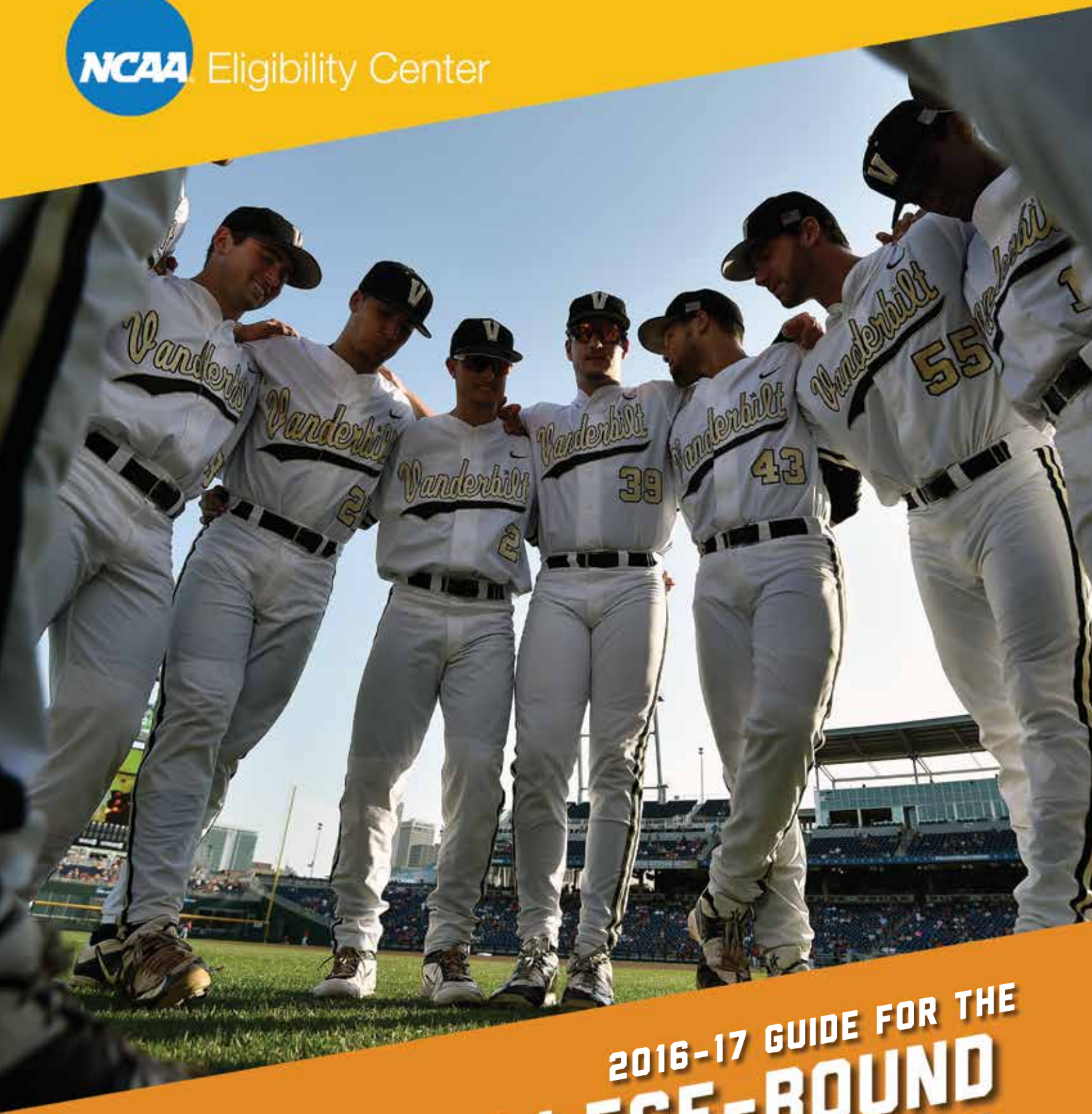
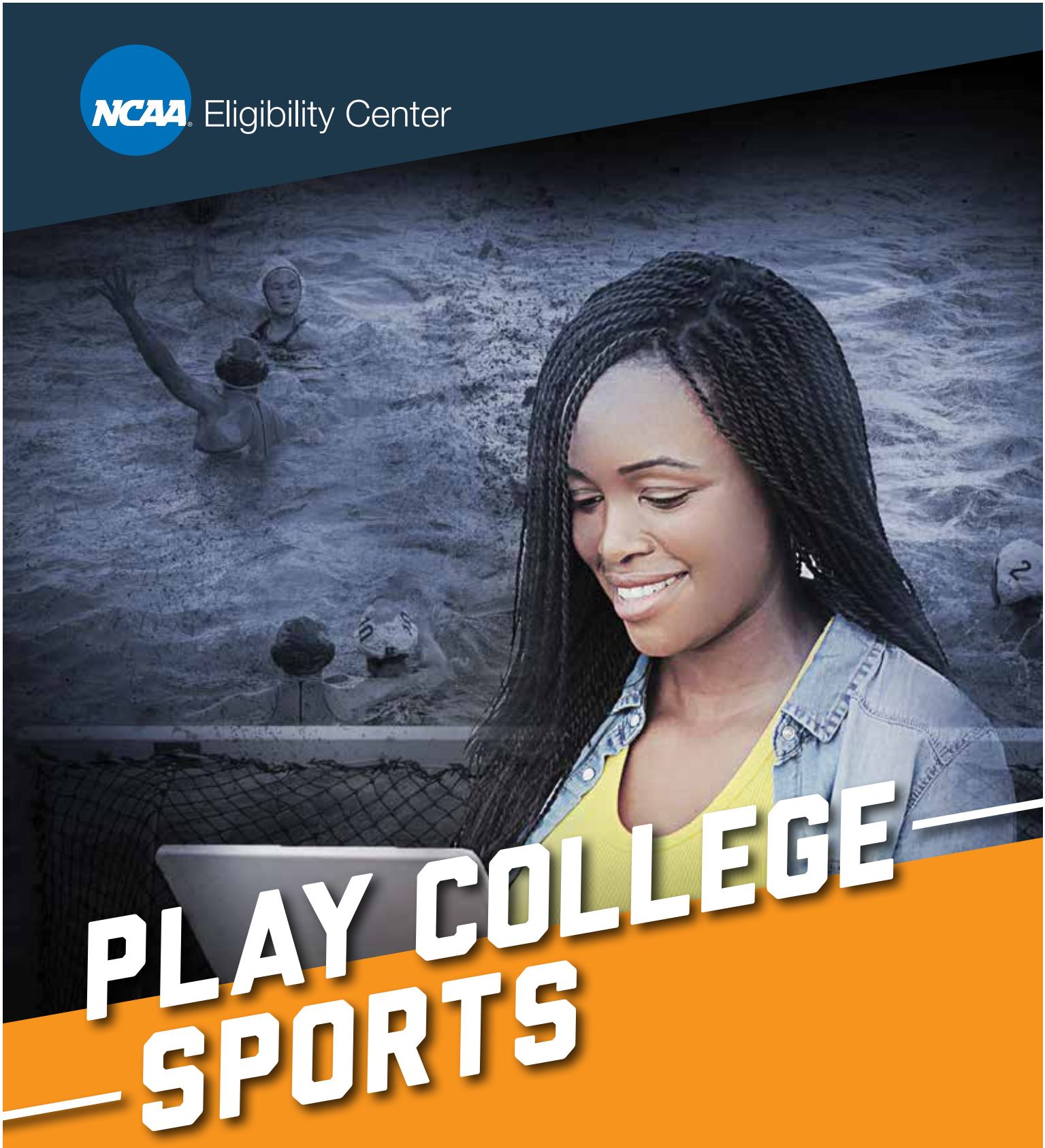
NCAA Eligibility Center



