2020-21 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete
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## WHO SHOULD USE THIS GUIDE? 

This guide answers important questions for four groups of people involved in the NCAA initial-eligibility process:

- High school students who hope to compete in college sports at an NCAA Division I or II school.
- Parents, guardians and family members of high school students.
- High school counselors and athletics administrators.
- High school and nonscholastic coaches.

## HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT NCAA ELIGIBILITY? 

Find answers to many typical questions about NCAA eligibility by:

- Reading this guide.
- Searching frequently asked questions at ncaa.org/studentfaq.
- Visiting ncaa.org/playcollegesports.
- Visiting the Help section of eligibilitycenter.org.
- Calling the NCAA Eligibility Center at 877-262-1492.

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**NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER INFORMATION**

**ONLINE**
ncaa.org/playcollegesports
eligibilitycenter.org

Follow us:
Twitter @NCAAECC
Instagram @playcollegesports
Facebook @NCAAECC

**CONTACT**
U.S. and Canada (except Quebec): 877-262-1492
International (including Quebec): ncaa.org/contactinternational

**CERTIFICATION PROCESSING**
NCAA Eligibility Center Certification Processing
P.O. Box 7136
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7136

**OVERNIGHT DELIVERY**
NCAA Eligibility Center Certification Processing
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202

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**U.S. and Canadian residents (except Quebec) may also call NCAA Eligibility Center at 877-262-1492.**

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**ONLY COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETES should use this guide.**

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**How can you access this guide?**

- Reading this guide.
- Searching frequently asked questions at ncaa.org/studentfaq.
- Visiting ncaa.org/playcollegesports.
- Visiting the Help section of eligibilitycenter.org.
- Calling the NCAA Eligibility Center at 877-262-1492.

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**Follow us:**

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Facebook @NCAAECC

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WHAT IS THE NCAA?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is an organization dedicated to providing a pathway to opportunity for college athletes. More than 1,100 colleges and universities are members of the NCAA. Those schools work together with the NCAA national office and athletics conferences across the country to support nearly half a million college athletes that make up 19,600 teams competing in NCAA sports.

The NCAA’s diverse members include schools ranging in size from those with hundreds of students to those with tens of thousands. The NCAA’s current three-division structure was adopted in 1973 to create a fair playing field for teams from similar schools and provide college athletes more opportunities to participate in national championships.

Among the three NCAA divisions, Division I schools generally have the biggest student bodies, manage the largest athletics budgets and offer the highest number of athletics scholarships. The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition and a focus on service to the community. The Division III experience offers participation in a competitive athletics environment that pushes college athletes to excel on the field and build upon their potential by tackling new challenges across campus.

The NCAA membership and national office work together to help more than 480,000 student-athletes develop leadership, confidence, discipline and teamwork through college sports.

HELPFUL HINTS

• Visit ncaasports.com/playcollegesports to learn more about opportunities available at NCAA schools.
• Know the academic standards for Division I and Division II.
• Find your school’s list of NCAA-approved core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/courses.
• Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org during your freshman year if you are interested in playing college sports.
• After four semesters of high school, ask your counselor to upload official transcripts from all high schools you have attended to your NCAA Eligibility Center account.

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear college-bound student-athlete:

I am glad you want to pursue your education and sport at an NCAA member school. The NCAA strives to make sure college sports provide a pathway to opportunity and lifelong success for the nearly half a million student-athletes we serve across 24 sports and three divisions. Our unique model fosters academic and athletic achievement to ensure your college experience shapes your leadership skills and personal development. No matter what career path you ultimately choose, your college degree will serve you far beyond your final game.

This guide is designed to equip you with information about academic requirements to compete, and inform you about what to expect as you become a student-athlete in one of our three divisions. The NCAA wants to ensure high school athletes meet academic standards that will best prepare them to succeed in college. Initial eligibility determines your ability to receive an athletics scholarship and practice and compete in your first year as a full-time college student.

I encourage you to take an active role in the process of preparing for college. Our more than 1,100 member schools sponsor tremendous academic and athletics programs, so it is never too early to start looking for your best fit. You should also communicate closely with your high school counselors, coaches, parents/guardians and mentors as you transition to college.

I hope this guide helps educate you, your family and high school administrators about the initial-eligibility process for NCAA Divisions I and II schools. If you are interested in NCAA Division III, please visit ncaasports.com/d3 or read page 26 to learn more about the initial-eligibility process in Division III.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us. My staff in the NCAA wants to help you as you prepare for college.

Mark Emmert
NCAA President

NCAA SPORTS

The NCAA conducts 90 national championships in 24 sports across Divisions I, II and III, with 45 championships administered for women and 42 for men. That means almost 54,000 student-athletes participate in NCAA championships each year.

From signature events like the NCAA March Madness men’s and women’s basketball tournaments to rowing, rifle, softball and skiing, the NCAA administers championships to ensure student-athletes have a first-class experience. But the NCAA is also committed to quality events for everyone involved, from the coaches to the fans and broadcast audiences.

It is important to the NCAA that our championships have a positive impact on the communities that host them. The NCAA hosts youth clinics and various fan events to complement the competition — creating what is hoped to be a championship experience for everyone involved.

SCHOLARSHIPS

NCAA Divisions I and II schools provide more than $2.7 billion in athletics scholarships annually to more than 150,000 student-athletes. Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships.

Only about 2% of high school athletes are awarded athletics scholarships to compete in college. Of the student-athletes participating in sports with professional leagues, very few become professional athletes. A college education is the most rewarding benefit of your student-athlete experience.

Division I schools may provide tuition and fees, room and board, books and other expenses related to attendance at the school. Division II schools cover tuition and fees, room, board and course-related books and supplies. Most student-athletes who receive athletics scholarships receive an amount covering a portion of these costs. Many student-athletes also benefit from academic scholarships, NCAA financial aid programs such as the NCAA Division I Student Assistance Fund, and need-based aid such as federal Pell Grants. You must report all financial aid you receive to your NCAA school’s financial aid office. If you have questions about what financial aid can be accepted, contact your NCAA school’s financial aid office and athletics department for help.

Division I schools may provide you with multiyear scholarships. Division II schools must provide you with a one-year scholarship. Additionally, Divisions I and II schools may pay for you to finish your bachelor’s or master’s degrees after you finish playing NCAA sports. NCAA rules require you to be registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center in order to go on an official visit, receive a written offer of financial aid or sign a National Letter of Intent.

If a school plans to reduce or not renew your aid, the school must notify you in writing by July 1 and provide an opportunity for you to appeal. In most cases, the head coach decides who receives a scholarship, the scholarship amount and whether it will be renewed.

Contact the NCAA school you hope to attend for more detailed information about NCAA financial aid rules.
**Thinking of Going Pro?**

There are more than 480,000 NCAA student-athletes, and **less than 2%** will go pro in their sport.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEN'S BASKETBALL</th>
<th>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL</th>
<th>FOOTBALL</th>
<th>BASEBALL</th>
<th>MEN'S ICE HOCKEY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Student-Athletes</td>
<td>540,769</td>
<td>399,067</td>
<td>1,006,013</td>
<td>482,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Student-Athletes</td>
<td>18,816</td>
<td>16,509</td>
<td>73,712</td>
<td>36,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Student-Athletes Drafted</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Percent High School to NCAA</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Percent NCAA to Professional</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentages based on estimated data.

