

## Fall 2021 College Series Eligibility Rules

**THESE RULES DON'T APPLY AFTER THE FALL 2021 SEASON**

### Consortium Programs

USA Ultimate will not review new consortium applications for the Fall 2021 College Series. Teams with approved consortiums for the Spring 2020 College Season will be valid for the Fall 2021 College Series. Teams who last applied for the Spring 2020 College Season shall maintain a consortium through the end of the Spring 2022 College Season, unless otherwise noted below. Those teams who last applied for consortium approval prior to the 2019 season must reapply by December 31 to be approved for the Spring 2022 College Season. The following schools have approved consortiums, the year in which the school last applied is listed in parenthesis:

UMass + Hampshire College (2020)\*

Notre Dame + Holy Cross and St Marys (2020)

Haverford + Bryn Mawr (2020)

Kansas - Kansas Medical School (2019)

Claremont McKenna Colleges (2019)

CU Denver - Metro State (2019)

Syracuse- SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry (2019)

Victoria - Camosun College (2019)

\*Approved on a one year basis only, and requires reapplication for 2022

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### **Academic Eligibility**

Applicability: The following registration requirements, including exceptions, must be applicable throughout the entire fall semester at a school on a semester system. For quarter system schools, the registration requirements must be applicable throughout the fall quarter. Students must be enrolled in at least one course **required** for graduation in the semester or quarter used to determine their eligibility.

Degree Seeking Enrollment: They must be both accepted and enrolled in a

regularly matriculated degree program at the school for which eligibility is to apply. Programs that culminate in only the awarding of a certificate are not considered "degree-seeking."

Enrollment Status: They must be enrolled in at least one full time class or equivalent as defined by the school registrar.

1. Graduate students engaged in research, teaching or thesis production which will lead towards the awarding of a degree qualify under this rule.
2. Courses taken through a "Continuing Education" or "Extension" program may not be used to fulfill the above requirements, unless approved through the USA Ultimate Coursework Validation process. Email [coll\\_elig\\_comm@usultimate.org](mailto:coll_elig_comm@usultimate.org) for information on this process.

## **Academic Eligibility Exception for Graduated Students**

Graduated Students Exception: The academic eligibility requirements listed above will not apply for athletes with remaining Participation Eligibility (as described below), who graduated between April 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 from the school they plan to play with. In order to take advantage of this exception, graduated students must:

1. Provide proof to USA Ultimate of graduation date and the degree they received.
2. Have permission from their school to participate with their team.

Graduated Student Option: If a student is eligible at one school through their degree seeking and enrollment status, but also eligible at a different school through the graduated student exception, they will have the option to participate for one team or the other. They may only be rostered on a single roster for the Fall 2021 College Series.

## **Participation Eligibility**

Definition of Participation: Participation, as it pertains to the college eligibility rules, is defined as a player playing at an event or a player being included on an official roster for an event.

Definition of Start Date Events:

1. *For events after June 1, 2013 -*

Start Date Events include all championship series level events, all club regular season events, all college level events sanctioned by USA Ultimate, select team WFDF World Championship events in the under-24 age group and higher, or any equivalent events sanctioned by a national governing body other than USA Ultimate.

2. *For events prior to June 1, 2013 -*

Start Date Events include all events sanctioned by a national governing body, and exclude the following events classified as "Insured Play" - Practice/Tryout; Scrimmage; Skills Clinic; Hat Tournaments that took place after June 1, 2012; and Skills Camps.

Initial Participation: If more than five (5) years have elapsed between Initial Participation in any Start Date Event and June 1 of the current year, the player is not eligible. See [Military Service Exemptions](#).

*For example, if your first Start Date Event was any time between June 1, 2013 and May 31, 2014, you would be eligible to participate in the following college seasons: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.*

The above notwithstanding, the Initial Participation rule for the Fall 2021 College Series is adjusted to account for the extensions granted to fifth-year student athletes in [2020](#) and all eligible players in [2021](#). Examples of the application of those extensions are below:

[2020 Fifth-Year Extension](#)

*For example, if your first Start Date Event was any time between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016, and you were academically eligible during the Spring 2020 College Season, you would be eligible to participate in the following college seasons: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021\* and 2022\*.*

### General 2021 Extension

*For example, if your first Start Date Event was any time between June 1, 2016 and May 31, 2017, you would be eligible to participate in the following college seasons: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022\*.*

*\* indicates extension season*

Fall 2021 College Series Participation: If you have remaining participation eligibility for the Spring 2022 College Season, you are eligible to participate in the Fall 2021 College Series. All fall college series events will count as a Start Date Event for new college participants.

High School Participation: Initial Participation excludes participation in Start Date Events while in school prior to high school graduation.

Youth Participation In Start Date Events: Participation in a Start Date Event as a member of a Youth Club team shall be excluded from Initial Participation, unless such a team participates in the club championship series.

## **Participation Eligibility Exceptions**

All participation eligibility exception reviews are handled on a case by case basis and are not establishment of precedent.

Military Service Exemptions – Exemptions may be in place for players if their U.S. military service directly prevented their USA Ultimate College Series eligibility or attendance as a part of a participating team. For each college series that a player is granted this exemption they will receive a one year eligibility extension. Requests for Military Exemptions must be submitted to and approved by the USA Ultimate College Eligibility Committee. Contact [coll\\_elig\\_comm@usultimate.org](mailto:coll_elig_comm@usultimate.org) to apply for an exemption.

Foreign Exchange Students – Foreign exchange students may also apply to have their situation reviewed, but may not take advantage of any of the Academic Eligibility exceptions. They must be full-time, degree seeking students and must submit all required documentation in English. Foreign exchange students must provide evidence of initial participation from the

governing body for ultimate of their home country.

## **Team Eligibility**

School Composition – Each player's eligibility must apply at the same college or university (or schools in a current USA Ultimate approved consortium). If the school has multiple branches or locations, all players must be attending the same branch or location.

Team Registration – Each team must have a designated Team Organizer who will be responsible for the integrity, completeness, and timeliness of the team's Roster. Before playing in any Series event, each team must meet the registration requirements outlined in the series guidelines.

## Membership Status

1. Each player on the Roster must be a USA Ultimate member in good standing at all times during the Series.
2. Each player must produce a picture ID upon demand of the tournament director or USA Ultimate official at a sanctioned event.
3. Violation of these rules may result in disqualification from the current Series and/or disqualification from any or all USA Ultimate sanctioned events for up to one year. This penalty is applicable to any and all players on the violating team at the discretion of USA Ultimate, and may include USA Ultimate events after the graduation of violating players.

## **Clarifications**

These rules are designed to be as fair as possible for all of the wide range of schools and players participating in the Series. Experience has shown that there can be cases where these rules do not determine absolutely the eligibility of a particular player.

The following procedure is available for players/teams for whom the rules are not clear:

1. The team Spokesperson or the player in question may submit an inquiry to the College Eligibility Committee Chair at [coll\\_elig\\_comm@usultimate.org](mailto:coll_elig_comm@usultimate.org).
2. The inquiry must be made and submitted by September 15, 2021. Late requests will be considered at the discretion of the Eligibility Committee.
3. If the inquiry is deemed worthy of case consideration, it will be reviewed by the Eligibility Committee (or a proxy approved by the Eligibility Committee), and responses e-mailed.
4. **This clarification procedure is NOT intended to allow exceptions to the eligibility rules. Rather, it allows accurate and consistent determination of eligibility status WITHIN these rules.**