Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) Policy Pertaining to Admission of Student-Athletes

The Office of Admissions is charged with the responsibility to enroll academically able and diverse freshman and transfer classes of a certain size, with specific proportions of non-resident and international students. Admission offers are closely managed to ensure that enrollments do not exceed targeted levels.

Another enrollment consideration is the admission of exceptional student-athletes who are ready to meet the academic demands of the University of Washington. The University needs to identify and reserve adequate enrollment space to populate each team with athletically competitive and academically qualified student-athletes.

Newly admitted student-athletes will fall into one of three admission categories:

1. Routine admission
2. Priority admission
3. Special admission

Up to 100 new freshmen and transfer student athletes from the ‘priority’ and ‘special’ categories may be enrolled over the course of an academic year. (See Addendum 2 for policy criteria governing international student-athletes.)

1) Routine Admission

Routinely admitted freshmen and transfer athletes are those admitted without consideration of their recruited student-athlete (RSA) status. The category includes RSAs who apply late, but are routinely admissible. Late applicants are not included in the 100 spaces allocated for priority and special admission athletes.

2) Priority Admission

Recruited student-athletes considered for priority admission have Higher Education Coordinating Board Admission Index (AI) numbers of 28 or higher, have at least an 80% or greater chance of achieving at least 2.00 GPA by the end of their first academic year at the University, and are not regularly admissible based on comprehensive review results. This category also includes students with up to one year’s deficiency in the social sciences. Applicants eligible for priority admission must, however, satisfy the University’s mathematics and foreign language core requirements for admission.
The Faculty Council on Academic Standards Subcommittee on Admission and Graduation shall be provided at the end of each academic year with progress and retention reports for all ‘priority students’.

3) **Special Admission**

Freshmen recruited with an academic profile which predicts less than an 80% probability of attaining a freshman-year GPA of at least 2.0 (currently represented by an AI number below 28), recruited transfers with GPAs below 2.30, and applicants with mathematics or foreign language core deficiencies will be considered ‘special admits’. The total number of admissions from this category shall be limited to **30 students** per academic year.

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics will provide the Director of Admissions with a statement about each student recommended for Special or Priority Admission that contains the following:

1. Signatures of the Sport Head Coach, the Director of Athletics (or designee), a representative of Student Athlete Academic Services, and the ICA Compliance Officer attesting to:

   *the above-referenced student-athlete possesses exceptional talents as required for a SPECIAL/PRIORITY admit, and that documentation supporting this designation is on file in the UW Athletics Compliance Office. I recognize that failure to be on the roster for a minimum of one academic year for any reason may result in their dismissal from the University of Washington*

2. The supporting documentation shall include a summary of the prospective student-athlete’s athletic accolades and expected impact within the team, as well as their academic index, previous school GPA, available test scores, and a listing of any CADR deficiencies.
Decisions about specially admitted student-athletes shall be made by the Director of Admissions in consultation with relevant academic and athletic personnel. A decision may be appealed in a timely manner by the Director of Athletics. An Appellate Committee composed of the Director of Admissions, the Faculty Athletic Representative, the Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, and at least one faculty member appointed from the Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics by the Advisory Committee Chair will consider the appeal. The Chair of the Appellate Committee shall be the Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs. The Appellate Committee may choose to consider new information and has the prerogative of speaking with the Director of Athletics, relevant coaches, and the student-athlete in question. Only those members of the Appellate Committee who hold faculty rank may vote on Appellate Committee decisions. In hearing such appeals, the Appellate Committee shall be regarded as a subcommittee of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards Subcommittee on Admission and Graduation. The Appellate Committee shall communicate their decision about whether or not they approve the student's request to be considered for special admission, as well as any conditions that must be satisfied prior to enrollment, to the Director of Admissions, the Head Coach, the Athletic Director and the ICA Compliance Officer.

Should the Director of Admission believe that a decision by the Appellate Committee rests on a violation or misinterpretation of the University's admission policies as established by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, the Director of Admissions shall have the authority to appeal a decision by the Appellate Committee to the Council’s Subcommittee on Admission and Graduation. In the event of such an appeal, the Chair of the Appellate Committee and the Director of Admissions shall both attend to present the case to the Subcommittee on Admission and Graduation. In all such cases, the decision of the Subcommittee on Admission and Graduation shall be final. No further appeals are permitted.