For the rest, the experiences of college athletics and the life lessons they learn along the way will help them as they pursue careers in business, education, athletics administration, communications, law, medicine and many more fields. Education is a vital part of the college athletics experience, and student-athletes treat it that way.

Overall, student-athletes graduate at higher rates than their peers in the student body, and those rates rise each year. For more information on graduation rates, search for “graduation rates” on ncaa.org.

**Our Three Divisions**

The NCAA’s three divisions were created in 1973 to align like-minded campuses in the areas of philosophy, competition and opportunity.

**What are the eligibility requirements in each division?**

College-bound students who want to compete at a Division I or Division II school must meet standards set by NCAA members. For Division III, athletes must meet the admissions standards set by the school. Eligibility standards can be found at eligibilitycenter.org.

**How is each division governed?**

NCAA schools develop and approve legislation for their own divisions. Groups of presidents and chancellors lead each division in the form of committees with regularly scheduled meetings.

**Did you know?**

- DI student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.
- DIII is the only division with schools in Alaska, Puerto Rico and Canada.
- DII's largest school has 25,725 undergraduates. The smallest has 285.

Learn more at ncaa.org/about.
Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete

Time Management

What Division I student-athletes should expect.

Time management is a key component of any college student’s success, but it is especially important for students who play Division I sports. From classes to competition, and everything in between, the student-athlete schedule stays busy year-round. Know what awaits before you step foot on the field.

What takes up a Division I student-athlete’s time?

Did you know?
These are considered countable athletically related activities (CARA). NCAA rules limit the time student-athletes can spend on these activities each week. Check with your campus athletics department for more information.

Competition
Practice
Strength and conditioning
Supplemental workouts
Film review
Academic meetings
Nutritionist sessions
Prospective student-athlete host duties
Team fundraising
Media activities
Community service
Compliance meetings

Time spent on activities per week

Medians collected from the 2019 NCAA GOALS study.

168 hours

35.5
Academics
85
Athletics
33
Other
(e.g., sleep, job, extracurricular)
14.5
Socializing/Relaxing

67% of Division I student-athletes said they spend as much or more time on athletics during the offseason as during their competitive season.

*Based on the 2019 NCAA GOALS study.

During a typical day of competition, Division I student-athletes report spending anywhere from four to nine hours on their sport. For the full breakdown by sport, visit ncaa.org/time-management.

*Based on a 2015 survey of Division I student-athletes.

Time Management

What Division II student-athletes should expect.

Time management is a key component of any college student’s success. From classes to competition, and everything in between, the student-athlete’s schedule is busy. Know what awaits when you step foot on campus.

What takes up a Division II student-athlete’s time?

Did you know?
These are considered countable athletically related activities (CARA). NCAA rules limit the time student-athletes can spend on these activities each week. Check with your campus athletics department for more information.

Competition
Practice
Strength and conditioning
Supplemental workouts
Film review
Academic meetings
Nutritionist sessions
Prospective student-athlete host duties
Team fundraising
Community service
Professional development
Study hall
Social activities
Compliance meetings

Time spent on activities per week

Medians figures, collected from the 2019 NCAA GOALS study.

168 hours

37
Academics
31
Athletics
15.5
Socializing
84.5
Other
(e.g., sleep, job and extracurricular)

67% of Division II student-athletes said they spend as much or more time on athletics during the offseason as during their competitive season.

*Based on the 2019 NCAA GOALS study.

One-third of Division II student-athletes work during the academic year for about nine hours per week on average.

*Based on the 2019 NCAA GOALS study.
Time Management

What Division III student-athletes should expect.

Time management is a key component of any college student's success. From classes to competition, and everything in between, the student-athlete’s schedule is busy. Know what awaits when you step foot on campus.

The Division III experience includes:

- Academics
- Internship/externship
- Work
- Graduate school
- Competition
- Practice
- Strength and conditioning
- Film review
- Injury treatment and prevention
- Team fundraising
- Compliance meetings
- Teamwork
- Time management
- Leadership

Did you know?

Division III student-athletes note their athletics experience did not hinder their academic and co-curricular pursuits. In fact, it had a positive effect on their collegiate experience.

- 40% have or will study abroad
- 44% have a job and work a median of 8 hours per week
- 66% involved in an internship/externship
- 67% think it’s likely they will attend graduate school
- 58% have a job and work a median of 8 hours per week
- 44% have or will study abroad
- 58% think it’s likely they will attend graduate school
- 67% involved in an internship/externship
- 84.5% Other (e.g., sleep, extra-curricular)
- 28.5% Athletics
- 15.5% Socializing

Initial Eligibility

Initial-eligibility standards help ensure you are prepared to succeed in college. The eligibility process also protects the fairness and integrity of college sports by ensuring student-athletes are amateurs.

If you want to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year at a Division I or II school, the NCAA Eligibility Center must certify you as eligible (eligibility for Division III is determined on campus). Throughout the process, NCAA Eligibility Center staff members partner with students and their families, as well as high school administrators and coaches, to guide you on your journey.

*Median amount based on 2019 NCAA GOALS study.
*Based on the 2019 NCAA GOALS study.
**High School Timeline**

**9th Grade**
- **Plan**
  - Start planning now! Take the right courses and earn the best grades possible.
  - Find your high school’s list of NCAA-approved core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/courseList.
  - Sign up for a free Profile Page account at eligibilitycenter.org for information on NCAA requirements.

**10th Grade**
- **Register**
  - If you fall behind academically, ask your counselor for help finding approved courses you can take.
  - Register for a Profile Page account or Certification account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org.
  - Monitor your Eligibility Center account for next steps.
  - At the end of the year, ask your counselor at each high school or program you attended to upload your official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.

**11th Grade**
- **Study**
  - Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved core courses and graduate on time with your class.
  - Take the SAT/ACT and submit your scores to the Eligibility Center using code 9999.
  - Ensure your sports participation information is correct in your Eligibility Center account.
  - At the end of the year, ask your counselor at each high school or program you attended to upload your official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.

**12th Grade**
- **Graduate**
  - Complete your final NCAA-approved core courses as you prepare for graduation.
  - Take the SAT/ACT again, if necessary, and submit your scores to the Eligibility Center using code 9999.
  - Request your final amateurism certification beginning April 1 (fall enrollees) or Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees) in your Eligibility Center account at eligibilitycenter.org.
  - After you graduate, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.
  - **Reminder:** Only students on an NCAA Division I or II school’s institutional request list will receive a certification.

**Student Registration**

If you want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org. Plan to register during your freshman year of high school. The information below is intended to help guide you through the registration process.

To get started, choose from our two account types:

1. **Profile Page Account:** If you plan to compete at a Division III school or currently are not sure in which division you want to compete, create a Profile Page account. If at any time you wish to pursue a Division I or II path, you’ll be able to transition to a Certification account. (You cannot move from a Certification account to a Profile Page account.)

