

Eligibility Committee Report
2019 Winter Meeting
Park City, UT
1/12/2019

Mitch forwarded the following question to me for a response (I have reworded it to place it in the normal Eligibility Committee format):

Question: Is a student eligible, who a senior planning to graduate fall 2018 after 3.5 years and then remain on campus to participate in an internship in spring 2019. The student could delay graduation and accept the significant cost of taking one class in spring 2019 under PR 12(b).

Answer: No. The student would not be eligible. The Eligibility Committee has already ruled on the issues involved, see **Case PR 12(a) – 10 (2002)** [Internships], **Case 12(b) - 7 (2008)** [Eligibility ends when the requirements for graduation have been met] and **Case 12(d) - 7 (2018)** [Eligibility after acquiring the credits for graduation].

A copy of the email to the individual raising the question is attached. No further communication on the matter has been received.

George H. Griswold

Chair, ICSA Eligibility Committee



Mitch has sent your inquiry to me for a response.

You have stated that the student intends to graduate this fall.

My understanding is that the student will have completed the requirements for graduation with a Bachelor's Degree by the end of the Fall Season. The student is considering whether or not to accept an internship for the Spring Season.

If the student needs to enroll in more courses classes to reach the **minimum** number of credits needed for graduation then the student can take additional course work during the Spring Season and take advantage of the provisions in PR 12(b).

"12(b) **Final Term Exception** – An eligible student-athlete in his or her last term prior to graduating, who is enrolled in less than a full-time set of courses but is carrying all the classes necessary for graduation at the end of that term, may compete. This exception shall be allowed only once per sailor."

I would also direct you to Case PR 12(a) - 10 in the ICSA Eligibility Case Book and Guide

“Case PR 12(a) – 10 (2002) Internships

Question: A student has two remaining seasons of eligibility (Fall 2002 & Spring 2003). The student is taking less than a full load Fall 2002 in order to make time for an internship. Do the hours spent on internships count towards a student's total load?

Answer: The hours spent on internships may, or may not count towards a student's total academic load depending on the general academic policy at the student's school. If a school gives academic credit for internships or co-op programs the hours would count towards the student's academic load. If the student's school certifies that a student meets the "full time" criteria for that institution then the student meets that eligibility requirement.”

Note that an internship may or may not qualify as a course, depending on whether or not the student's school attaches undergraduate credits to it.

However, the main issue is whether or not the student has accumulated the **minimum** number of credits, at the student's school, for graduation. If so the student is not eligible following the Fall Season according to Procedural rule 12(d).

"12(d) **Eligibility after Graduation** – No student-athlete shall represent a college after receiving a bachelor's degree from any college, except that a student-athlete, eligible to compete when the degree was received, shall remain eligible until the end of that season."

From the ICSA Eligibility Case book and Guide.

Case PR 12(b) – 8 (2008) Eligibility ends when the requirements for graduation have been met.

Question: An individual will have completed all necessary coursework to graduate by the end of the fall semester, but will graduate in May. In lieu of taking additional classes next semester,

however, the individual opts to seek an internship. Is an individual eligible under the provisions of PR 12(b) during the Spring Season.

Answer: No. Since the individual has completed the requirements for graduation the exception in PR 12(b) does not apply. See ICSA Eligibility Case Book & Guide Cases PR 12(b) – 4 (2000) and PR12(b) – 6(2005) both of which indicate that once a student has completed the requirements for graduation that for eligibility purposes they have graduated.

The following is a draft of the response in the standard Eligibility Committee format:

Case 12(d) - 7 (2018) Eligibility after acquiring the credits for graduation

Question: Is a student eligible under Pr 12(b) [Final Term Exception] when accepting an internship after completing the minimum requirements for a Bachelor's degree from their school, and graduating, prior to exceeding the 4 spring season and 4 fall season limits in PR 12(c)(ii).

Answer: No, once a student has acquired the minimum requirements for graduation with a Bachelor's degree, whether or not they have formally graduated, from their school they are no longer eligible under PR 12(d) [Eligibility after Graduation] even though they have not used all their seasons of eligibility, and they may not take advantage of the provisions of PR 12(b).

If the above is not clear, please let me know and I will forward your question to the entire Eligibility Committee.

George Griswold
Chair, ICSA Eligibility Committee