



Student Assembly

Resolution 50: Ensuring Fair Course Access for Student Athletes

Abstract: The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) proposes limited early enrollment for student-athletes to gain access to pre-enrollment one hour earlier than their respective class year.

Sponsored by: President Zora deRham '27, Caroline Grove '26, Maddie Ferreira '26

Type of Action: Recommendation

Originally Presented: 04/14/2025

Current Status: Placed on the Second Reading Calendar, 04/17/2025

Whereas, pre-enrollment is a 3-day period during which students may add, drop, or swap classes before the add/drop period. Time slot assignments are determined by class year seniority, whereby seniors register first, juniors second, sophomores third, and freshmen last.

Whereas, pre-enrollment creates stress and anxiety for most students, especially first- and second-year students trying to fulfill core and major requirements.

Whereas, approximately 8% of Cornell undergraduates are varsity student-athletes.

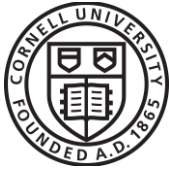
Whereas, Cornell student-athletes choose Cornell to pursue both their academic and athletic aspirations at the highest possible level, and when they are successful at this dual pursuit generate energy, pride, and school spirit for all of Cornell.

Whereas, student-athletes at Cornell often face additional complications to fulfill academic requirements and meeting standard athletics commitments because of inflexible lecture, discussion, and lab scheduling.

Whereas, unnecessary conflicts between athletics and academics as experienced by Cornell student-athletes create risks to on-time graduation within eight semesters or may not fulfill graduate school admissions requirements within a standard timeframe. Such delays create a mental and financial burden for these students.

Whereas, unnecessary conflicts between athletics and academics as experienced by Cornell student-athletes create gaps in training and team development between teammates, compromising the success of Cornell Athletics programs and varsity teams.

Whereas, student-athlete-specific course registration policies are observed at peer institutions such as Yale, Brown, and Columbia. Students polled attest:



Student Assembly

Columbia SAAC President Noelle Ann DeMarinis attests that Columbia has successfully implemented their early enrollment system where student-athletes register one hour earlier than the rest of their class year. Columbia has implemented this policy as they have a strict core curriculum and this structure of early enrollment “allows student-athletes to secure a spot in their preferred section of classes that are offered at multiple times throughout the day.”

An anonymous Brown SAAC Representative reported getting into “full” classes and being able to request that her schedule be moved to accommodate practice.

When we asked: “Do you receive academic enrollment benefits?” an anonymous Yale Women’s Squash player replied yes.

Whereas, increasing the likelihood of enrolling in required courses would enable students to plan their course loads around competition seasons more effectively, thereby decreasing missed class sessions due to required competition and travel, and enhancing student-athlete engagement and academic performance throughout the year.

Whereas, many prerequisite-level courses are large lectures with multiple lecture blocks. Later lecture periods fill up first, resulting in underclassman student-athletes enrolling in lecture periods that conflict with morning practice times. Common examples:

CHEM 2070 (General Chemistry I), MATH 1110 (Calculus I), ECON 1110 (Intro Microeconomics), and CS 1110 (Intro Computing) have multiple lecture choices between 8am and 11:15am. Freshmen student-athletes overwhelmingly attest that they were enrolled in the 8am lecture blocks that require them to miss team practice sessions.

Be it further resolved, the Office of the University Registrar integrates with the salesforce platform and the athletics rosters to create a “student-athlete” filter for course enrollment.

Be it further resolved, student-athletes will have the option, beginning Fall Semester 2025 pre-enrollment period, to enroll one hour earlier than their respective class year, allowing them to choose courses that satisfy major requirements and accommodate athletic requirements.

Be it further resolved, SAAC and the Student Assembly recommend that the Office of the University Registrar conduct a poll of incoming students – both first years and transfers – prior to course registration, asking them to identify the specific courses they need to enroll in during their first semester to remain on track within their declared major or intended pre-veterinary or pre-medical pathways.

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee remain in contact with representative administrators and faculty from Athletics and Academic colleges, and with the Faculty Committee administrations.



Student Assembly

- 65 **Respectfully Submitted,**
- 66 Zora deRham '27
- 67 *President of the Student Assembly*
- 68 Caroline Grove '26
- 69 Student Athlete Advisory Committee Liaison, *Student Assembly*
- 70 Co-President, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
- 71 Maddie Ferreira '26
- 72 Co-President, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee