

ADVISING NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETES 2016-17

NCAA sports at SHC include the following: Men—baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, tennis, and outdoor track & field; Women—basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, outdoor track & field, volleyball, and beach volleyball.

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Incoming freshmen—All incoming freshmen student-athletes must be approved for participation from the NCAA.

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Full-time Status —Student-athletes must always maintain full-time status, defined as 12 credit hours per semester for undergraduates, 6 or 9 credit hours per semester for graduates. Falling below these thresholds affects the student-athlete's eligibility to practice, to compete, and, potentially, to receive his or her Grant-in-Aid ("scholarship"). This is especially important if student-athletes drop a course once a semester has officially begun—**as soon as they fall below these numbers, they are no longer eligible**. It can affect the team as a whole if a student-athlete participates while ineligible.

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Academic eligibility —Student-athletes who have been approved by the NCAA and are participating in a sport must:

- A. Be seeking either a Bachelor's or a Master's degree;
- B. Be enrolled as a full-time student (see #2 above);

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C. Meet the requirements of the 9-, 18-, and 24-hour rules:

- ⇒ **9-hour rule** —Student-athletes must have completed 9 hours in the previous full-time term of enrollment (applies to transfers, as well).
- ⇒ **18-hour rule** —Student-athletes must have completed 18 hours in the previous 2 full-time terms of enrollment (applies to transfers, as well).
- ⇒ **24-hour rule**—Student-athletes must have completed 24 hours in the previous year (including summer terms);

D. Be in good academic standing and meet minimum grade-point average — Student-athletes must be in good academic standing, as defined by SHC, and they must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.

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Declaration of Major & Path to Graduation—

By the beginning of their fifth full-time semester (typically first semester of junior year), student-athletes must declare a major. Once a major is declared, credits earned as part of the aforementioned 9-, 18-, and 24-hour rules must be applicable to the student-athlete's degree program (i.e. required major credits, minor credits, core curriculum credits, or allowable elective credits).

- a. This "Declaration of Major" rule also applies to transfer students.
- b. Minors—Hours needed to complete a minor can now count towards degree-applicable hours if the minor has been officially declared prior to the term in which the hours are earned and they are earned during the academic year (i.e. fall or spring semesters).
- c. Please inform any student who wishes to change a major to notify Student Advising Services that she or he is an NCAA athlete. SAS will then

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Adding/Dropping Courses —Student-athletes who make a schedule change beyond the add/drop period must obtain a signature from Athletic Compliance in addition to the already-required signatures from the Course Instructor and Advisor. The Registrar’s Office will flag student-athletes as their forms are processed.

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Repeat Courses—A course that has been repeated due to a previously unsatisfactory grade may count towards satisfaction of minimum requirements only one time, provided the course has been satisfactorily completed.
a. Spring Hill College policy states that when a course is repeated, each attempt counts towards computation of GPA, but “earned credit may only be granted once .”

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Priority Registration—The current SHC policy is to give student-athletes priority registration by cohort. Please advise student-athletes to ensure all holds are cleared so they can take advantage of this opportunity. By allowing them priority registration, we hope to minimize missed class time due to competition once the semester begins.

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Exceptions/Questions—The NCAA rules often require interpretation. If you ever have a question and are unsure about advising, please contact one of the people listed to the right so we can investigate and clarify the application of NCAA rules. Thank you in advance.

Contact Information for SHC Compliance Team Members

(For Academic Advising Questions)

Jim Hall 380-3491
Athletic Director jhall@shc.edu

Chad LeBlanc 380-4077
Assistant Athletic Director cleblanc@shc.edu
for Internal Affairs & Compliance

Craig Kennedy 380-4069
Compliance Coordinator ckennedy@shc.edu

Linnea Battles 380-2240
Registrar lbattles@shc.edu

Ashley Dunklin 380-3470
Advising Director, Student adunklin@shc.edu
Advising Services

Dr. Steven Almquist 380-4191
Faculty Athletics salmquist@shc.edu
Representative (FAR)