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1 The Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics advises the President of the University of Washington on all matters pertaining to (1) institutional control of the athletic program; (2) the academic and financial integrity of intercollegiate athletics; (3) the academic and personal well-being of student-athletes; and (4) the accountability of the athletic department to the values and mission of the University of Washington. The committee consists of the following voting members: the Faculty Athletic Representative and nine additional faculty members, and two representatives from the University of Washington Student Athlete Advisory Council. The faculty members shall serve staggered three-year terms that are renewable. The President shall appoint the faculty members. Half of the faculty members shall be appointed from nominees from the Chair of the Faculty Senate. The Committee shall elect its own Chair who may serve renewable terms. Ex-officio members (non-voting) of the Committee include: the Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, the Vice Provost for Student Life, the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Chair of the Faculty Council on Student Affairs or his or her designee, a Presidential representative, the Director of Admissions, and senior athletic administrators as designated by the Committee.
The Faculty Athletic Representative shall provide the Subcommittee on Admission and Graduation with an academic year-end progress and retention report on special admission students.

**ICA Enrollment Estimates for Late Freshmen and Transfer Applicants**

Annually, on the first Monday after April 15, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) will tell the Office of Admissions the number of *freshman places* needed to meet fall recruiting goals. Admissions will account for these reserved spaces in its fall quarter admission plan and in making initial freshmen offers of admission. On May 15, ICA will confirm the number of freshman places needed to meet fall recruiting goals so that Admissions can finalize waiting lists and conclude decisions on late-deposit petitions. By July 1, ICA will tell the Office of Admissions the number of *transfer places* needed for the balance of the summer to meet fall goals.

ICA ‘estimate dates’ for freshmen and transfers in other quarters are as follows:

a) Winter quarter: November 1  
b) Spring quarter: March 1  
c) Summer quarter: April 15

The achievement of the University’s enrollment goals is extremely important, therefore the reserved places for freshmen and transfers must be closely managed, and the ICA estimates must be accurate.

The Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation will review this policy at the end of each academic year. Included in the review will be assessments of the accuracy of ICA projections and of the academic progress of student-athletes in the priority and special admission categories.
Special and Priority Admissions Conditions

The intention of this policy is to protect and promote the best interests of student athletes admitted under the special and priority admissions policy, paying particular attention to these students’ academic best interests, while also protecting the integrity of the admissions policies and practices of the University of Washington.

Letters of admission for special and priority admits should state that there is an expectation that, as special or priority admits, students will commit to participating fully in the intercollegiate sport that has sponsored their admission, including practices, training, and competition as specified by their head coach; and that if they do not fulfill this expectation, their admission to and continued enrollment at the University may be revoked. Such revocation decisions shall be made only by the ACIA Admissions Appeals Committee, and only upon the recommendation of the student athlete’s head coach and upon the approval of this recommendation by the Senior Associate Athletic Director who supervises the student athlete’s sport. Student-athlete appeals of the ACIA Admissions Appeals Committee’s decision on whether to revoke admissions and continued enrollment shall go to the Faculty Council on Academic Standards Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation (SCAG). SCAG’s decision is final and may not be appealed.

In rendering a decision on a proposed revocation of admission and continued enrollment, the following guidelines shall be applied by the ACIA Admissions Appeals Committee:

1) Revocation of admission and continued enrollment of special and priority admitted student athletes may be considered for any of the following reasons:
   a. if the student athlete freely chooses to leave their team during their first year as an enrolled UW student athlete;
   b. if the student is dismissed from the team for proven violation(s) of team rules;
   c. if the student violates the UW Student Code of Conduct; and/or
   d. if, in the opinion of the head coach and the Senior Associate Athletic Director, the student’s willful, deliberate behavior is seriously detrimental to the team or to the integrity of UW Athletics. Examples of seriously detrimental behavior shall include failure to follow through on the expectation, stated in their letter of admission, that the student will participate fully in required team activities, including practices, training, and competition.

2) Student athletes who cannot participate in their sport because of injury, illness, or other medical condition shall not have their admission revoked.

3) Student athletes who are “cut” from their team because they are not competitive athletically, or because the coach decides they do not need the student athlete on their team, shall not have their admission to the University revoked for either of these reasons.

4) Student athletes who lose their scholarships for any of these reasons may appeal this decision to a review committee headed by the Director of Financial Aid.
Addenda

1) The Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation will be provided with a report of the academic services available to athletes.

2) The following criteria apply for the routine, priority, and special admission of international student-athletes (ISA):
   a) Routine admission applies to an ISA with a high school GPA of >3.0 and no academic core deficiencies (with the exception of fine art).
   b) Priority admission applies to an ISA with a high school GPA between 2.60 and 2.99, and no academic deficiencies (except for fine art and up to one year of social science).
   c) Special admission applies to an ISA with a high school GPA <2.60.*

   * Because international transcripts can vary widely, the Director of Admissions retains discretion to classify any ISA in the ‘special admission’ category.

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