



## MTSU Compliance

### Eligibility

#### **Initial-Eligibility**

In order to be eligible for practice and competition, all incoming first-time college students wishing to be a member of any Middle Tennessee State University athletic team **MUST** register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The NCAA Clearinghouse is responsible for the evaluation of high school academic records to determine whether they meet the NCAA initial-eligibility guidelines per Bylaw 14.3.

The basic guidelines for becoming eligible to practice and compete at the Division I level during the first academic year are as follows:

- Graduate from high school
- Attain a minimum high school grade point average of 2.0 in 14 core curriculum courses as specified by Bylaw 14.3.1.1, and
- Achieve a corresponding sum ACT or SAT score as specified by Bylaw 14.3.1.1.1.

The Athletic Compliance Office with the assistance of MTSU Athletic certifying officer will track initial-eligibility status with the NCAA Clearinghouse. The NCAA Clearinghouse provides our office with daily updates on current and potential student-athletes. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to consult with their high school academic counselor to ensure their academic records are forwarded to the NCAA Clearinghouse.

#### **Continuing Eligibility**

The continuing eligibility standards have been updated. Please note the changes made and follow the guidelines accordingly.

#### **Entered college as a full time student *prior to August 2003***

In order to maintain eligibility for competition at Middle Tennessee State University, student-athletes **MUST** have satisfactorily completed at least an average of 12 semester hours of academic credit each of the terms in each of the academic years that they have been enrolled, or they must have successfully completed 24 semester hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term. If a student-athlete is ineligible at the beginning of any regular term (fall and spring), they may regain eligibility at the beginning of any other regular term in that academic year by completing at least an average of 12-semester hours of academic credit during each term they have been enrolled, or by satisfactorily completing 24-semester hours of academic credit during MTSU's previous regular two semesters.

Student-athletes must earn at least 75% of their semester hours required during the regular academic year (fall and spring). Student-athletes may not earn more than 25% of semester hours required for satisfactory progress during the summer.

Student-athletes must also declare an intended major prior to beginning their third year of enrollment. This legislation applies to transfer students as well. Additionally, student-athletes are required to meet the following percentage of degree requirements in order to maintain eligibility for competition. The requirements are outlined as follows:

- Student-athletes entering their 3rd year of collegiate enrollment must have completed 25% of their specific degree requirements.

- Student-athletes entering their 4th year of collegiate enrollment must have completed 50% of their specific degree requirements.
- Student-athletes entering their 5th year of collegiate enrollment must have completed 75% of their specific degree requirements.

Entered college as a full time student **after August 2003**

In order to maintain eligibility at Middle Tennessee State University , student-athlete must have satisfactorily completed a **minimum of 6 semester hours each semester** (fall and spring), and have completed 18 semester hours for each fall and spring semesters combined. Additionally, student-athletes are required to meet the following standards in order to maintain eligibility for competition. The requirements are outlined as follows:

- Student-athletes entering their 2nd year of collegiate enrollment must have completed 24 semester hours (starting from the previous fall), as well as have a 1.8 G.P.A.
- Student-athletes entering their 3rd year of collegiate enrollment must have completed 40% of their specific degree requirements, as well as have a 1.9 G.P.A.
- Student-athletes entering their 4th year of collegiate enrollment must have completed 60% of their specific degree requirements, as well as have a 2.0 G.P.A.
- Student-athletes entering their 5th year of collegiate enrollment must have completed 80% of their specific degree requirements, as well as have a 2.0 G.P.A.

**Remedial Credits**

Currently a student-athlete may be required to take credits of remedial work, depending on placement tests in Math and Reading. A student-athlete may have to take a placement test based on their ACT or SAT scores. Prospects may want to take the SAT or ACT again (even if they will be a qualifier and admitted to the Middle Tennessee State University) in order to reduce the number of remedial credits they may need to take **since only 6 of these credits may count toward eligibility.**

Students may also be required to take remedial courses in Reading and Math if they have low SAT or ACT scores

**Other Eligibility Considerations**

Student-athletes are permitted to compete in only 4 seasons of competition, except for extensions that have been approved in accordance with NCAA legislation (Bylaws 14.2 and 30.6.1). Student-athletes who were not qualifiers per Bylaw 14.3 are only permitted to compete in 3 seasons of competition at the Division I level.

Additionally, student-athletes at the Division I level only have 5 calendar years from the date they first enrolled as a full time student in a collegiate institution in order to fulfill those 4 seasons of competition. This is called the 5-year time clock. The only exceptions to this would be for time spent in the armed services, on official church missions or with recognized foreign-aid services of the United States government.