

# NCAA Student Eligibility Requirements

The NCAA instituted new criteria for online courses beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

Nontraditional courses must now meet the following requirements:

1. Courses that are taught through distance learning, online, credit recovery, etc... need to be comparable in length, content and rigor to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting. **Students may not skip lessons or test out of modules.** The course must be four-year college preparatory.
2. **All courses must include ongoing access between the instructor and student as well as regular interaction for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance.** This may include, for example, exchanging of e-mails between the student and teacher, feedback on assignments, and the opportunity for the teacher to engage the student in individual instruction.
3. **Any course taken must have a defined time period for completion.** For example, it should be clear whether the course is meant to be taken for an entire semester or during a more condensed time frame, such as six weeks, etc...
4. **Nontraditional courses should be clearly identified as such on the high school transcript.**

*(Source: NCAA General Guidelines and Tips,  
[http://web1.ncaa.org/web\\_files/eligibility\\_center/OVN/GeneralGuidelinesandTips.pdf](http://web1.ncaa.org/web_files/eligibility_center/OVN/GeneralGuidelinesandTips.pdf) )*

Credit Recovery projects may be a key component of your implementation of Education2020. The NCAA has specifically addressed credit recovery programs/software. They state: School districts may use software programs to offer credit recovery, grade forgiveness, or other retrieval courses. These courses must be:

1. Substantially, qualitatively and quantitatively comparable to courses in the mainstream or regular curriculum.
2. Consistent policies for such courses must be followed for both athletes and non-athletes.

For example, if a student is permitted to test out of portions of a repeated course, is exempted from certain modules, or is allowed to finish the course in an abbreviated timeframe; such a course would not be acceptable for NCAA use.

**Such courses may meet high school graduation requirements; however, they would NOT meet NCAA legislative standards.**

*(Source: NCAA Credit Recovery / Retrieval Software Programs,  
[http://web1.ncaa.org/web\\_files/eligibility\\_center/OVN/Credit\\_RecoveryandRetrievalSoftware.pdf](http://web1.ncaa.org/web_files/eligibility_center/OVN/Credit_RecoveryandRetrievalSoftware.pdf))*

The NCAA has provided guidance on other types of programs, such as, online schools, independent study programs, and correspondence courses taken at or through another school or program. This option does not apply to your implementation of Education2020, but you may want to review the information located at:

[http://web1.ncaa.org/web\\_files/eligibility\\_center/OVN/Courses\\_Taken\\_Online\\_or\\_at\\_Virtual\\_School.pdf](http://web1.ncaa.org/web_files/eligibility_center/OVN/Courses_Taken_Online_or_at_Virtual_School.pdf)

### **How does this affect your implementation of Education2020?**

1. The impact is only on student athletes seeking acceptance at Division I and II colleges and universities.
2. Credit recovery / grade retrieval / grade replacement / intercession projects are only impacted for these student athletes.
  - a. These students should not be enrolled in any Education2020 course that has been shortened based on seat time waivers.
  - b. These students should not be enrolled in any Education2020 course that uses pre-test mode or prescriptive testing to accelerate the student progress.
  - c. These students should be enrolled in Education2020 courses that are designed to meet the "initial credit" granting policies for your district.

### **How is Education2020 addressing the new requirements?**

1. We have submitted our content to NCAA for review.
  - a. Feedback from NCAA is that Education2020 is a "curriculum" used by school districts, not an on-line, independent study, correspondence course.
  - b. It is the responsibility of the district to ensure that curriculum used in credit recovery, grade forgiveness, or other retrieval courses meets the district's curriculum expectations and that these programs meet the criteria outlined earlier.
  - c. It is the district's responsibility to submit any online courses for review by the NCAA as they would their traditional courses.