

DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL

NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE INITIAL ELIGIBILITY PROCESS



Parents and college bound student athletes

Preparing for college is a lengthy, stressful and consuming process for both students and parents. However, if you are a student athlete who wishes to compete at the collegiate level, there are a few important things you need to keep in mind. The days of the “blue chip” athlete making it to college based solely on their athletic performance on the field or court are over. All athletes are now required to pass through the NCAA Clearinghouse Initial Eligibility process. This process is an academic oriented process that requires student athletes to complete required course work during high school to be eligible for collegiate athletics. Even if you are the best athlete in the country and you do not meet these requirements you will not be eligible and will not compete collegiately in your chosen sport.

The recruiting process is something both parents and students should be aware of. Each sport comes with its own set of rules in regards to college coaches contacting prospective athletes. What is true for one sport is not always the same for another sport. These rules are in place for any student athlete who is either being recruited or conducting his or her own recruiting. It is important to keep in mind that what may work and be true for a football player may not be true for a volleyball player or a soccer or track participant.

If you intend to participate in Division I or Division II athletics as a freshman in College, you must register and be certified by the **“NCAA I Clearinghouse”**. In order to be registered with the Clearinghouse, you must complete the registration process found at <http://eligibilitycenter.org>; also available at www.ncaa.org . If you feel that you are a possible candidate for an athletic scholarship, you will need to follow NCAA guidelines for initial eligibility.

DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL & ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS:

Applying for athletic scholarships has become an important area of college preparation, they are a way of earning tuition in return for your competitive abilities. Whether you're a male or female, there may be scholarship dollars available for you.

At the beginning of your junior year, ask your guidance counselor to list for you the required number academic courses you must take to be eligible, and to inform you of the SAT and ACT score minimums that must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. It is important that you start this process by the end of your junior year to be prepared for graduation.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

Before you begin the search, you must ask yourself if you have what it takes to play college athletics. Here are a few sample questions you should know the answers to.

- Do you have the basic skills and natural ability associated with your sport?
- Do you have a solid knowledge of your sport?
- Do you have the overall body strength and speed required for your sport?
- Are you sound academically?

Today's athletes are stronger and faster due to improved methods of training and conditioning. They are coached in more and more difficult skills and techniques than ever before and they begin training in their sport at an earlier age. Remember, your talents will be compared with those from across the U.S. and around the world.

Do you want and need an athletic scholarship? It is prestigious to receive an athletic scholarship but some athletes compare having an athletic scholarship to having a job. You are expected to perform, to attend meetings, to go to training sessions, to participate in practices and games, and to spend time studying. All of these expectations take away from social and leisure time. With very few "full ride" scholarships available, you will most likely receive a "partial scholarship" or a one-year renewable grant. If your scholarship is not renewed, you may be left scrambling for financial aid. Therefore, It becomes important to ask yourself "Am I ready for the demands and requirements associated with accepting an athletic scholarship?"

Finally, ask yourself, "Have I taken all the required course work to pass through the NCAA Clearinghouse." Through the graduating class of 2007, or the enrolling freshman class of 2007, student athletes are required to have 14 core credits on their official transcript. Core classes for the NCAA Clearinghouse are specifically listed and reported to the NCAA by Davis High administration and are restricted to English, math, history, science and foreign

language. Beginning with the freshman class of 2008 and beyond, 16 core credits will be required to pass through the NCAA Clearinghouse.

Check with *Mrs. Wadley* to make sure that you have met all core requirements for your graduating class or entering freshman class in college. Again, have you completed the required course work to be eligible through the NCAA Clearinghouse?

Here are a few web pages you may access to get more information to help you as you proceed through the initial eligibility process.

College Board

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/prepare/athletes/clearinghouse>

CSC College Sports of America

<http://www.college-sports-advantage.com/ncaa-clearing-house.html>

AES Education Planner

http://www.educationplanner.org/education_planner/preparing_article.asp?sponsor=2859&articleName=Special Info for Athletes

MARKETING YOURSELF AND YOUR TALENTS:

College recruiters look for a combination of the following attributes when awarding athletic scholarships: academic excellence, a desire to win, self-motivation, the ability to perform as a team player, willingness to help others, cooperating with the coaching staff, the proper attitude in practice, the proper attitude in games/matches, mental toughness, physical strength, optimal height and weight and excellence in physical skills and techniques. In order to successfully sell your skills to a college or university that offers scholarships in your sport, contact the institution in a formal manner and follow-up each lead.

There are many ways to become familiar with the sports programs a college or university has to offer. You can...

- Ask your coach or assistant coaches,.
- Learn about the conference or institution from newspaper or television coverage.
- Ask your guidance counselor.
- Review guidebooks, reference books and the internet.
- Ask alumni or attend a tryout or make a campus visit.
- Write to the NCAA to request a recruiting guide for your sport.

