod Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events
David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures
Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Fill out an incident report.

BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR KEYS AND ID

If you suspect or witness a release of a material hazardous to the environment (air, water, ground) call UC Merced Police Department (228-2677).

Reporting Theft / Vandalism

If a theft was reported:

- Report to your supervisor
- Advise the patron to call **CAT COPS** at **228-2677**
 - or report the incident to the CAT COPS website. police.ucmerced.edu

Fill out an incident report.

Notify appropriate administration.

Gallo and SAAC Building

Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

Intramurals and Sports Clubs

Jarrold Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events

David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures

Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

If you notice signs of vandalism:

- Report to your supervisor
 - Be sure to note the location of the vandalism.
 - Note the time you noticed it.
 - Note what was done.

Fill out an incident report.

Notify appropriate administration.

Gallo and SAAC Building

Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

Intramurals and Sports Clubs

Jarrold Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events

David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures

Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Civil Disturbance Unruly Patrons Fights

If protestors or unruly patrons create a civil disturbance:

- Try to carry on business as usual.
 - Most protestors are peaceful, so if they enter the building, let them.
- If the crowd or patrons become too noisy or disruptive
 - Call **CAT COPS** at **228-2677**
- Evacuate the building **only if necessary**.
 - Notify supervisor before this decision is made.

When calling CAT COPS, provide the following information, **be specific**.

- State your name.
- "I am in the Joseph Gallo Recreation Building."
- The situation that has occurred
 - "There is a large crowd of protestors/demonstrators who have become disruptive."
 - OR "There are patrons fighting."
- Follow the directions given to you by CAT COPS
- **Make sure you are the last to hang up.**

Notify the appropriate administrator.

**Gallo and SAAC
Building**
Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

**Intramurals and
Sports Clubs**
Jarrod Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events
David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures
Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

Fill out an incident report.

MEDIA QUESTIONING

If you are confronted by news media about an incident:

- **Do not provide any information or opinions.**
 - Direct all questions to:

David Dunham
Recreation and Athletics Office
(209) 228-7732
ddunham@ucmerced.edu

BOMB THREAT

Bomb threats are usually reported via telephone. If you receive a bomb threat via telephone. Please immediately report it to campus police from a telephone different than the one you received the call on.

If you receive a bomb threat from a source other than telephone, please immediately call **CAT COPS (228-2677) or 911.**

- Do not touch any unusual or suspicious objects.
- Do not search for the explosive device.

BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR KEYS AND ID

If a bomb threat is received by Telephone:

- Take the caller seriously.
- Ask a lot of questions, (see list below).
- Take notes on everything said and heard, including background noise, voice characteristics, etc.
- Keep the caller on the line as long as possible by asking questions.
- If the caller hangs up do not use the telephone on which the threat was received.
- Call campus police immediately after a call from another telephone, or ask another person call the police immediately.
- Notify supervisor or department head.
- Campus police will determine if you need to evacuate. If you do evacuate, move to your emergency assembly area, to await further instructions.
- Do not re-enter the building until instructed to do so.

Questions to ask caller:

1. When will the bomb explode? _____
2. Where is it? _____
3. What does it look like? _____
4. What kind of bomb is it? _____
5. What will cause it to explode? _____
6. Why was it placed in the building? _____
7. Did you place the bomb yourself? _____
8. What is your name? _____

Try and notice the following information:

1. Caller's gender. _____

2. Approximate age. _____
3. Voice characteristics, accents, etc. _____
4. Was the voice familiar? _____
5. Background noises. _____
6. Treat language - educated, incoherent, foul, taped, read, etc. _____

Notify the appropriate administrator.

**Athletics and Sports
Clubs**

Kevin Vieira
(916) 718-8911

Gallo Building

Melissa Patterson
209-228-2335

**Intramurals and
Sports Clubs**

Jarrood Garcia
209-228-4133

Special Events

David Dunham
(209) 769-4056

Outdoor Adventures

Danny Feitel
(202) 679-6700

**Fill out an incident
report**

Suspicious Packages/Mail

- If you receive a suspicious package, letter, or object under any circumstances. Do not touch it, tamper with it, or move it.
- Report it to campus police emergency at **CAT-COPS (228-2677)**.

Suspicious letter and package characteristics:

- Origin- Postmark does not match the city of the return address, name of the sender is unusual or unknown, or no return address given.
- Balance- The letter is lopsided or unusually thick, the letter or package seems heavy for its size.
- Contents- Stiffness or springiness of contents; protruding wires or components; oily outer wrappings or envelope; feels like it contains a powdery substance.
- Smell- Particularly almond or other suspicious odors.
- Writing- Handwriting indicates a foreign style not normally received, cut-and-past letters or rub on block letters are used. Common words, titles or names are misspelled.

Appendix #3

Annual Required Forms

NCAA Student-Athlete Statement - DII - 2024-2025

Academic Year:2024-25

Created:5/27/2025

Created By:Payton Williams

For:	NCAA Division II student-athletes.
Action:	Sign and return to my director of athletics.
Due Date:	Before my first competition in academic year 2024-25.
Required By:	NCAA Division II Bylaws 7.3.1.5.8 and 14.1.3*.
Purpose:	To assist in certifying eligibility.
Effective Date:	The effectiveness of this NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Statement shall begin on the date of my signature and unless terminated earlier in accordance with Part IX below, will continue until the earlier of my signature of a subsequent NCAA Student-Athlete Statement or my final date of participation in NCAA collegiate athletics.

Student-Athlete's Full Name:Payton Williams

Home address (street or P.O. Box)

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

City:

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

State:

Choose State

Zip Code:

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Country

United States



Date of Birth:

mm/dd/yyyy

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Current age in years:

#####

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Institution attending in academic
year 2024-25

University of California Merced

Sport(s):

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

If different than above, institution
attended in academic year 2023-24:

NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.1.3.1* provides that, before participation in intercollegiate competition each academic year, a student-athlete shall sign a statement in a form prescribed by the NCAA Division II Management Council in which the student-athlete submits information related to eligibility, recruitment, financial aid, amateur status, previous positive drug tests administered by any other athletics organization and involvement in organized gambling activities related to intercollegiate and professional athletics competition under the Association's governing legislation. This is the annual form prescribed by the NCAA Division II Management Council and it includes the following 10 parts:

- I. General Statement Concerning Eligibility;**
- II. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)/Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Consent;**
- III. Amateurism;**
- IV. Drug Tests;**
- V. Sports Wagering;**
- VI. Academic Eligibility Information (Freshman Only);**
- VII. Other Prior Violations;**
- VIII. Information Pertaining to Future Transfer;**
- IX. Termination/Survivability of Student-Athlete Statement; and**
- X. Student-Athlete Signature.**

Bylaw 14.1.3* provides that a failure to complete and sign the annual eligibility statement shall result in the student-athlete's ineligibility for participation in all intercollegiate competition. Accordingly, you must legibly complete the information above and sign all parts below in order to be eligible to participate in intercollegiate competition.

Before you sign this form, you should read the eligibility provisions of the NCAA Division II Manual or the Summary of NCAA Regulations, or another similar outline or summary of NCAA regulations, in each case, in the form provided to you by your director of athletics. You are responsible for knowing and understanding the application of all NCAA Division II regulations related to your eligibility. If you have any questions, you should discuss them with your director of athletics (or their official designee).

The conditions that you must meet to be eligible and the requirement that you sign this form are indicated in the following articles and regulations of the Division II Manual: Bylaws 10 (ethical conduct), 12 (amateurism)*, 13 (recruiting), 14 (eligibility), 15 (financial aid), 16 (awards and benefits) and 18.2.(eligibility for championships).

If you have questions, you may contact the NCAA directly at 317-917-6222.

***This bylaw is applicable to the 2023-24 Division II Manual. For those signing on or after August 1, 2024, see the 2024-25 Division II Manual**

Part I: General Statement Concerning Eligibility

I affirm the following:

1. My current institution identified above has provided me with a copy of the Summary of NCAA Regulations, or another similar outline or summary of the eligibility regulations of the Division II Manual and my director of athletics (or their designee) have provided me with an opportunity to ask questions about those materials.
2. I have knowledge of and understand the application of the Division II regulations as they relate to my eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics.
3. To the best of my knowledge, I meet the eligibility requirements to participate as a student-athlete in Division II collegiate athletics including those related to ethical conduct, amateurism status, recruiting, eligibility, financial aid, awards and benefits, banned substances and sports wagering, in each case as those requirements are described in the Division II Manual sections identified above.
4. I understand that if I sign this statement falsely or erroneously it will result in a violation of NCAA regulations regarding ethical conduct which will jeopardize my eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

Part II: FERPA/HIPAA Consent.

1. Required FERPA Consent - Institutional Education Record Disclosure for Eligibility Purposes.

I understand that education records are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as the same may be amended from time to time and may not be disclosed without my consent. I agree that my current institution identified above may disclose this form, the other education records information described in items (a)-(k) below and any other documents or information related thereto, to its conference (if any), the NCAA and their respective authorized agents solely for the purpose of permitting those authorized recipients to evaluate, determine and/or confirm my eligibility for financial aid and any other aspect of participation in NCAA intercollegiate athletics and related programs:

- a. Results of drug tests administered by the NCAA, its authorized agents or my current institution identified above, and related information and correspondence including, without limitation, the information provided in Part IV below;
- b. Results of drug tests administered by a non-NCAA national and international sports governing body including, without limitation, the information provided in Part IV below;
- c. Any transcript from my high school, the identified institution, or any junior college or any other four-year institution I have attended;
- d. Precollege test scores, appropriately related information and correspondence (e.g., testing sites and dates and letters of test-score certification or appeal) and where applicable, information relating to eligibility for or conduct of nonstandard testing;
- e. Graduation status;
- f. My social security number and/or student identification number;
- g. Race and gender identification;
- h. Diagnosis of any education-impacting disabilities;
 - i. Accommodations provided or approved and other information related to any education-impacting disabilities in all secondary and postsecondary schools;
 - j. Records concerning my financial aid; and
- k. Any other materials or information disclosed by me or otherwise received pertaining to my NCAA eligibility.

2. Required Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Consent - Institutional Health Care Disclosure for Eligibility Purposes.

I understand that certain aspects of my health-related information are protected by HIPAA as the same may be amended from time to time and may not be disclosed without my consent. I agree that my current institution identified above, and any of its physicians, athletic trainers and other agents, as well as any health care organizations and medical personnel that may be working with it or providing services on its behalf, may disclose my Protected Health Information, as that term is defined in 45 C.F.R§ 160.103, to the NCAA and its authorized agents and representatives to the extent such information pertains to my participation in collegiate athletics including, without limitation, any information regarding any injury, illness or any diagnosis, or any treatment or management of any injury or illness, related to or affecting my training for and participation in intercollegiate athletics, for the sole purpose of evaluating, determining and/or confirming my eligibility for financial aid and any other aspect of participation in NCAA intercollegiate athletics and related programs.

3. Voluntary FERPA/HIPAA Consent

(Check one/both of the first two boxes OR the third box below).

Optional Consent to Disclosure for Awards and Recognition Purposes. ☐

In addition to my FERPA/HIPAA consents to disclosure above which are required for eligibility purposes, and which are limited in scope to purposes related to my eligibility for participation in collegiate athletics, I agree that my current institution identified above may disclose the education records information described in items 1(a)-(k) above and any other documents or information related thereto, to its conference (if any), the NCAA and their respective authorized agents solely for the purpose of permitting those authorized recipients to evaluate, determine and/or confirm evidence that may support certain conference and/or NCAA awards and other recognition.

Optional Consent to Disclosure for Research Purposes. In addition to my FERPA/HIPAA consents to disclosure above which are required for eligibility purposes, and which are limited in scope to purposes related to my eligibility for participation in collegiate athletics, I agree that my current institution identified above and any of its physicians, athletic trainers and other agents, as well as any health care organizations and medical personnel that may be working with it or providing services on its behalf, may disclose my injury/illness and participation information associated with my training and participation in intercollegiate athletics to the NCAA and to its Injury Surveillance Program, agents and employees for the sole purpose of conducting research into the reduction of athletics injuries.

OR

No Additional Consent to Disclosure. ☐

I do not consent to any disclosure other than for the purposes described in Sections 1 and 2 above. I understand that no additional consent is required for purposes of maintaining my eligibility or for receipt of or payment for institutional medical treatment or enrollment in or receipt of benefits under any institutional health or benefit plan, as the same may be applicable.

4. Institutional Disclosure of Deidentified Information.

I understand and agree that, while not subject to FERPA or HIPAA, certain portions of my education record data and information may be disclosed by my current institution identified above on a deidentified basis to the NCAA in connection with, among other things, longitudinal research studies and compliance activities.

5. Subsequent NCAA Disclosure.

I acknowledge and understand that the NCAA may further disclose the information that it properly receives pursuant to the consents set forth in this Part II including, among other things, information regarding any NCAA reinstatement, infractions or waiver matter in which I may become involved while I am a student-athlete, to the media, its committee members or any other third party: (a) For the purpose of evaluating, determining and/or confirming my eligibility for financial aid and any other aspect of participation in intercollegiate athletics and related programs; (b) To confirm or correct any inaccuracy in any statement reported publicly and related to any such matter; (c) With respect to any information it receives pursuant to Section 3 above, to recognize my selection for an NCAA- administered award (e.g., Elite 90); (d) Without identifying me by name, to the extent required by NCAA regulations, policies or procedures; or (e) As may otherwise be required by law.

Part III: Amateur Status.