   **Reference the “Help” section (located in the top task bar) for assistance with your questions.**

2. **Certification Account:** You must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. Before you can make official visits or sign a Division I or Division II National Letter of Intent, you must have completed the Certification account registration (including payment or fee waiver).

   For Certification accounts, please allow between 30 and 45 minutes to register completely. If you need to exit and come back at a later time, you can save and exit once your account is created.

**Have eligibility or registration questions?**

If you have questions about your eligibility or the registration process not addressed within this guide, reach out to us! We’re here to guide you through your journey. Here’s some additional sources of information that may help:

- Search our frequently asked questions at ncaa.org/studentfaq.
- **Domestic students and Canadian students (except Quebec):** Call us toll free at 877-262-1492.
- **International students:** Use our International Contact Form (ncaa.org/contactinternational) to submit questions.

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**Important Information for My NCAA Eligibility Center Account**

- **Date I registered:**
- **My NCAA ID:**
- **My email address:**
- **My high school(s) attended:**
- **Date my six-semester transcript was sent:**
- **Date my test score was sent:**
- **Date my final transcript (with proof of graduation) was sent:**

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**ELIGIBILITY CENTER REGISTRATION ESSENTIALS**

**Below are some items you should have with you as you create an account at eligibilitycenter.org:**

- **VALID EMAIL FOR STUDENT**
  To register, you need a valid email address that you check regularly and will have access to after high school. The NCAA Eligibility Center uses email to update you about your account throughout the process. Please note: If you have a sibling who has previously registered, you will need to use a different email address than the one in your sibling’s account.

- **BASIC STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION**
  This includes information such as your name, gender, date of birth, primary and secondary contact information and address.

- **BASIC STUDENT EDUCATION HISTORY**
  We will ask you to provide details about all secondary and high schools and additional programs you have attended in the United States and internationally. Be sure to include all schools, regardless of whether you received grades or credits. If you attended ninth grade at a junior high school located in the same school system in which you later attended high school, do not list the ninth-grade school.

- **STUDENT SPORTS PARTICIPATION HISTORY**
  Select the sport(s) you plan to participate in at an NCAA school. For Certification accounts, we will ask you to provide details for any expenses or awards you received, any teams you have practiced or played with or certain events in which you participated. We also ask about any individuals who have advised you or marketed your skills in a particular sport. This information helps the NCAA Eligibility Center certify your amateur status when requested by you or an NCAA school.

- **PAYMENT (CERTIFICATION ACCOUNTS ONLY)**
  Your Certification account registration is complete only after your registration fee is paid (or upon submission of a fee waiver, if you are eligible). You may pay online by debit, credit card or e-check. The registration fee for students in the United States, U.S. territories (includes American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands) and Canada is $80. The fee for all other international students is $150. Profile Pages do not have a fee.

  All fees are nonrefundable once you have successfully registered. If you completed a duplication of a fee registration and paid your registration fee twice, you may be eligible for a refund of the duplicate registration fee. To receive a refund, you will need to complete and submit an NCAA refund form.

**Fee Waiver**

If you received a waiver of the SAT/ACT fee (not the same as a U.S. state voucher), you are eligible for a waiver of the Certification account registration fee. After you complete your registration, ask an authorized official from your current high school to submit your fee waiver documentation online.

Please note: You must be a U.S. citizen or a foreign national taking the SAT/ACT in the United States or its territories. Students from countries other than the United States or its territories are not eligible for a fee waiver.

**SAT**

In order to be eligible for an SAT fee waiver, you must meet one of these indicators of economic need:

- You are enrolled in a program for the economically disadvantaged such as AVID or TRIO.
- Your family’s annual income falls within the levels listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for free or reduced-price lunches.
- Your family receives public assistance.
- Your family lives in federally subsidized public housing.
- You live in a foster home.

**ACT**

In order to be eligible for an ACT fee waiver, you must meet one of these indicators of economic need:

- Your family receives low-income public assistance.
- Your family income is at or below the Bureau of Labor Statistics Low Standards Budget.
- You are a ward of the state.
- You live in a foster home.
- You are homeless.
- You participate in free or reduced-price lunch program at school.
- You participate in a federally funded TRIO Program such as Upward Bound.

**Home School Students**

If you are a home school student in the United States or U.S. territories who cannot afford to pay the test fees, you must provide proof of eligibility to your local high school or agency administrator. Only a school or agency administrator can provide you with the fee waiver card for the appropriate test.

**TEST SCORES**

Every time you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code 9999 to send your scores directly to us from the testing agency. Please note:

- Tests scores on transcripts can NOT be used in your academic certification.
- The NCAA Eligibility Center does not accept SAT subject test scores.

**SAT**

A combined SAT score is calculated by adding your critical reading and math subscores.

**ACT**

An ACT sum score is calculated by adding your English, math, reading and science subscores.

**Sliding Scales**

On our sliding scale, you can see your SAT or ACT score and the GPA that is required for that score.

- For the Division I sliding scale, see page 20.
- For the Division II sliding scale, see page 24.

**Did you take the SAT/ACT more than once?** You may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before you enroll full time in college. If you take either test more than once, the best subscore from different tests are used to give you the best possible score. We will use your highest SAT and/or ACT score in your academic certification to provide you the best result possible.

**Puerto Rico**

If you plan to enroll in a Division II school in Puerto Rico, you may use a minimum combined score on the Prueba de Aptitud Academica verbal and math reasoning sections of 730 to satisfy the test-score requirement. For more information, visit ncaac.org/student-athletes/future/puerto-rico.

**Testing Dates**

The NCAA Eligibility Center accepts national SAT and ACT exams and state-administered ACT exams. Domestic testing dates apply to the U.S., U.S. territories, Puerto Rico and Canada. All others are under the international dates.

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**NATIONAL TESTING DATES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**INTERNATIONAL TESTING DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Sept. 11-12, 2020&lt;br&gt;Oct. 9-10, 2020&lt;br&gt;Dec. 11-12, 2020&lt;br&gt;Feb. 5-6, 2021&lt;br&gt;April 16-17, 2021&lt;br&gt;June 11-12, 2021&lt;br&gt;July 16-17, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Due to COVID-19, please verify all test dates with the testing agencies.*
TRANSCRIPTS

After completing four semesters of high school, ask your school counselor to upload an official transcript to your NCAA Eligibility Center account. If you have attended more than one high school or took courses from more than one program, the Eligibility Center needs an official transcript from all high school(s) or program(s) you attended. You will also need to ask your school counselor to send your final transcript with proof of graduation once you have completed high school. Please note: The NCAA Eligibility Center does not accept grades from one high school or program transcribed on another high school's transcript.

High schools have the capability to upload transcripts directly to a student’s account for free from the High School Portal. As with other electronic transcript providers, this process is much quicker than using the U.S. Postal Service or any overnight delivery method. Students should contact their school counselor to ask for their transcript to be uploaded or sent electronically through one of the approved e-transcript providers listed below:

- National Transcript Center.
- Parchment.
- Scrip-Safe/Credentials.
- Parchment.
- USMO ET.
- XAP.
- Naviance.
- State of Georgia: DIRECT.
- Ciafó.
- Scribbls Software.