Once you have made a list of schools you are interested in, get the name of each head coach and write a letter to the top twenty schools on your list. Then compile a factual resume of your athletic and academic accomplishments. Put together 10 to 15 minutes of video highlights of your athletic performance, with your jersey number noted. Get letters of

recommendation from your high school coach and your off-season coach, and include a season schedule.

When you meet a recruiter or coach, exhibit self-confidence by using a firm handshake, maintaining eye contact, and making sure that you are well groomed. Recruiters have reported that the most effective attitude is *quiet confidence, respect, sincerity, and enthusiasm*. Don't be afraid to probe the recruiter by asking questions such as, "Do I qualify athletically and academically?" "If I am recruited, what would the parameters of the scholarship be?" "For what position am I being recruited?" "What is the level of interest your institution has in me?"

Persistence pays off when it comes to seeking an athletic scholarship. Timing can be everything. There are four good times that a follow-up letter from your coach or a personal letter form you is extremely effective.

- Prior to your senior season.
- During or just after your senior season.
- Just prior to or after announced conference affiliated signing dates
- National association signing dates and late summer, in case scholarship offered have been withdrawn or declined.

In summary, you know yourself better than anyone else so you must look at your skills objectively, both athletic and academic. Evaluate the skills you need to improve and keep the desire to improve alive within your heart. Develop your leadership skills and keep striving for excellence with your individual achievements. Keep your mind open as to what school you want to attend, and keep plugging away, even when you are tired, sore and unsure. After all, athletes are trained to be winners. Believe in yourself, and good-luck.

Sincerely:

The Davis High Counseling Staff



CHECKLIST FOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES MAKING INITIAL CONTACTS WITH COLLEGE COACHES

- STEP 1 Research the colleges that fit your academic and athletic needs. College reference books and search engines on the internet can assist you. Establish a tentative list of colleges that you'd like to contact, as many as 20 schools. Make sure you are academically eligible for admission to each school on the list. Make sure that your grades, ACT scores, and class rank will allow you to be eligible athletically as well. (Your counselor can help you if you are not sure.)
- STEP 2 Show your list to your coach and ask for feedback on how realistic your chances would be for each school. Ask if he/she would be willing to make/receive contacts on your behalf. If the answer is yes, provide your coach with the following information:
- List of the colleges you plan to contact with each college's coach, phone number, e-mail address and mailing address.
 - Copies of the documents you're sending to each college.
 - A copy of your current high school transcript
 - A copy of your resume
 - Optional - A copy of your college/career goal statement
 - Optional - Copies of your letters of recommendation from other adults
- STEP 3 Send an introduction letter – either from yourself or your coach – and your athletic information page to each college coach. (The attached samples are designed to serve as guides. You'll need to provide statistics that are appropriate to your sport.) The spring of your junior year or the fall of your senior year will be a good time to send these documents. You can send a skills tape and game tape with this initial information, or you can offer to send them "upon request."
- STEP 4 Make sure to take the ACT in the spring of your ***junior year***. Most college coaches will insist on knowing your scores before considering you.
- STEP 5 If you are pursuing NCAA Division I or II programs, file a completed "NCAA Clearinghouse release form" ***as early in your senior year as possible***. Your high school guidance office can provide these forms. This agency determines your academic eligibility status.
- STEP 6 Colleges will often respond by asking you, or your coach, to complete an athletic questionnaire. A typical form is attached.
- STEP 7 Keep in mind that summer sports camps and tournaments provide excellent opportunities for networking with college coaches. Be sure that you are familiar with the rules that regulate such contacts. Your coaches can often provide information booklets from various athletic associations to assist you.

TYPES OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Colleges and universities offer two basic types of athletic scholarships: 1) The *INSTITUTIONAL GRANT*, which is an agreement between the athlete and the college. 2) The *CONFERENCE GRANT*, which binds the athlete to the college. The difference between these two scholarships is that the athlete who signs an institutional grant can change his or her mind and sign with another institution. The athlete who signs a conference grant signs a contract and cannot renegotiate another contract with a school that honors conference grants.

Full four-year

This scholarship is often referred to as a “Full-Ride.” These scholarships pay for room, board, tuition and books. Due to the high cost of awarding scholarships, this type of grant is being discouraged by conferences around the country in favor of the one-year renewable contract or the partial scholarship.

Full one-year renewable contract

This type of scholarship, which has basically replaced the four-year grant, is automatically renewed at the end of each school year for four years if the conditions of the contract are met. The recruiter will let you know “in good faith” that the intent is to offer a four-year scholarship, but he is legally only allowed to offer you a one-year renewable grant. You must ask the recruiter, as well as other players, what is the institutions history of renewing scholarships is for athletes who comply athletically, academically and socially. Remember, *no athlete can receive more than a full scholarship.*

One-year trial grant (full or partial)

This grant is a verbal agreement between you and the institution that at the end of the year your renewal will be dependent upon your academic and athletic performance.