1. Future Violations.

I affirm that I have read and understand the NCAA amateurism rules and I agree that I will promptly report to the director of athletics of my current institution identified above any violation of any such rule that occurs at any time after I sign this statement and while I am a student-athlete at the identified institution.

2. Historical Violations.

(Check One Box Below).

No Violation. I affirm that to the best of my knowledge I have not violated any NCAA amateurism rules; and have not provided false or misleading information concerning my amateur status to the NCAA or my current institution identified above or any person working for or on behalf of those organizations.

OR

Prior Violation. I am disclosing that I have violated one or more NCAA amateurism rules and/or have provided false or misleading information concerning my amateur status to the NCAA or my current institution identified above or one or more persons working for or on behalf of those organizations and I have reported, or will promptly report, the details related to such violation(s) to the director of athletics at my current institution identified above including, along with any other related information requested by the institution, the date(s) and nature of those violation(s) and the identity of those organizations and individuals who were involved.

Select One:

☐ No Violation

☐ Prior Violation

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

PART IV: DRUG TESTS.

1. Future Positive Drug Test Results.

I am aware of the NCAA drug-testing program. I have read and understand the related eligibility requirements and restrictions and I have signed the 2024-25 Drug-Testing Consent Form (Form 24-3e). I agree that I will report my results and/or actions to the director of athletics of my current institution identified above in the event that I, at any time after I sign this statement and while I am a student-athlete at the identified institution:(a) Test positive as part of any drug test administered by the NCAA, my current institution identified above or any of their respective authorized agents or representatives and/or by or at the direction of any non-NCAA athletics organization or national or international athletics governing body; or (b) Fail to appear for any scheduled drug test, or otherwise violate the drug-testing protocol, of any of these parties.

2. Historical Drug Test Results.

(Check One Box Below).

No Positive Drug Test. I affirm that I have never: (a) Tested positive as part of any drug test administered by the NCAA, my current institution identified above or any of their respective authorized agents or representatives, or by or at the direction of any non-NCAA athletics organization or national or international athletics governing body; or (b) Failed to appear for a scheduled drug test, or otherwise violated the drug-testing protocol, of any of these parties.

OR

Positive Drug Test. I am disclosing that I have: (a) Tested positive as part of a drug test administered by the NCAA, my current institution identified above or any of their respective authorized agents or representatives, and/or by or at the direction of any non-NCAA athletics organization or national or international athletics governing body; and/or (b) Failed to appear for a scheduled drug test, or otherwise violated the drug-testing protocol, of one or more of these parties. I have reported or will promptly report the details of the testing and results to my current institution identified above including, along with any other related information requested by the institution:

- The date(s) of such test(s);
- The testing institution(s)/organization(s);
- The substance(s) detected;
- The details and finding(s) of any retest(s) or appeal(s); and
- The start and end date(s) and current status of any resulting suspension.

Select One:

- ☐ No positive tests
- ☐ Positive drug test

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Part V: Sports Wagering Activity.

1. Future Sports Wagering Activity.

I affirm that I have read and understand the NCAA sports wagering rules and I agree that if I violate the sports wagering rules of the NCAA and/or any non-NCAA national or international athletics governing body at any time after I sign this statement while I am still a student-athlete at my current institution identified above, I will promptly report this information to the director of athletics at the identified institution.

2. Historical Sports Wagering Suspension

(Check One Box Below).

No Sports Wagering-Related Suspension. I affirm that I have never been subject to any suspension related to a violation of any NCAA and/or non-NCAA national or international athletics governing body sports wagering rule.

OR

Sports Wagering-Related Suspension. I have been subject to a suspension related to a violation of NCAA and/or a non-NCAA national or international athletics governing body sports wagering rules and I have reported or will promptly report details of the suspension to my current institution identified above including, along with any other related information requested by the institution:

- the suspending institution(s)/organization(s);
- the sport(s) wagered on and date(s)/location(s) of wagering activity;
- the details and finding(s) of any appeal(s);
- the start and end date(s) and current status of such suspension(s).

Select One:

☐ No Sports Wagering Related Suspension

☐ Sports Wagering Related Suspension

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Part VI: Academic Eligibility Information (Freshman Only).

I affirm that:

- To the best of my knowledge, all information provided to the NCAA and/or my current institution identified above by me or on my behalf and related to my academic eligibility including, without limitation, information pertaining to high school attendance, completion of coursework and high school grades, is complete, valid and accurate.

Part VII: Other Prior Violations.

(Check One Box Below).

Other than any violations that I have disclosed above in this form, or in a previous Student-Athlete Annual Statement form that I signed and delivered to my current institution identified above in a prior academic year, ***I am not aware*** that I have been involved at any time in any NCAA violations.

OR

In addition to any NCAA violations that I have disclosed above in this form, or in a previous Student-Athlete Annual Statement form that I signed and delivered to my current institution identified above in a prior academic year, ***I am aware*** that I have been involved with one or more **other** NCAA violations and I have reported or will promptly report the details related to such violation(s) to my current institution identified above including, along with any other related information requested by the institution:

- The date(s) and nature of those violation(s);
- Copies of any communications or other documents or materials related to the violation(s);
- The start and end date(s) and current status of any related NCAA or institutional investigation; and
- The effective date and details pertaining to any resulting NCAA or institutional suspension or other penalty.

Select One:

☐ I am not aware that I have been involved at any time in any NCAA violations

☐ I am aware that I have been involved with one or more other NCAA violations

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Part VIII: Information Pertaining to Future Transfer.

I consent and agree to disclose to authorized representatives of my current institution identified above any documents or information pertaining to my NCAA transfer eligibility and to allow authorized representative(s) of that institution to disclose my transfer status, the information in this form and any other information that may be part of my education records pertaining to my NCAA transfer eligibility to its conference (if any), the NCAA, other NCAA member institutions and their respective authorized agents for the purposes of facilitating any future transfer that I may pursue.

Part IX: Termination/Survivability of Student-Athlete Statement.

I understand that I may for any or no reason, by providing written notice of the same to the director of athletics at my current institution identified above, voluntarily terminate the effectiveness of this Student-Athlete Statement and, relatedly, all of the agreements, consents and other representations contained in this form, with the understanding that any termination under this Part IX will automatically and simultaneously terminate my eligibility to participate in NCAA collegiate athletics. Any termination attempted under this Part IX will be effective upon the receipt of the required notice by the identified institution's director of athletics.

NOTE: *Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Statement, I agree that my consents and other representations described in Sections 1, 2 and 5 of Part II above will, solely for the purposes described in those Sections, survive and remain effective even after any termination or expiration of this Statement.*

Part X: Student-Athlete Signature.

I agree that I have had an adequate opportunity to read the entire content of this Student-Athlete Statement and to discuss the same and any questions I have with my director of athletics (or their designee) and/or other advisors and my signature below reflects my understanding of an agreement with the same.

Electronic Signature of Student-Athlete:

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Date of Student-Athlete Electronic Signature:

mm/dd/yyyy

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Are you under the age of 18?