In order to send a transcript by U.S. mail or through an overnight or express delivery service, please use the appropriate address on page 1.

- International students: For information on proper submission procedures for transcripts and academic records, see page 29 or visit ncaa.org/international.

Note: Some approved programs that have a list of NCAA-approved courses do not accept credit-awarding institutions and, therefore, do not produce official transcripts. If you attend an approved program that does not award credit, a grade report from the program should be submitted.

REMINDER

If you have attended more than one high school or took courses from more than one program, the NCAA Eligibility Center needs an official transcript from ALL high schools or programs.

EQUIVALENCY TESTS/DIPLOMAS

A state high school equivalency test (e.g., General Educational Development) may be accepted as proof of graduation under certain conditions, but it will not satisfy requirements for core courses, GPA or SAT/ACT scores. The equivalency test may be accepted as proof of graduation if taken after the graduation date of your class and before full-time enrollment into any college or university. You will need to mail an official copy of the applicable certificate along with your state high school equivalency test scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center. You can contact your state education agency to request the certificate and test scores to be sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?

NCAA schools require college-bound student-athletes to build a foundation of high school courses (core courses) to prepare them for the academic expectations in college.

Core-Course Credits
You can earn credit for a core course only once. If you take a course that repeats the content of another core course, you earn credit for only one of these courses and the higher grade counts toward your core-course GPA. For more information on core-course credits, visit ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/core-courses.

Courses Taken Before High School
If you take a high school class such as Algebra I or Spanish I in eighth grade, the class may count toward your 16 core courses if it appears on your high school’s list of NCAA-approved core courses and is shown on your high school transcript with grade and credit.

Courses Taken After High School
For information about courses taken after high school, see page 20 for Division I or page 23 for Division II.

College Courses, Dual-Enrollment Courses, and Credit Courses
College courses may be used to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements if the courses are awarded a grade and credit by the high school for any student and meet all other requirements for core courses. College courses must be placed on the student’s high school transcript with clarification of college completion.

REMEMBER

Find your high school’s list of NCAA-approved core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.
NONTRADITIONAL AND ONLINE COURSES

Nontraditional courses are taught online or through distance learning, hybrid/blended, independent study, individualized instruction, correspondence or similar means.

Generally, for a nontraditional course to count as an NCAA-approved core course, it must meet all of the following requirements:

• The course must meet all requirements for an NCAA-approved core course.
• All students in the course must have regular instructor-led interaction for the purpose of instruction, evaluation and assistance for the duration of the course. This may include, for example, exchanging emails between the student and teacher, online chats, phone calls, feedback on assignments and the opportunity for the teacher to engage the student in individual or group instruction.
• The course must have a defined time period for completion. For example, it should be clear how long students are required to be enrolled and working in the course and how long a school would permit a student to work on a single nontraditional course.
• Student work (e.g., exams, papers, assignments) must be available for evaluation and validation.
• The course should be clearly identified as nontraditional on the student’s official high school transcript.

A nontraditional course may not be approved for any of the following reasons:
• Does not have teacher-based instruction.
• Does not require regular and ongoing instructor-led interaction between the student and teacher.
• Does not require students to complete the entire course.
• Does not prepare students for four-year college class work.
• Does not have official student grade records.
• Does not meet NCAA core-course requirements.

When viewing the school/program’s course list, you will find information about any nontraditional programs or courses in the “Additional Information” box as seen below.

氓 REMEMBER 

Log in to your NCAA Eligibility Center account frequently to update your school information if you take courses from additional academic programs.

To find out if a nontraditional program or course is approved, go to eligibilitycenter.org/courselist to search the school/program and view the respective additional information boxes.

GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates your core-course grade-point average based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses. Only your best grades from the required number of NCAA core courses will be used.

Your GPA is calculated on a 4.000 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are changed to letter grades such as A or B. As part of this calculation, each grade received is assigned “quality points,” as shown in the scale below. The NCAA Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating your GPA. For example, grades of B+, B and B- will each be worth three quality points. Weighted honors or advanced placement courses may improve your core-course GPA but your high school must notify the NCAA Eligibility Center that it awards weighted grades in these classes.

In “Pass/Fail” grading situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center will assign your high school’s lowest passing grade for a course in which you received a “Pass” grade. For most high schools, the lowest passing grade is a D, so the NCAA Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade. For Spring/Summer 2020 “Pass/Fail” grades, please see the COVID-19 FAQ.

Calculating Your Quality Points

In order to determine your quality points earned for each course, multiply the quality points for the grade by the amount of credit earned.

Examples:
• An A grade (4 points) for a trimester course (0.34 units):
  4 points x 0.34 units = 1.36 total quality points
• An A grade (4 points) for a semester course (0.50 units):
  4 points x 0.50 units = 2.00 total quality points
• An A grade (4 points) for a full-year course (1.00 units):
  4 points x 1.00 units = 4.00 quality points

Use the worksheets on pages 21 and 25 to help determine your core-course GPA.

College athletics has really shaped my life by giving me a plethora of opportunities to pursue when my athletic career is over. Between the connections that are made with other student athletes, faculty and supporters, the opportunities are endless. Having the ability to get both my bachelor’s degree and my master’s degree, all while playing football, is an experience not many people can attest to. The hard work that has been put in is recognized by employers and sought after in even the biggest companies. Without collegiate athletics, these opportunities wouldn’t be there for me. To say that I am thankful for the NCAA would be an understatement.

Justice Littrell

Football, University of Northern Colorado
DIVISION I ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Division I schools require college-bound student-athletes to meet academic standards for NCAA-approved core courses, core-course GPA and test scores. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first full-time year at a Division I school, you must graduate from high school and meet all of the following requirements:

1. Complete a total of 16 core courses in the following areas:

   - **ENGLISH**
     - 4 years (1) English
     - 3 years (1) Science (STEM or Language Arts)

   - **MATH**
     - 2 years (1) Math

   - **NATURAL PHYSICAL SCIENCE**
     - 1 year (1) Science

   - **ADDITIONAL**
     - 2 years (1) Math or natural/physical science

   - **SOCIAL SCIENCE**
     - 4 years (1) Social Science

   - **ADDITIONAL COURSES**
     - Any one of the following:
       - 1 year of foreign language
       - 1 year of art

2. Complete 10 of your 16 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, any course that is needed to meet the 10/7 requirement cannot be replaced or repeated.

3. Complete the 16 NCAA-approved core courses in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.

4. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on the Division I full-qualifier sliding scale. Review the sliding scale on page 20 to ensure your score meets Division I requirements.

Academic Certification Decisions
An academic certification will be conducted to determine if you meet the Division I academic standards. Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at a Division I school. (An amateurism certification is also required; see page 27.) The following items are required in order to complete your academic certification:

- A final official transcript with proof of graduation.
- Official transcripts from all high schools attended.
- Test scores.

Being placed on a school’s institutional request list notifies the NCAA Eligibility Center to complete an academic evaluation for you after all of your appropriate documents have been submitted. If you are being recruited by a Division I school, below are the most common decisions you may receive once a certification has been completed.

**EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER**
If you meet specific criteria after six semesters of high school, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division I and may compete, practice and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment. To be an early academic qualifier, you will need:

- A minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 980 or ACT sum score of 75.
- A core-course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses in the following areas:
  - Three years of English.
  - Two years of math.
  - Two years of science.
  - Two additional years of English, math or natural/physical science.
  - Five additional core courses in any area.

A final high school transcript must be submitted to the NCAA Eligibility Center after high school graduation for all early academic qualifiers.

**QUALIFIER**
You may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

**ACADEMIC REDSHIRT**
You may receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment and may practice during your first regular academic term but may NOT compete during your first year of enrollment. You must pass either eight quarter or nine semester hours to practice in the next term.

**NONQUALIFIER**
You will not be able to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of enrollment at a Division I school.

What if I Don’t Graduate on Time?
In Division I, if you do not graduate on time (in four years’ eight semesters), the NCAA Eligibility Center will still use your grades and coursework for the first four years/eight semesters for your certification. You will still need to provide proof of graduation (once you graduate) and you may not use any coursework taken after your high school graduation toward your certification.

What if I Don’t Meet the Division I Standards?
If you have not met all of the Division I academic standards, you may not compete in your first year at a Division I college. However, if you qualify as an academic redshirt, you may practice during your first term in college and receive an athletics scholarship for the entire year. To qualify as an academic redshirt, you must graduate high school and meet all of the following academic standards:

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA (minimum 2.000) on the Division I sliding scale (see page 20).
Courses Taken After High School
For Division I, only courses completed in your first eight semesters will count as academic courses. If you graduate from high school on time (in eight semesters) with your incoming ninth-grade class, you may use one core-course unit completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year) before full-time collegiate enrollment. You may complete the core course at a location other than the high school from which you graduated as long as the course is taken prior to full-time enrollment at any college or university. A college course taken after high school graduation may be used toward your initial eligibility and awarded 0.5 units from your college transcript (unless awarded one full unit on your home school transcript).

An additional core-course unit taken after on-time high school graduation cannot replace a course used to meet the core-course progression (10/7) requirement, but an additional core course after on-time graduation may replace one of the remaining six core-course units necessary to meet core-course requirements.

Sliding Scale for Division I
Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances your test score with your GPA. Find more information about test scores on page 13 or visit ncaa.org/test-scores.

### DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core GPA</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT Sum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.550</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.525</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.500</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.475</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.450</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.425</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.400</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.375</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.350</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.325</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>3.275</td>
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<td>580</td>
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<td>3.225</td>
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<td>2.950</td>
<td>740</td>
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<td>770</td>
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<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.775</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Full sliding scale research between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.**

### DIVISION I WORKSHEET

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check your school’s list of NCAA-approved core courses for the classes you have taken or plan to take.

Use the following scale: A = 4 quality points; B = 3 quality points; C = 2 quality points; D = 1 quality point.

### ENGLISH (4 YEARS REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10/7</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Example:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>(5 x 4) = 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MATHEMATICS (3 YEARS REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10/7</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Example:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>(1.0 x 3) = 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10/7</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ADDITIONAL YEAR IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS OR NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (1 YEAR REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10/7</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10/7</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSES (4 YEARS REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10/7</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS / CORE-COURSE GPA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Points</th>
<th>/</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Core-Course GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Seven core courses are required for your core-course GPA. The core courses must be completed before the seventh semester; none of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science.
DIVISION II ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Division II schools require college-bound student-athletes to meet academic standards for NCAA-approved core courses, core-course GPA and test scores.

To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first full-time year at a Division II school, you must graduate from high school and meet all of the following requirements:

1. Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:

   - **ENGLISH**: 3 years
   - **MATH** (algebra I or higher): 2 years
   - **NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE** (including one year of lab, if offered): 2 years
   - **ADDITIONAL** (English, math or natural/physical science): 3 years
   - **SOCIAL SCIENCE**: 2 years
   - **ADDITIONAL COURSES** (any area listed to the left, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy): 4 years

2. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA (minimum 2.200) on the Division II full-qualifier sliding scale (see page 24).

If you enroll full time at a Division II school and you have not met all Division II academic standards, you may not compete in your first year. However, if you meet the standards to be a partial qualifier, you may practice and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year at college. To be a partial qualifier, you must graduate high school and meet all of the following standards:

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA (minimum 2.000) on the Division II partial-qualifier sliding scale (see page 24).

Academic Certification Decisions

An academic certification will be conducted to determine if you meet the Division II academic standards. Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at a Division II school. (An amateurism certification is also required; see page 27.) The following items are required in order to complete your academic certification:

- A final official transcript with proof of graduation.
- Official transcripts from all high schools attended.
- Test scores.

Being placed on a school’s institutional request list notifies the NCAA Eligibility Center to complete an academic evaluation for you once all of your appropriate documents have been submitted.

If you are being recruited by a Division II school, below are the most common decisions you may receive once a certification has been completed.

- **EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER**: If you meet specific criteria listed below after six semesters, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division II and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment. To be an early academic qualifier, you will need:
  - A minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 900 or ACT sum score of 68.
  - A core-course GPA of 2.5 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses in the following areas:
    - Three years of English.
    - Three years of math.
    - Two years of natural or physical science.
    - Six additional core courses in any area.
  - A final high school transcript must be submitted to the NCAA Eligibility Center after high school graduation for all early academic qualifiers.

- **QUALIFIER**: You may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

- **PARTIAL QUALIFIER**: You may receive an athletics scholarship and practice during your first year of full-time enrollment.

- **NONQUALIFIER**: You will not be able to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment at a Division II school.

Core-Course Timeline

If you plan to attend a Division II school, you must complete 16 NCAA core courses after starting grade nine and before your first full-time college enrollment.

**Courses Taken After High School**

For Division II, you may use an unlimited number of core courses completed after graduation (summer or academic year) before full-time collegiate enrollment. You may complete the core course(s) at a location other than the high school from which you graduated. A college course taken after high school graduation can be used toward your initial eligibility and will be awarded 0.5 units (unless awarded one full unit by your home high school). It must appear on your home high school transcript with grade and credit.
DIVISION II WORKSHEET

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check your high school’s list of NCAA-approved core courses for the classes you have taken or plan to take.

Use the following scale: A = 4 quality points; B = 3 quality points; C = 2 quality points; D = 1 quality point.

ENGLISH (3 YEARS REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: English II</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ENGLISH UNITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MATHEMATICS (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Algebra I</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL MATHEMATICS UNITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE UNITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
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</table>

ADDITIONAL YEARS IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS OR NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (3 YEARS REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
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<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ADDITIONAL UNITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE UNITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSES (4 YEARS REQUIRED)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC UNITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA

GUIDE FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETE
DIVISION III INFORMATION

Division III institutions provide an integrated environment focusing on academic success while offering a competitive athletics environment. Division III rules minimize potential conflicts between athletics and academics and focus on regional in-season and conference play to maximize academic, co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities.

While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 80% of Division III student-athletes receive some form of merit or need-based financial aid.

