

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY CHANGES FOR 2009-10

Effective with the 2009-10 school year, the minimum academic standard for athletic eligibility changes to “66 percent of credit load potential for a full-time student,” and the period of ineligibility following a deficiency at the end of a term is “the next trimester or 60 scheduled school days in schools not operating under a trimester system.”

These changes were approved by the MHSAA Representative Council on Dec. 5, 2008, after more than two years of discussion throughout the MHSAA’s diverse constituency. As always, MHSAA member schools may apply higher standards and longer periods of ineligibility than the MHSAA minimum standard.

Prior to 1986, the minimum requirement was that students be passing 15 credit hours. For the past 22 years, the minimum standard has required passing 20 credit hours. The new minimum standard will mean that students who pass four of seven courses will no longer meet the minimum standard.

The current rule states that students who are failing to meet the minimum standard are ineligible for the next semester, or 90 school days in schools using academic systems other than semesters. The change that is coming in 2009-10 stipulates that students are ineligible for the next trimester, or 60 school days in schools using academic systems other than trimesters.

The 2009-10 school year will be one of transition, and the following policies and procedures have been approved by the MHSAA Executive Committee as minimum standards for this time of transition:

1. Students must be completing 66 percent in their first term of the 2009-10 school year.
2. Students in trimester systems who were ineligible at the end of the second trimester of the 2008-09 school year but have a satisfactory third trimester record become eligible on Aug. 1, 2009.
3. Students in trimester systems who were ineligible at the end of the third trimester of the 2008-09 school year become eligible at the start of their second trimester of the 2009-10 school year.
4. Students in semester systems who are ineligible at the end of the second semester of the 2008-09 school year become eligible on their 61st scheduled school day of the 2009-10 school year, provided they have been doing passing work cumulatively for the previous 60 days.
5. Students who achieve credit for four courses but not 66 percent of full course load potential for a full-time student (e.g., four of seven) during their last academic term of 2008-09 remain eligible at the start of the 2009-10 school year.