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

What to do with this form: Sign and return it to my director of athletics (or their designee) before my first competition. This form is to be kept on file at the institution for six years.

Any questions regarding this form should be referred to your director of athletics or your institution's NCAA compliance staff or you may contact the NCAA directly at 317-917-6222.

Date	Step	Performed By	Action	Comments

NCAA Drug Testing Consent - DII - 2024-2025

Academic Year:2024-25

Created:5/27/2025

Created By:Payton Williams

For:	Student-athletes.
Action:	Sign and return to your director of athletics.
Due Date:	At the time, your intercollegiate squad first reports for practice or the first day of competition or before the Monday of the fourth week of classes, whichever is earlier.
Required By:	NCAA Division II Bylaws 7.3.1.5.9 and 14.1.4.1*.
Purpose:	To assist in certifying eligibility
Effective Date:	This consent form shall be in effect from the date this document is signed and shall remain in effect until a subsequent Drug-Testing Consent Form is executed.

Requirement to Sign Drug-Testing Consent Form.

Name of your institution:University of California Merced

Name of student-athlete:Payton Williams

Sport(s):

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

You must sign this form to participate (i.e., practice or compete) in intercollegiate athletics per NCAA Division II Bylaws 7.3.1.5.9 (drug-testing program and consent form) and 14.1.4.1 (content and purpose)*. Before you sign this form, you should read the relevant sections of the NCAA Division II Manual or another similar outline or summary of NCAA regulations in each case in the form provided to you by your director of athletics. You are responsible for knowing and understanding the application of the NCAA drug testing program and all relevant NCAA Division II regulations. If you have any questions, you should discuss them with your director of athletics (or their official designee).

Consent to Testing.

You agree to allow the NCAA to test you on a year-round basis and in relation to any participation by you in any NCAA championship and in any postseason football game certified by the NCAA for the banned drugs listed in Division II Bylaw 18.2.1.2.1 (banned drugs). Examples of drugs under each class can be found at www.ncaa.org/drugtesting(<https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2016/7/20/ncaa-drug-testing-program.aspx>). Note: There is no complete list of banned substances. Check Drug Free Sport AXIS at 816-474-7321 or <https://axis.drugfreesport.com>(<https://axis.drugfreesport.com/login>) (Password: ncaa2) for questions about supplements, medications and banned drugs.

Consequences for a Positive Drug Test.

By signing this form, you affirm that you are aware of the NCAA drug-testing program which provides:

1. A student-athlete who tests positive for an NCAA banned drug will be declared ineligible for participation in postseason and regular-season competition (unless a medical exception is granted).
2. A student-athlete who tests positive for a banned drug other than narcotics shall be ineligible for competition in all sports until they have been withheld from the equivalent of one season of regular season competition. The student-athlete shall be charged with the loss of one season of competition in all sports, in addition to the use of a season if they participated in intercollegiate competition during the same academic year. The student-athlete shall be ineligible for intercollegiate competition for 365 consecutive days after the collection of the student-athlete's positive drug-test specimen and until they test negative pursuant to the policies and procedures of the NCAA Drug-Testing Program.
3. A student-athlete who tests positive for use of a substance in the banned drug class narcotics shall be ineligible for competition during 50% of a season of competition in all sports (i.e., 50% of all contests or dates of competition in the season following the positive test) and remain ineligible until the prescribed penalty is fulfilled and they test negative pursuant to the policies and procedures of the NCAA Drug-Testing Program.
4. A student-athlete who tests positive a second time for the use of any drug other than narcotics shall lose all remaining regular season and postseason eligibility in all sports. A student-athlete who previously tested positive for the use of any drug other than narcotics who tests positive for use of a substance in the banned drug class narcotics shall be withheld from competition for 50% of a season in all sports (i.e., first 50% of all regular season contests or dates of competition in the season following the positive test). The student-athlete will remain ineligible until the prescribed penalty is fulfilled and they test negative pursuant to the policies and procedures of the NCAA Drug-Testing Program.
5. A student-athlete who tests positive a second time for use of a substance in the banned drug class narcotics or a student-athlete who previously tested positive for the use of a substance in the banned drug class narcotics test positive for a banned drug other than narcotics shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Bylaws 18.2.1.2.2 (penalty – banned drug classes other than narcotics).
6. A student-athlete found to have tampered with an NCAA drug-test sample shall be ineligible for competition in all sports until they have been withheld from the equivalent of two seasons of regular-season competition. A student-athlete involved in tampering during a year in which they did not use a season of competition shall be charged with the loss of two seasons of competition in all sports. A student-athlete involved in tampering during a year in which they used a season of competition shall be charged with the loss of two additional seasons of competition in all sports, in addition to the season used, unless they use a season of competition in one of the next two academic years. If they used a season of competition in one of the next two academic years, they will only be charged one additional season of competition in all sports, in addition to the season used. The student-athlete shall be ineligible for intercollegiate competition for 730 consecutive days after the student-athlete was involved in tampering and until they test negative pursuant to the policies and procedures of the NCAA Drug-Testing Program.
7. If a student-athlete transfers to a non-NCAA institution while ineligible because of a positive NCAA drug test and competes in collegiate competition within the prescribed penalty at a non-NCAA institution, the student-athlete will be ineligible for all NCAA regular season and postseason competitions until the student-athlete does not compete in collegiate competition for the entirety of the prescribed penalty while enrolled and otherwise eligible for competition at an NCAA institution. The student-athlete shall be ineligible for intercollegiate competition for the applicable consecutive days (365 or 730) after their final non-NCAA competition and will remain ineligible until they test negative pursuant to the policies and procedures of the NCAA Drug-Testing Program.
8. The penalty for missing a scheduled drug test is the same as the penalty for testing positive for the use of a banned drug other than a narcotic.
9. A student-athlete who tests positive has an opportunity to appeal the sanctions resulting from the positive drug test.

*This bylaw is applicable to the 2023-24 Division II Manual. For those signing on or after August 1, 2024, see Bylaw 7.3.1.5.9 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual.

Signatures.

By signing below, I consent:

1. To be tested by the NCAA in accordance with the NCAA drug-testing policy, which provides among other things that:
 - a. I will be notified of selection to be tested;
 - b. I must appear for NCAA testing or be sanctioned for a positive drug test;
 - c. A person of my same gender will observe my urine sample collection; and
 - d. Any specimen provided by me as part of the NCAA drug testing program shall be deemed to be exclusive property of the NCAA;
2. To accept the consequences of a positive drug test or a breach of drug testing protocol;
3. To allow my drug-test sample to be used by the NCAA drug-testing laboratories for research purposes to improve drug-testing detection; and
4. To allow disclosure of my drug-testing results only for purposes related to eligibility for participation in NCAA competition. I understand that if I sign this statement falsely or erroneously, I violate NCAA legislation on ethical conduct and will jeopardize my eligibility.

