Pursuant to the 2017-18 initial-eligibility waiver directive, Division I student-athletes who receive a partially approved initial-eligibility waiver may earn eligibility for practice in the next regular academic term of full-time enrollment during the first year in residence (e.g., 2018 spring semester). Specifically, these student-athletes may earn eligibility for practice by successfully completing at least nine semester hours or eight quarter hours of academic credit (acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs) in the preceding regular academic term (e.g., 2017 fall semester) of full-time enrollment (the condition).

The following questions and answers are intended to assist Division I institutions.

Credit Hours.

Question No. 1: Which semester or quarter hours may be used to determine whether the student-athlete met the condition?

Answer: Semester or quarter hours must be earned during the preceding regular academic term of full-time enrollment (per the institution's official academic calendar for regular semesters or quarters) during the first year in residence and applicable toward any of the institution's degree programs (see NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7). Unless otherwise noted, current legislation and interpretations governing credit hours for progress toward degree credit hour requirements apply.

Question No. 2: If a student-athlete receives an incomplete in one or more courses and later completes the course(s), which term does it count toward?

Answer: The course with the acceptable letter grade must be counted during the term in which the student-athlete was initially enrolled in the course or during the term in which the incomplete grade was removed and acceptable credit was awarded, based on the institution’s policy for all students.

Certification and Reporting to NCAA Staff.

Question No. 3: Will NCAA staff certify whether the student-athlete met the condition?

Answer: No. The appropriate institutional authority shall determine whether the student-athlete met the condition. For a transfer student-athlete, the previous institution shall determine whether the student-athlete met the condition in the preceding semester or quarter of full-time enrollment.
Question No. 4: Is the institution required to notify NCAA staff regarding whether the student-athlete met the condition?

Answer: Yes. The institution shall notify the initial-eligibility waiver case manager regarding the student-athlete's academic performance in the preceding full-time semester or quarter (hours of academic credit attempted and earned for degree credit [per NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7] and term GPA) and specify whether the student-athlete met the condition. The institution is not required to submit official transcripts to NCAA staff; however, the institution shall promptly notify staff after certifying whether the student-athlete met the condition.

Change in Eligibility for Practice.

Question No. 5: If a student-athlete receives a partially-approved IEW for athletics aid and meets the condition, when may he or she begin practicing?

Answer: Legislation and interpretations regarding change in eligibility status (NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.4.3.4) shall apply to a student-athlete who earns eligibility for practice.

Question No. 6: If a student-athlete meets the condition, may he or she sit with the institution’s team (e.g., on the bench, in the dugout, on the sidelines) during a home contest in which the team participates (during a term in which a student-athlete is eligible to practice)?

Answer: Yes. However, the student-athlete may not dress in uniform for the contest.

Exceptions/Additional Recourse.

Question No. 7: Are there any exceptions to the academic requirements (i.e., nine semester hours or eight quarter hours) necessary to meet the condition?

Answer: No.

Question No. 8: If the student-athlete does not meet the condition, is there any additional recourse (i.e., appeal, reconsideration, additional waiver) to earn practice in the next regular term of full-time enrollment in the first year in residence?

Answer: The condition permitting the ability to earn practice is subject to the IEW decision, which must be appealed within 30 calendar days after receiving written notice of the staff decision via Requests/Self-Reports Online.
Question No. 9: Can a student-athlete who receives a partially-approved IEW earn eligibility for competition during the first year in residence based on performance in the preceding regular term of full-time enrollment?

Answer: No.

Academic Performance Program.

Question No. 10: Does failure to meet the condition impact the eligibility point for Academic Performance Program purposes?

Answer: No. The condition only applies to the IEW process.