Partial scholarship

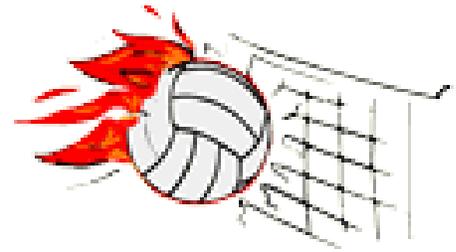
The partial grant is any part of the total scholarship. You may be offered room and board, but not tuition and books. You may be offered just tuition, or any other combination of coverage at school. There is always the possibility of negotiating a full scholarship after your freshman year.

Waiving out-of-state fees

This award is for out-of-state students to attend a college or university as a non-resident at the same fee as resident students.

Amy Athlete Volleyball Information

1225 Any Street, Any Town, Any State, 82000
Telephone: (500) 111-1111 or (500) 222-2222



Coach: Mary Jones
1010 Training Avenue
Any Town, Any State 82000
Telephone : (500) 111-1212
E-mail: mjones@park1.k12.wy.us

High School: Any High School
1225 10th Street
Any Town, Any State 820000
Telephone: (500) 111-5555

Volleyball Division: Class 4A (Highest Level Within the State)

Position: Setter

Jersey: #10 Dark / #10 Light

Offense Used: 5 – 1 Offense

Years Starting Varsity: 3 years

Awards / Honors: Best Setter (2004, 2005, 2006)
Most Valuable Player (2006)
All Conference (2005, 2006)
All State (2006)
North Area All Star Team (2006)

Experience: AAU Volleyball (2005, 2006)
Co-Ed Power Outdoor & Indoor
Tournaments (2004, 2005, 2006)
Aspen Volleyball Camp (2004, 2005)
Any University Summer Camp (2006)

Height: 5' 8"

Weight: 145 lbs

Vertical: 23"

G.P.A. & Class Rank 4.0 on 4.0 scale 1 Of 225 (top 1%)



Remember this is only an example. What coaches want to see will vary with each sport.

Sample Athletic Resume

Name

Address

Height / Weight

Foot speed (by specific event)

Position Played

Weight classification

High School (name, address, phone)

GPA

Class Rank

ACT / SAT scores (or when you plan to take them)

Athletic Records

All State/Conference

Special Awards

Off-Season Accomplishments

Weightlifting exercise

Vertical jump

Push-Ups

Bench Press

Shuttle-Run

Leadership Characteristics

Former Successful Athletes Form Your High School

Outstanding Capabilities

Citizenship

Alumni Parents / Relatives

Team Schedule with Dates and Times (attached)

Videotape with Jersey Number Identified (included)

Newspaper Clippings About You or Your Team (included)

Coach's Name (may include contact information)



Remember this is only an example. What coaches want to see will vary with each sport.

Sample Letter

From a High School Athlete to a College Coach

Date

Coach's Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Coach So & So

I would like to introduce myself. I am currently a junior and **high school name**. I have played volleyball for four years, starting as a setter for the last three years. I am 5'8" tall and weigh 145 pounds. I have been All-Conference for the past two years and All-State this past season. I was also selected for the North All-Star Team this year.

My coach's name is Mary Jones. Her contact information is included on the attached information page. She indicated to me that she would welcome your calls. E-mail is a reliable way to contact her as well.

I rank first in my class of 225 students. My cumulative GPA is 4.0 on a 4.0 scale. My ACT composite was a 24 and my total score was 96. I intend to retake the ACT test in October of my senior year. I am interested in pursuing a 4-year degree in Biology. I also hope to continue playing volleyball on the college level. Your program especially interests me and I have followed your team's season in the Rocky Mountain Journal while attending two games.

I have included a skills tape and a game tape, my jersey is #10 in the light-colored uniforms. Included is a schedule of our 2007-08 volleyball season. Please let me know if there is additional information that I, or my coach, can provide for you.

Thank-you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Athletes Name typed below with signature above

RECRUITING RESOURCE LIST

The following is a list of resources that you may find useful in your efforts to promote yourself as a Student Athlete.

INTERNET

Free NCAA student-athlete guides at 1-888-388-9748 or www.ncaa.org

<http://www.recruitingrealities.com>

<http://www.collegesportsconnection.com> - Free

<http://www.collegecoach.com> - Free

<http://www.dvdrecruiting.com>

<http://www.nationalrecruits.com>

<http://www.varsityedge.com>

<http://www.nsr-inc.com>

<http://www.berecruited.com>

<http://www.student-athleteshowcase.com>

<http://www.gspn.net>

Yahoo.com Directory Sports Recruiting Services

BOOKS

Go to: <http://www.amazon.com> to search books on College and Athletic Scholarships

**** You can also go to most college sites on-line. Find the Athletic home page of colleges and universities and fill out a sports information survey on yourself as a student-athlete. Colleges will use these to recruit. (Easy access to college web sites, College name or acronym.edu)

Go to: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/CLAS/american-universities.html> for a national listing of Colleges and Universities.