Electronic Signature of Student-Athlete:

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Date of Student-Athlete Electronic Signature:

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Are you under the age of 18?

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Name of student-athlete:

Payton Williams

Date of Birth:

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Age:

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Home address (street or PO Box):

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

City:

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

State:



Zip Code:

THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Country:

Choose Country



What to do with this form: Sign and return it to your director of athletics at the time your intercollegiate squad first reports for practice, before the first date of competition or before the Monday of the fourth week of classes, whichever is earlier. This form is to be kept on file at the institution for **six years**.

Download: 2024-25 NCAA Banned Substances(https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/substance/2024-25/2024-25NCAA_BannedSubstances.pdf)

Date	Step	Performed By	Action	Comments
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NCAA Summary of Regulations - DII - 2024-2025

Academic Year:	2024-25
Created:	5/27/2025
Created By:	Payton Williams

Please read the Summary of NCAA Regulations -Division II(https://clients.armssoftware.com/ARMS/2024_25_DII_summary_regualtions.pdf). If you have any questions, please contact your Compliance Office

I certify that I have read and understand the Summary of NCAA Regulations provided above.	<input type="checkbox"/> THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.
Student-Athlete Electronic Signature:	<input type="text"/> THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.
Date of Student-Athlete Electronic Signature:	<input type="text" value="mm/dd/yyyy"/> THIS VALUE IS REQUIRED.

Date	Step	Performed By	Action	Comments
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NCAA Division II Summary of Key Regulations

For: Student-athletes.
Purpose: To summarize key NCAA regulations regarding eligibility of student-athletes to compete.

DISCLAIMER: THE SUMMARY OF KEY NCAA REGULATIONS DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL NCAA DIVISION II BYLAWS. THE SUMMARY OF KEY NCAA REGULATIONS IS INTENDED TO SERVE AS A CROSS-REFERENCE TOOL WITH THE NCAA DIVISION II MANUAL AND IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE SUMMARY OR SUBSTITUTE FOR REVIEWING THE DIVISION II LEGISLATION. FOR A COMPLETE LIST, GO TO WWW.NCAA.ORG. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING THE APPLICATION OF ALL BYLAWS RELATED TO YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE. CONTACT YOUR INSTITUTION'S COMPLIANCE OFFICE OR THE NCAA IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

TO: STUDENT-ATHLETE.

This summary of key NCAA regulations contains information about your eligibility to compete in intercollegiate athletics.

This summary has two parts:

1. Part I is for **all** student-athletes.
2. Part II is for **new** student-athletes only (those signing the Student-Athlete Statement for the first time).

If you have questions, ask your director of athletics (or their official designee) or refer to the 2023-24 and/or the 2024-25 NCAA Division II Manual. The references in brackets after each summarized regulation show you where to find the regulation in the Division II Manual.

Part I: For All Student-Athletes.

This part of the summary discusses ethical conduct, amateurism, financial aid, academic standards and other regulations concerning your eligibility for intercollegiate competition.

1. **Ethical Conduct - All Sports.**
 - a. You must act with honesty and sportsmanship at all times so that you represent the honor and dignity of fair play and the generally recognized high standards associated with wholesome competitive sports. [NCAA Bylaw 10.01.1]

- b. You have engaged in unethical conduct if you refuse to furnish information relevant to an investigation of a possible violation of an NCAA regulation when requested to do so by the NCAA or your institution. [Bylaw 10.1-(a)]
- c. You are **not eligible** to compete if you solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team; accept a bet on any team representing the institution; or solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value. [Bylaws 10.02.1 and 10.02.2]
- d. You are **not eligible** to compete if you knowingly provide information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activities concerning intercollegiate, amateurism or professional athletics competition in a sport in which the Association conducts championship competition. [Bylaw 10.3]
- e. You are **not eligible** to compete if you knowingly participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate or professional athletics through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling. [Bylaw 10.3]
- f. You are **not eligible** to compete if you have shown dishonesty in evading or violating NCAA regulations. [Bylaws 10.1 and 14.01.3.3, renumbered as 14.01.2.2 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual.]

2. Name, Image and Likeness and Activities After Initial Full-Time Enrollment - All Sports.

For individuals in states with name, image and likeness (NIL) laws or executive actions with the force of law in effect, NCAA rules remain in effect, including prohibitions on pay-for-play and improper recruiting inducements, but NIL activities protected by state law will not impact eligibility, unless the state law is invalidated or rendered unenforceable by operation of law. For individuals where there is no state law or executive actions or the state law or executive actions have not yet taken effect, NIL activity will not impact eligibility, but other rules, including prohibitions on pay-for-play and improper recruiting inducements remain in effect. [Bylaw 12.1.2. renumbered as 14.1.5 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual] Please click [Division II Online Education Resource Center - NCAA.org](https://www.ncaa.org/divisionii/online-education-resource-center) for resources associated with the NIL policy.

- a. You are **not eligible** for participation in a sport if after initial full-time collegiate enrollment, you have ever:
 - (1) Used your athletics skill for pay or taken pay, or the promise of pay, for competing in that sport [Bylaw 12.1.4-(a), renumbered as 14.4.6-(a) in the 2024-25 Division II Manual];
 - (2) Agreed (orally or in writing) to compete in professional athletics in that sport [Bylaws 12.2.5.1, renumbered as 14.4.8.6.1 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual];

- (3) Received compensation or incentives for enrollment decisions, athletic performance, achievement or membership on a team [Bylaw 12.1.4-(b), renumbered as 14.4.6-(b) in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]; or
 - (4) Played on any professional athletics team as defined by the NCAA in that sport [Bylaw 12.2.3.2, renumbered as 14.4.8.3.2 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual].
- b. You are **not eligible** in a sport if you have ever accepted money, transportation or other benefits from an agent or agreed to have an agent market your athletics ability or reputation in that sport. [Bylaw 12.3. renumbered as 14.4.9 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]. Additionally, for any prospective student-athlete initially enrolling full-time at a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2023, you are **not eligible** in a sport if you (or your relatives or friends) accept transportation or other material benefits from an agent or any person who represents any individual in the marketing of their athletics ability. [Bylaw 12.3⁶

3. Seasons of Competition - All Sports.

The following rules are applicable to all Division II student-athletes first entering a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2010:

If you did not enroll in a collegiate institution as a full-time student in the regular academic term that begins immediately after a one-year time period (the next opportunity to enroll after the one calendar-year period has elapsed) following high school graduation, you have used one season of intercollegiate competition for each consecutive 12-month period after the one-year time period and before initial full-time collegiate enrollment in which you participated in organized competition. [Bylaw 14.2.4.2, renumbered as 14.4.3.4.2 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]

The following rules are applicable to all Division II student-athletes first entering a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2022:

If you did not cease participation by October 1 or March 1 (whichever occurs earlier) immediately after one calendar year has elapsed following your high school graduation date, you have used one season of intercollegiate competition for each consecutive 12-month period after October 1 or March 1 before initial full-time collegiate enrollment in which you participated in organized competition.