GUIDE FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETE

If you are planning to attend a Division III school, you can create a free Profile Page account at eligibilitycenter.org to learn more about college sports. Division III schools set their own admissions and eligibility standards. You can visit ncaa.org/d3 or contact the Division III school you are planning to attend to learn more.

AMATEURISM

When you register for a Certification account with the NCAA Eligibility Center, you will be asked a series of questions about your sports participation to determine your amateur status. In some instances, the NCAA Eligibility Center staff may need to gather additional information to evaluate your amateur status.

Issues Reviewed as Part of the Amateurism Certification Process

- Delaying your full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized competition.
- Playing with professionals.
- Signing a contract with a professional team.
- Participating in tryouts or practices with a professional team.
- Receiving payment or preferential treatment/benefits for playing sports.
- Receiving prize money.
- Receiving benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
- Involvement with a recruiting service.

Requesting Final Amateurism Certification

College-bound student-athletes enrolling for the first time at a Division I or II school must receive a final amateurism certification before being eligible to compete. (This includes transfers from junior colleges, NAA, international or Division III schools.) Students must request their final amateurism certification through their Eligibility Center account; the Eligibility Center staff cannot begin your amateurism certification without your request. Please note: You can request your final amateurism certification even if other tasks are still open in your account. When you can request your final amateurism certification depends on when you are starting at a Division I or II school:

Fall enrollment: If you are enrolling at a Division I or II school for the fall semester, you may request a final amateurism decision from the NCAA Eligibility Center on or after April 1 before your enrollment at an NCAA school.

Winter/Spring enrollment: If you are enrolling at a Division I or II school for the spring semester, you may request a final amateurism decision on or after Oct. 1 before your enrollment at an NCAA school.

Delayed Enrollment

After you graduate high school, you have a certain amount of time — called a “grace period” — to enroll full time at any two-year or four-year college or university. If you do not enroll at the first opportunity after your grace period and continue to compete in organized competition, you will use one season of NCAA eligibility for each calendar year during which you continue to compete. You also may be required to serve an academic year in residence at your NCAA institution before you can compete. For more information on delayed enrollment, please review the chart on page 28.

Frequently Asked Amateurism Questions

What is Organized Participation?

Participation is considered organized if ANY of the following exist:

- Official score is kept.
- Standings or statistics are maintained.
- Official timer or game officials are used.
- Admission is charged.
- Teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined.
- Team uniforms are used.
- An individual or team is privately or commercially sponsored.
- The competition is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency.
- Division I: The competition is scheduled and publicized in advance.
- Division II: The competition is scheduled in advance.
Who is an Agent? 
An agent is an individual who directly or indirectly represents you by marketing your athletics ability or reputation, or attempts to benefit from guiding you to a particular NCAA school or from your expected earnings as a professional athlete.

What is a Professional Team? 
A professional team is one that declares itself as professional, or provides any player more than their actual and necessary expenses. Actual and necessary expenses are defined as:
- Meals and lodging directly related to competition.
- Transportation expenses, such as to and from practice, training or competition.
- Apparel, equipment and supplies related to competition, or practice directly related to competition.
- Coaching and instruction, or the use of facilities and entry fees.
- Health or medical insurance, medical treatment and physical therapy directly associated with an individual’s participation on a team or in an event.
- Other reasonable expenses such as laundry money.

**Competition must be sanctioned by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association or its international counterparts.**

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An agent is an individual who directly or indirectly represents you by marketing your athletics ability or reputation, or attempts to benefit from guiding you to a particular NCAA school or from your expected earnings as a professional athlete.

As a foreigner, coming to the United States to be a student-athlete at the NCAA was by far the best decision I have ever made. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to continue my studies at a higher education institution while developing my athletic abilities.

Gabriel Boscardin Dias
Men’s Tennis, Winthrop University

OVERVIEW OF NCAA DIVISIONS I AND II PRE-ENROLLMENT AMATEURISM BYLAWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before initial full-time enrollment</th>
<th>Permissible in Division I?</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Delay enrollment (grace period)?*</td>
<td>Tennis (men and women): Yes, six months.</td>
<td>Men’s ice hockey and skiing (men and women): Yes, until 21st birthday.</td>
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<td>All other sports: Yes, 12 months.</td>
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<td>Use a recruiting or scouting service?</td>
<td>Yes, The fee the service charges cannot be based on receipt or the amount of an athletics scholarship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receive funding from an outside source?</td>
<td>Yes, if the funding is less than or equal to the student-athlete’s actual and necessary expenses related to competition and practice directly associated with competition. Training expenses may only be provided by the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), appropriate national governing body (or international equivalent organization for international student- or governmental entity fees.</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive prize money?</td>
<td>Tennis: Yes, if it does not exceed $10,000 per calendar year and comes from the sponsor of the event. Once the $10,000 limit is reached, additional prize money may not exceed actual and necessary expenses for each subsequent event in the calendar year.</td>
<td>Precollegiate enrollment - Yes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enter into an agreement (verbal or written) with an agent?</td>
<td>Baseball and men’s ice hockey: Yes, provided it is prior to collegiate enrollment AND the individual has not already been drafted. The agent may then negotiate with the professional team, provided the individual is not awarded any benefits, pays the going rate for the representation and the agreement is discontinued before enrolling in college.</td>
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<td>Try out with a professional team?</td>
<td>Men’s ice hockey and skiing: Yes. May receive actual and necessary expenses for one trial (up to 48 hours) from each professional team. Self-financed tryouts may exceed 48 hours.</td>
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*For specific details about the documents you must submit, please refer to the current Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility or visit the International Student-Athletes page at ncaa.org/international.

In certain situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center may request additional documentation to clarify that your academic information is complete, valid and accurate. The task list within your Eligibility Center account is used to communicate these requests, so be sure to check your email frequently for task notifications.

**Competition must be sanctioned by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association or its international counterparts.**

For specific questions that you can’t find the answer to in our other resources, use our International Contact Form, found at ncaa.org/contactinternational.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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**Competition must be sanctioned by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association or its international counterparts.**

For specific questions that you can’t find the answer to in our other resources, use our International Contact Form, found at ncaa.org/contactinternational.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

An international student is one who has taken coursework outside the United States (not including DoDDS or American schools abroad) from school years nine and up. As an international student, you must submit the following information:
- Transcripts for years nine and up in the native language.
- Proof of graduation in the native language, which may include certificates, diplomas and/or final leaving exams.
- Certified line-by-line English translations of these documents if they are issued in a language other than English.

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HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

Learning at home is not necessarily the same as being home schooled. Because of recent growth in online and virtual education, a student may be able to learn at home through an online school with online teachers, which would not be considered a parent-directed tutor.

Courses evaluated as home school courses are those in which a parent or parent-directed tutor:
- Plans and delivers actual instructional activities such as lectures, discussions, tutorials, feedback or assistance.
- Determines the student’s comprehension of the material by grading and evaluating student performance and achievement on assignments and assessments and providing appropriate re-teaching and feedback.

How to Register

If you are a home school student and want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and meet the same standards as all other students.

Once you have completed your registration, visit ncaa.org/student-athlete/future/home-school-students and download the Home School Toolkit. This resource provides you with all of the necessary home school resources.

