



Union College Department of Athletics

Guidelines For Participation In Intercollegiate Athletics

It is the responsibility of each student-athlete to communicate directly with his or her professor when academics and athletic schedules have a conflict. Athletic participation is a privilege, not a right, and permission to proceed with an athletic commitment must be granted by the professor. The Department of Athletics is sensitive to the academic demands, and does not allow a student athlete to miss any class time or as little class time as possible. The college has established specific guidelines for participating in intercollegiate athletics

The College recognizes the many benefits—for participants and the College community as a whole—of intercollegiate athletics. At the same time, the College affirms the priority of its academic mission. Consequently, the following guidelines must be followed:

1. Student-athletes must recognize that the academic demands of the College take precedence in any situation in which conflicts arise between academic obligations and practice for and participation in athletics.
2. Student-athletes must recognize that it is their responsibility, not that of the professor, to accommodate the demands of athletic participation to their academic responsibilities. While professors are often sympathetic to the conflicts that do arise, they are not obligated to make changes in schedules, assignments, or tests either for practices, intercollegiate contests or the travel they require.
3. If conflicts arise, it is the obligation of the student to inform both the professors and the coaches and find a way to meet the academic obligation. Students are advised to discuss potential conflicts with their professors at the beginning of each term.
4. The first obligation of all students is to attend classes as scheduled. Missing a class or a lab to attend practice is not acceptable.
5. It is the responsibility of athletic coaches to design a weekly practice schedule that does not conflict with academic classes. Practice schedules that include meetings
6. The College encourages faculty to make clear their policies on attendance and the dates of examination at the start of each term on their syllabi.

In addition, you are to be reminded of **NCAA by-law 17.1.6**. It reads:

“Missed Class Time-Practice. No class time shall be missed for practice activities except when a team is traveling to an away-from-home contest and the practice is in conjunction with the contest.”