- a. Activities that trigger organized competition:
 - (1) Any competition that is scheduled in advance;
 - (2) Any competition in which official score is kept;

- (3) Any competition in which individual or team standings or statistics are maintained;
 - (4) Any competition in which an official timer or game officials are used;
 - (5) Any competition in which admission is charged;
 - (6) Any competition in which teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined;
 - (7) Any competition in which team uniforms are used;
 - (8) Any competition in which an individual or team is privately or commercially sponsored; or
 - (9) Any competition that is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency. [Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.2, renumbered as 14.4.3.4.2.1.2 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
- b. If you discontinued high school enrollment before graduation and participated in any of the activities that trigger organized competition, you have used one season of intercollegiate competition for each consecutive 12-month period after October 1 or March 1 (whichever occurs earlier) after one calendar year has elapsed following the discontinued enrollment and before initial full-time collegiate enrollment. [Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.1.3, renumbered as 14.4.3.4.2.1.1.3 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual.]
- c. If you have used a season(s) of competition according to the regulations above, you must fulfill an academic year in residence at any member institution prior to being eligible to represent your institution in that specific sport in intercollegiate competition, unless you meet an exception. [Bylaws 14.2.4.2.1.3, 14.2.4.2.1.3.1 and 14.2.4.1.3.2, renumbered as 14.4.3.4.2.1.3, 14.4.3.4.2.1.3.1 and 14.4.3.4.2.1.3.2 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]

4. Academic Standards - All Sports.

- a. Eligibility for Competition.
- (1) To be **eligible to compete**, you must:
 - (a) Have been admitted as a regularly enrolled, degree-seeking student according to the published entrance requirements of your institution;

- (b) Be in good academic standing according to the standards of your institution; and
 - (c) Be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time baccalaureate degree program (not less than 12-semester or -quarter hours) and maintain progress toward that degree, be enrolled in a full-time graduate or professional degree program (as defined by the institution for all graduate students in that program) or be enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate degree at your institution. [Bylaws 14.01.2, 14.1.7 and 14.1.8, renumbered as 14.02.9, 14.2.3 and 14.2.4 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
 - (2) You are **eligible** to **compete** during the official vacation period immediately before initial full-time enrollment, provided you have been accepted by your institution for enrollment in a regular, full-time program of studies at the time of your initial participation, you are no longer enrolled in your previous educational institution and you are eligible under all institutional and NCAA requirements. [Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.1, renumbered as 14.2.3.1.7.1 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
 - (3) You are **eligible** to **compete** between terms provided you have been registered for the required minimum full-time load at the conclusion of the term immediately preceding the date of competition, if you are continuing enrollment, or provided you have been accepted for enrollment as a regular full-time student for the regular term immediately following the date of competition, if you are continuing or beginning enrollment. [Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.2, renumbered as Bylaw 14.2.3.1.7.2 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
 - (4) If you are enrolled in less than a full-time program, you are **eligible** to **compete** only if you are enrolled in the last term of your degree program, minor or undergraduate certificate program and are carrying credits necessary to finish your degree, minor or undergraduate certificate. [Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.3, renumbered as Bylaw 14.2.3.1.7.3 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
- b. Eligibility for Practice.
- (1) You are **eligible** to **practice** if you are enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree as defined by the regulations of your institution, which shall not be less than 12-semester or -quarter hours, regardless of your institution's definition of a minimum full-time program of studies. [Bylaw 14.1.7.1, renumbered as Bylaw 14.2.3.1 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]

- (2) You are **eligible to practice** during the official vacation period immediately preceding initial full-time enrollment provided you have been accepted by your institution for enrollment in a regular, full-time program of studies at the time of your initial participation, you no longer are enrolled in your previous educational institution and you are eligible under all institutional and NCAA requirements. [Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.1, renumbered as Bylaw 14.2.3.1.7.1 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
- (3) You also are **eligible to practice** if you are enrolled in the last term of your degree program, minor or undergraduate certificate program and are carrying credits necessary to finish your degree, minor or undergraduate certificate. [Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.3, renumbered as 14.2.3.1.7.3 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]

c. Freshmen.

- (1) You are referred to as a qualifier and are eligible to practice and compete in your sport and to receive athletics aid during your first academic year under Bylaw 14.02.13, renumbered as 14.02.19 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual, if you:
 - (a) Graduate from high school; and
 - (b) Attain a minimum cumulative high school grade-point average of 2.200 (based on a maximum 4.000) in 16 core course units in the required subject areas as outlined in Bylaw 14.3.1.1, renumbered as Bylaw 14.2.8.1.1 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual.
- (2) You are referred to as a partial qualifier and are eligible to receive athletics aid if you do not meet qualifier requirements. As a partial qualifier, you may not compete in your sport during your first academic year in residence; however, you may practice on campus or at your institution's regular practice facility. [Bylaws 14.02.13, 14.3.1.2 and 14.3.1.2.1, renumbered as 14.02.19, 14.2.8.1.2 and 14.2.8.1.2.1 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]

d. Continuing Eligibility - All Sports.

- (1) In order to be eligible for competition at the end of each academic term, a student-athlete must successfully complete nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution. [Bylaw 14.4.3.2, renumbered as 14.2.9.3.2 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
- (2) If you have transferred to your current institution midyear, or you have completed one academic year in residence at your current institution or

used one season of eligibility in a sport at your current institution, your eligibility shall be determined by your academic record in existence at the beginning of the fall term or at the beginning of any other regular term of that academic year and you must satisfy the following requirements for academic progress to **be eligible** to compete.

- (a) You must have completed 18-semester or 27-quarter hours since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters. Credit hours earned in the period after the regular academic year at the institution (e.g., hours earned in summer school) shall not be used to satisfy the academic credit-hour requirements of this regulation. [Bylaw 14.4.3.3, renumbered as Bylaw 14.2.9.3.3 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
- (b) You must earn 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit during any year in which you are enrolled full-time in at least one academic term. You may satisfy this requirement based on earning:
 - i. 24-semester or 36-quarter hours since the beginning of the previous fall term;
 - ii. 24-semester or 36-quarter hours since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters; or
 - iii. 48-semester or 72-quarter hours during the first two years of collegiate enrollment (the certifying institution's first four semesters or six quarters following your initial full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution). [Bylaw 14.4.3.4, renumbered as 14.2.9.3.4 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
- (c) You must achieve a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 prior to the beginning of each fall term. [Bylaw 14.4.3.5, renumbered as Bylaw 14.2.9.3.5 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
- (d) You must meet the minimum cumulative grade-point average at the certifying institution based on the method of calculation used by the institution for calculating cumulative grade-point averages for all students and the calculation shall only include coursework normally counted by the institution in calculating the cumulative grade-point average for graduation. [Bylaw 14.4.3.5.3, renumbered as 14.2.9.3.5.3 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
- (e) You must choose a major that leads to a specific baccalaureate degree by the beginning of your third year of enrollment (fifth

semester or seventh quarter). (This includes four-year transfer students who have not satisfied Bylaw 14.5.5 (four-year college transfer) or used a season of eligibility at their current institution or two-year transfer students who have not completed an academic year in residence yet or used a season of eligibility in a sport at their current institution.) [Bylaw 14.4.3.6, renumbered as 14.2.9.3.6 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]