EDUCATION-IMPACTING DISABILITIES

For academic eligibility purposes, the NCAA defines an education-impacting disability as a current impairment that has a substantial educational impact on a student’s academic performance and requires accommodation.

Some of the most common EIDs include:
- Learning disabilities.
- Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.
- Mental health disorders.
- Medical conditions.
- Deaf or hard of hearing.
- Autism spectrum disorder.

If you have a documented EID, you may take up to three additional core courses after you graduate high school.

If you have a documented EID, you may request to take an SAT or ACT exam with accommodations to satisfy test-score requirements by:
- Registering for accommodations using the directions provided by the SAT or ACT.
- Following procedures governed by SAT or ACT. The test may not be administered by a member of your high school athletics department or any NCAA school’s athletics department.

If you take an SAT or ACT exam with accommodations, you may take the test on a date other than a national testing date, but you still must achieve the required test score.

Your high school counselor can help you register to take an SAT or ACT exam with accommodations.
**RECRUITING TERMS**

**Celebrate standardized signing form** is a form used by Division III institutions. It is not a binding NCAA-provided, nonbinding athletics certification form after a college-bound student-athlete has been accepted for enrollment at a Division III school.

**Contact:** A contact happens any time a college coach says more than “Hello” during a face-to-face meeting with you or your parents off the college’s campus.

**Contact period:** During a contact period, a college coach may have face-to-face contact with you or your parents, watch you compete, visit your high school and call or write to you or your parents.

**Dead period:** A college coach may not have any face-to-face contact with you or your parents or on or off the college campus at any time during a dead period. The coach may call or write to you or your parents during this time.

**Evaluation:** An evaluation happens when a college coach observes you practicing or competing.

**Evaluation period:** During an evaluation period, a college coach may watch you compete, visit your high school and call or write to you or your parents. However, a college coach may not have face-to-face contact with you or your parents off the college’s campus during an evaluation period.

**Financial aid (scholarship):** Any money you receive from a college or another source, such as outside loans or grants. Financial aid may be based on athletics ability, financial need, scholarships or academic achievement.

**Five-year clock:** If you play at a Division I school, you have five calendar years in which to play four seasons of competition. Your five-year clock starts when you enroll as a full-time student at any college. Thereafter, your clock continues, even if you spend an academic year in residence as a result of transferring, decide to redshirt, do not attend school or attend school part time during your college career.

**Full-time student:** Each school determines what full-time status means. Typically, you are a full-time student if you are enrolled for at least 1/2 credit hours in a term, but some schools define a full-time student as someone who takes fewer than 12 credit hours in a term.

**Institutional request list:** An institutional request list (IRL) is a list of college-bound student-athletes who an NCAA Division I or II school is interested in recruiting. The action of adding a college-bound student-athlete to the IRL informs the NCAA Eligibility Center of the school’s interest in having an academic and amateurism certification decision for the student-athlete.

**International student:** An international student is any student who is enrolled in a secondary school outside the United States, U.S. territories or Canada (except Quebec).

**Official commitment:** When you officially commit to attend a Division I or II college, you sign a National Letter of Intent, agreeing to attend that school for one academic year.

**Official visit:** During an official visit, the college can pay for transportation to and from the college for you and up to two family members in Division I Basketball and FBS Football, lodging and meals (Division I allow for up to three meals per day) for you and up to four family members, as well as reasonable entertainment expenses, including five tickets to a Division I or Division II home sports event. Before a Division I or II college may invite you on an official visit, you will have to provide the college with a copy of your high school transcript and register for a Certification account with the NCAA Eligibility Center (Division I). It is not permissible to make an official visit during a recruiting shutdown period or a dead period.

**Quiet period:** During this time, a college coach may not have any face-to-face contact with you or your parents off the college’s campus. A coach may not watch you play or visit your high school during this period. You and your parents may visit a college campus during this time. A coach may call or write to you or your parents during this time.

**Recruited:** if a college coach contacts you off campus, pays your expenses to visit the campus, or in Division I and II issues you a National Letter of Intent or a written offer of financial aid, you are considered recruited.

**Recruiting calendar:** NCAA member schools limit recruiting to certain periods during the year. Recruiting calendars promote the well-being of college-bound student-athletes and ensure fairness among schools by defining certain periods during the year in which recruiting may or may not occur in a particular sport. A recruiting calendar is not a recruiting rule for any individual school. A recruiting calendar is an institutional recruiting calendar, not a national recruiting calendar.

**Recruiting materials:** Recruiting materials are items used by coaches to contact you. Recruiting materials can include but are not limited to recruiting letters, social media messages, text messages, telephone calls and e-mail.

**Season of competition:** Generally, NCAA rules say any competition in a season — regardless of the amount of time — counts as having played one season in that sport. If you play any time during a season, regardless of how long you played, it counts as having played for an entire season in that sport. A season starts when you spend one second in competition on the field, court, gym or track. In Division III, you also use a season if you practice at any time after the first contact.

**Ten-semester/15-quarter clock:** If you play at a Division II or III school, you have the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which you are enrolled as a full-time student to complete your four seasons of competition. You use a semester or quarter any time you attend class as a full-time student or are enrolled part time and compete for the school. You do not use a term if you only attend part time with no competition or are not enrolled for a term.

**Two-year college:** Any school from which students can earn an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science within two years. Some people call these schools two-year colleges or junior colleges.

**Unofficial visit:** Any visit by you or your parents to a college campus paid for by you or your parents. The only expense you may receive from the college is three complimentary admissions to a Division I home athletics contest or five complimentary admissions to a Division II home athletics contest. You may make as many unofficial visits as you like and the first permissible date in each year is day following completion of your junior year and Oct. 15 following completion of high school.

**Verbal commitment:** A verbal commitment happens when you verbally agree to play sports for a college before you sign or are eligible to sign a National Letter of Intent. The commitment is not binding on you or the school.

**Walk-on:** Someone who is not typically recruited by a school to participate in sports and does not receive a scholarship from the school, but who becomes a member of one of the school’s athletics teams.

**RECRUITING CALENDARS**

NCAA member schools limit recruiting to certain periods during the year. Recruiting calendars promote the well-being of college-bound student-athletes and ensure fairness among schools by defining certain periods during the year in which recruiting may or may not occur in a particular sport. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recruiting calendars may be adjusted. For the most up-to-date information, visit ncaa.org/student-athletes/resources/recruiting-calendars.

**Men’s Basketball, Division I**

**Recruiting Method**

**Recruiting Materials and Electronic Correspondence (e.g., recruiting letters, social media messages, text messages)** You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and nonathletics recruiting publications at any time.

A coach may begin sending you recruiting materials and electronic correspondence June 15 between your sophomore and junior year in high school.

**Phone Calls to a Coach**

You or your family may call a coach at any time.

**Phone Calls from a Coach**

A coach may call you or your family beginning June 15 between your sophomore and junior year in high school.

**Off-campus Contact**

A college coach may have contact with you or your family off the college’s campus beginning the first day of your junior year in high school. Contacts made in your junior year may occur at your educational institution except for during the April recruiting periods, when off-campus recruiting contacts may be made at your educational institution or residence.