5. Financial Aid - All Sports.

- e. You are **not eligible** if you receive financial aid other than the financial aid that your institution distributes. However, it is permissible to receive:
 - (1) Money from a relative or legal guardian;
 - (2) Financial aid that has been awarded to you on a basis other than athletics ability;
 - (3) Financial aid from an entity outside your institution that meets the requirements specified in the Division II Manual; [Bylaw 15.2.2] or
 - (4) On or off-campus employment earnings, provided the compensation does not include remuneration for the use of the student-athlete's athletics reputation to promote the sale of the employer's products or services , provided you do not have a contract or agreement (oral or written) for name, image and likeness activities; the student-athlete is compensated only for work actually performed; and the student-athlete is compensated at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services. [Bylaw 15.2.3]
- f. You must report to your institution any financial aid that you receive from a source other than your institution. However, you do not need to report financial aid received from a relative or legal guardian.

6. Other Regulations Concerning Eligibility – All Sports.

- a. You are **not eligible** to participate in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport. [Bylaw 14.2, renumbered as 14.4.3 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
- b. You are **not eligible** after the first 10-semesters or 15-quarters in which you were enrolled at a collegiate institution in at least a minimum full-time program of studies as determined by the institution, except for extensions that have been approved in accordance with NCAA legislation. [Bylaws 14.2.2, 14.2.2.2, 14.2.2.3]

and 14.2.2.4, renumbered as 14.4.3.2, 14.4.3.2.2, 14.4.3.2.3 and 14.4.3.2.4 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]

- c. You are **eligible** for championships that occur within 60 days of the date you complete the requirements for your degree. [Bylaws 14.1.7.1.7.3.2 and 14.1.8.3, renumbered as 14.2.3.1.7.3.2 and 14.2.4.2]

7. All Sports Other Than Basketball.

- You are **not eligible** in your sport for the rest of your season if, after enrollment in college and during any year in which you were a member of an intercollegiate team, you competed as a member of any outside team in any noncollegiate, amateur competition in the sport during the playing season. Competing in the Olympic or Paralympic Games tryouts and competition and other specified national and international competition is permitted. [Bylaws 14.7.1, 14.7.3 and 14.7.5, renumbered as 14.4.7.1, 14.4.7.3 and 14.4.7.5 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]

8. Basketball Only.

- a. You are **not eligible** if, after you become a student-athlete, you participate in any organized basketball competition except while representing the institution in intercollegiate competition. Competing in the Olympic or Paralympic Games tryouts and competition and other specified national and international competition is permitted. [Bylaws 14.7.2, 14.7.4 and 14.7.5, renumbered as 14.4.7.2, 14.4.7.4 and 14.4.7.5 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]
- b. There are no restrictions on the participation of Division II student-athletes in outside basketball competition during the summer. [Bylaw 14.7.5.2-(a), renumbered as 14.4.7.5.2-(a) in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]

9. Transfer Students Only.

- a. You are a transfer student if:
 - (1) The registrar or admissions officer from your former institution certified that you officially were registered and enrolled at that institution in any term in a minimum full-time load and you attended a class or classes while enrolled as a full-time student; **or**
 - (2) The director of athletics from your former institution certified that you reported for the regular squad practice that any staff member of the athletics department of your former institution announced before the beginning of any term. [Bylaw 14.5.2, renumbered as 14.3.2 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual]

- b. If you are a transfer student from a two-year institution, you are **not eligible** during your first academic year in residence at your new institution unless you meet the academic and residence requirements specified in Bylaw 14.5.4, renumbered as 14.3.4 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual, or the exceptions specified in Bylaw 14.5.4.6, renumbered as 14.3.4.6 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual.
- c. If you are an undergraduate transfer student from a four-year institution, you are **not eligible** during your first initial full-time term of enrollment at the certifying institution unless you meet Bylaw 14.5.5.
- d. If you transferred from a four-year college to a two-year college and then to your new institution, you are **not eligible** during your first academic year in residence at your new institution unless you meet the requirements specified in Bylaws 14.5.4.1.2, 14.5.4.3 [renumbered as 14.3.4.1.2, 14.3.4.3 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual] or the exceptions specified in Bylaw 14.5.4.6, renumbered as 14.3.4.6 in the 2024-25 Division II Manual.

10. **Drugs - All Sports.**

- a. A student-athlete who, as a result of a drug test administered by the NCAA, tests positive for use of a substance in a banned drug class, as set forth in Bylaw 18.2.1.2.1, shall be declared ineligible for further participation in postseason and regular-season competition in accordance with the ineligibility provisions of Bylaw 18.2.1.2.
- b. A student-athlete who, as a result of a drug test administered by the NCAA, tests positive for use of a substance in a banned drug class other than narcotics (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the NCAA Board of Governors), shall be subject to the following: (1) The student-athlete is ineligible for competition in all sports until they have been withheld from the equivalent of one season (the maximum number of championship segment regular-season contests or date of competition in Bylaw 17) of regular-season competition. The student-athlete must be otherwise eligible for competition to fulfill this penalty except a transfer student-athlete may regain eligibility (see Bylaw 14.5.5.1) and fulfill a drug test penalty concurrently if they meet all other eligibility requirements; (2) A student-athlete who tests positive during a year in which they did not use a season of competition, shall be charged with the loss of one season of competition in all sports. A student-athlete who tests positive during a year in which they used a season of competition, shall be charged with the loss of an additional season of competition in all sports (in addition to the season used) unless they use a season of competition in the next academic year; and (3) The student-athlete shall remain ineligible for intercollegiate competition for 365 consecutive calendar days after the collection of the student-athlete's positive drug test specimen and until they test negative pursuant to the NCAA Drug-Testing Program's policies and procedures. [Bylaw 18.2.1.2.2]

- c. A student-athlete who, as a result of a drug test administered by the NCAA, tests positive for use of a substance in the banned drug class narcotics (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the Board of Governors) shall be ineligible for competition during 50 percent of a season of competition in all sports (i.e., 50 percent of all contests or dates of competition in the season following the positive test). The student-athlete shall remain ineligible until the prescribed penalty is fulfilled and they test negative pursuant to the NCAA Drug-Testing Program's policies and procedures. [Bylaw 18.2.1.2.3]
- d. A policy adopted by the Board of Governors establishes that the penalty for missing a scheduled drug test is the same as the penalty for testing positive for the use of a banned drug other than a narcotic. You will remain ineligible until you retest negative. [Bylaws 18.2.1.2.4 and 18.2.1.2.4.1]

11. Non-NCAA Athletics Organization Positive Drug Test - All Sports.

- a. If you test positive by a sport's governing body that has adopted the World Anti-Doping Agency code, you must notify your director of athletics regarding the positive drug test. You also must permit the NCAA to test you for the banned drugs listed in Bylaw 18.2.1.2.1.
- b. If the result of the NCAA drug test is positive, you will lose all remaining eligibility during the season in which you tested positive and an additional season of competition.
- c. The director of athletics must notify the NCAA chief medical officer in writing regarding a student-athlete's disclosure of a previous positive drug test administered by any other athletics organization.
- d. If the student-athlete transfers to a non-NCAA institution while ineligible and competes in intercollegiate competition during the prescribed period of ineligibility at a non-NCAA institution, the student-athlete remains ineligible for all NCAA regular-season and postseason competition until the student-athlete does not compete in collegiate competition for the entirety of the prescribed penalty (the total number of prescribed contests or dates of competition) while enrolled and otherwise eligible for competition at an NCAA institution. Furthermore, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for intercollegiate competition for the applicable consecutive-day period (365 or 730) after their final non-NCAA competition. Finally, the student-athlete remains ineligible until they retest negative pursuant to the NCAA Drug-Testing Program's policies and procedures. [Bylaw 18.2.1.2.5]
- e. The list is subject to change and the institution and student-athlete shall be held accountable for all banned drug classes on the current list. The list is located on the NCAA website (www.ncaa.org) or may be obtained from the NCAA Sport Science Institute staff.

Part II: For New Student-Athletes Only.

This part of the summary contains information about your recruitment, which is governed by Bylaw 13 of the Division II Manual.

- **Recruitment.**

- a. Offers - All Sports.

- (1) You are **not eligible** if, before you enrolled at your institution, any staff member of your institution or any other representative of your institution's athletics interests provided or offered to you, your relatives or your friends any financial aid or other benefits that NCAA legislation does not permit. [Bylaw 13.2.1]
 - (2) An institution's staff member or any representative of its athletics interests shall not be involved, directly or indirectly, in making arrangements for or giving or offering to give any financial aid or other benefits to the prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's relatives or friends, other than expressly permitted by NCAA regulations. Receipt of a benefit by prospective student-athletes or their relatives or friends is not a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution's prospective students or their relatives or friends or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., international students, minority students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability. For violations of this bylaw in which the value of the offer or inducement is \$200 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned on the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of their choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per NCAA Constitution Article 1-E and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement staff. [Bylaw 13.2.1]

- b. Visits, Transportation and Entertainment - All Sports.

- (1) You are **not eligible** under Bylaws 13.5, 13.6 or 13.7 if, before you enrolled at your institution, any of the following happened to you:
 - (a) Your institution paid more than the actual round-trip cost by direct route between your home and the campus when you made your one expense-paid visit; or

- (b) Your institution entertained you, your parents (or legal guardians) or your spouse excessively during your expense-paid visit or entertained your friends or other relatives at any site.¹
- (2) A prospective student-athlete may not be provided an expense-paid visit earlier than June 15 immediately preceding the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school. Violations of this bylaw shall be considered institutional violations per Constitution Article 1-E; however, such violations shall not affect the prospective student-athlete's eligibility. [Bylaw 13.6.1.2]
- (3) A member institution may not provide an expense-paid visit to a high school or preparatory school prospective student-athlete until the student-athlete: (a) presents the institution (or has on file with the NCAA Eligibility Center) with a high school or college-preparatory school transcript (official or unofficial); (b) register with the NCAA Eligibility Center; and (c) are placed on the institution's Institutional Request List with the Eligibility Center. [Bylaw 13.6.2]
- (4) You are **not eligible** if, at any time that you were visiting your institution's campus at your own expense, your institution paid for anything more than the following:
 - (a) During an unofficial visit, the institution may not pay any expenses or provide any entertainment except a maximum of five complimentary admissions to a home athletics event, regardless of location, in which the institution's intercollegiate team practices or competes. Such complimentary admissions are for the exclusive use of the prospective student-athlete and those persons accompanying the prospective student-athlete on the visit and must be issued on an individual-game basis. Providing seating during the conduct of the event (including intermission) for the prospective student-athlete or those persons accompanying the prospective student-athlete in the facility's press box, special seating box(es) or bench area is specifically prohibited. For violations of this bylaw in which the individual receives an excessive number of complimentary admissions, and the value of the excessive admissions is \$200 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned on the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of their choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain

¹ Unless the value of the benefit was \$200 or less.

institutional violations per Constitution Article 1-E, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement staff. [Bylaw 13.7.2.1]

- (b) During any unofficial recruiting visit, the institution may provide the prospective student-athlete with transportation to view practice and competition sites in the prospective student-athlete's sport and other institutional facilities and to attend an institution's home athletics contest (on or off-campus). An institutional staff member must accompany the prospective student-athlete during such a trip. For violations of Bylaw 13.5.3 in which the value of the transportation is \$200 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned on the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of their choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution Article 1-E, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement staff with the institution's self-report of the violation. [Bylaw 13.5.3]

- (5) You are **not eligible** if, when you were being recruited, a staff member of your institution's athletics department spent money other than what was necessary for the staff member's (or representative's) personal expenses during an off-campus visit with you outside the locale of the institution. [Bylaw 13.14.2]

c. Sports Camps.

- You are **not eligible** if, before you enrolled at your institution, the institution, members of its staff or a representative of its athletics interests employed or gave you free or reduced admission privileges to attend its camp or clinic after you started classes for the ninth grade. [Bylaw 13.12.1.5.1]

d. Source of Funds - All Sports.

- You are **not eligible** if any organization or group of people outside your institution spent money recruiting you to attend your institution, including entertaining, giving gifts or services and providing transportation to you or your relatives or friends unless the coach is serving in their capacity as a local sports club coach. [Bylaws 13.14.4 and 13.14.4.1]

- e. Prospective student-athlete financial assistance or Postgraduate Expense - All Sports.
 - An institution or a representative of its athletics interests shall not offer, provide or arrange financial assistance, directly or indirectly, to pay (in whole or in part) the costs of the prospective student-athlete's educational or other expenses for any period before their enrollment or so the prospective student-athlete can obtain a postgraduate education. For violations of Bylaw 13.15 in which the value of the benefit received directly by the prospective student-athlete is \$200 or less, the eligibility of the prospective student-athlete shall not be affected conditioned on the prospective student-athlete repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of their choice. However, the prospective student-athlete shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of receipt of the direct impermissible benefit until the prospective student-athlete repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution Article 1-E, and documentation of the prospective student-athlete's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement staff. [Bylaw 13.15.1]