**Unofficial Visit**

You and your family may visit a college at your own expense beginning Aug. 1 of your sophomore year in high school.

**Women’s Basketball, Division I**

**Recruiting Method**

**Recruiting Materials and Electronic Correspondence (e.g., recruiting letters, social media messages, text messages)** You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and nonathletics recruiting publications at any time.

A coach may begin sending you recruiting materials and electronic correspondence Sept. 1 of your junior year in high school.

**Phone Calls to a Coach**

You or your family may call a coach at any time.

**Phone Calls from a Coach**

A coach may call you or your family beginning Sept. 1 of your junior year in high school.

**Off-campus Contact**

A college coach may have contact with you or your family off the college’s campus beginning March 1 of your junior year in high school. Contacts made during your junior year may occur at your educational institution or residence.

**Unofficial Visit**

You and your family may visit a college at your own expense at any time.

**Official Visit**

A college may pay for you and two family members to visit the college beginning Aug. 1 of your junior year in high school. Up to five official visits can be taken between Aug. 1 of your junior year and the completion of your junior year. An additional five official visits may be taken between the day following completion of your junior year and Oct. 15 following completion of high school.
**Lacrosse and Softball, Division I**

### Recruiting Method

- **Recruiting Materials and Electronic Correspondence**
  - You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and nonathletics recruiting publications at any time. A coach may begin sending you recruiting materials and electronic correspondence Sept. 1 of your junior year in high school.

- **Phone Calls to a Coach**
  - You or your family may call a coach at any time.

- **Phone Calls from a Coach**
  - A coach may call you or your family beginning July 1 between your sophomore and junior years in high school.

- **Off-campus Contact**
  - A college coach may have contact with you or your family off the college’s campus beginning July 1 following the completion of your junior year of high school or opening day of classes of your senior year (whichever comes first).

- **Unofficial Visit**
  - You and your family may visit a college at your own expense at any time.

- **Official Visit**
  - A college may pay for you to visit the college beginning Aug. 1 of your junior year in high school.

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**Men's Ice Hockey, Division I**

### Recruiting Method

- **Recruiting Materials and Electronic Correspondence**
  - You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and nonathletics recruiting publications at any time. A coach may begin sending you recruiting materials and electronic correspondence Jan. 1 of your sophomore year in high school.

- **Phone Calls to a Coach**
  - You or your family may call a coach beginning Jan. 1 of your sophomore year in high school.

- **Phone Calls from a Coach**
  - A coach may call you or your family beginning Jan. 1 of your sophomore year in high school.

- **Off-campus Contact**
  - A college coach may have contact with you or your family off the college’s campus beginning Aug. 1 of your junior year in high school.

- **Unofficial Visit**
  - You and your family may visit a college at your own expense beginning Jan. 1 of your sophomore year in high school.

- **Official Visit**
  - A college may pay for you to visit the college beginning April 1 of your junior year through the Sunday before the last Wednesday in June. After this date, a college may provide you the expense-paid visit after Sept. 1 of your senior year.

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**Baseball, Division I**

### Recruiting Method

- **Recruiting Materials and Electronic Correspondence**
  - You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and nonathletics recruiting publications at any time. A coach may begin sending you recruiting materials and electronic correspondence Sept. 1 of your junior year in high school.

- **Phone Calls to a Coach**
  - You or your family may call a coach at any time.

- **Phone Calls from a Coach**
  - A coach may call you or your family beginning Sept. 1 of your junior year in high school.

- **Off-campus Contact**
  - A college coach may have contact with you or your family off the college’s campus immediately following July 1, following the completion of your junior year of high school or opening day of classes of your senior year (whichever comes first).

- **Unofficial Visit**
  - You and your family may visit a college at your own expense beginning Sept. 1 of your junior year in high school.

- **Official Visit**
  - A college may pay for you to visit the college beginning Sept. 1 of your junior year in high school.

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**All Other Sports, Division I**

### Recruiting Method

- **Recruiting Materials and Electronic Correspondence**
  - You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and nonathletics recruiting publications at any time. A coach may begin sending you recruiting materials and electronic correspondence June 15 between your sophomore and junior year in high school.

- **Phone Calls to a Coach**
  - You or your family may call a coach beginning June 15 between your sophomore and junior year in high school.

- **Phone Calls from a Coach**
  - A coach may call you or your family beginning June 15 between your sophomore and junior year in high school.

- **Off-campus Contact**
  - A college coach may have contact with you or your family off the college’s campus beginning Aug. 1 of your junior year in high school.

- **Unofficial Visit**
  - You and your family may visit a college at your own expense beginning Aug. 1 of your junior year in high school.

- **Official Visit**
  - A college may pay for you to visit the college beginning Aug. 1 of your junior year in high school.
### Divisions II and III

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<tr>
<td><strong>Recruiting materials</strong></td>
<td>You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and nonathletics recruiting publications at any time. A coach may begin sending you printed recruiting materials June 15 immediately preceding your junior year in high school.</td>
<td>You may receive printed materials any time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone calls</strong></td>
<td>No limit on number of calls by college coach beginning June 15 immediately preceding your junior year. You may make calls to the coach at your expense.</td>
<td>No limit on number of calls or when they can be made by the college coach. You may make calls to the coach at your expense.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Off-campus contact</strong></td>
<td>A college coach may have contact with you or your parents/legal guardians off the college’s campus beginning June 15 immediately preceding your junior year. No limit on number of contacts off campus.</td>
<td>A college coach may have contact with you or your relatives or guardians off the college’s campus after your sophomore year. No limit on number of contacts off campus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unofficial visit</strong></td>
<td>You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits any time, except during a dead period.</td>
<td>You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits any time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official visit</strong></td>
<td>A college may pay for you to visit the college beginning June 15 immediately preceding your junior year. Between June 15 before your junior year and the end of your senior year in high school, you may make only one official visit per college and up to a maximum of five official visits to Division I colleges. There is no limit to official visits to Division II colleges.</td>
<td>A college may pay for you to visit the college beginning Jan. 1 of your junior year in high school. There is no limit to official visits to Division III colleges. However, you may only be provided one visit per college.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### QUESTIONS TO ASK

While you are on a campus visit, consider asking questions about these topics to learn more about the school, athletics program and life on campus. You also can get suggestions of questions to ask coaches and administrators at ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/choosing-college.

- Academic resources.
- Scholarship renewals.
- Financial aid and cost of attendance.
- Admissions requirements.
- Study abroad/ internships.
- Athletic training and medical expenses.
- Degree programs and graduation rates.
- Team time demands.
- On-campus housing.
- Coaching philosophy and style.
- Injuries and rehabilitation.
- Graduation rates.
- Schedule planning and time management.
- Playing time.
- Mental health resources.

### REMEMBER

In addition to receiving your academic and amateurism certification from the NCAA Eligibility Center, you also must apply and be accepted to your DI or DII college before you can compete on campus.

Want to play college sports? Learn what it takes to reach the top of your game at ncaa.org/playcollegesports
Creating a Pathway to Opportunity for Nearly Half a Million Student-Athletes in 24 Sports at 1,100 Schools.