2016-17 GUIDE FOR THE

COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETE

NCAA Eligibility Center



PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS

Want to play college sports?
Learn what it takes to reach the top of your game at
NCAA.org/playcollegesports.

NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Table of Contents

4 **How To Use This Guide**
This Guide answers questions for student-athletes and parents navigating the initial-eligibility process.

5 **Who Is the NCAA?**
Find out who makes up the NCAA membership and a description of how it works.

7 **Thinking of Going Pro?**
There are more than 480,000 student-athletes and fewer than 2 percent go pro.

8 **Initial-Eligibility Checklist**
Follow a grade-by-grade checklist for navigating the initial-eligibility process.

9 **Student Registration**
If you want to play sports at an NCAA school, you need to register at **eligibilitycenter.org**.

11 **Division I Standards**
Learn the standards to compete at a Division I school.

12 **Division I Sliding Scale**
Learn the ACT/SAT score needed to match your core GPA.

13 **Division II Standards**
Learn the standards needed to compete at a Division II school.

15 **Division II Sliding Scale**
Learn the ACT/SAT score needed to match your core GPA.

Division III Standards
You do not need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete in Division III.

16 **What Is a Core Course?**
Learn the types of courses that will help you meet the Divisions I and II standards.

17 **Nontraditional Courses**
Learn the types of nontraditional/online courses that will help you meet the Divisions I and II standards.

18 **Grade-Point Average**
Your core GPA is based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved courses.

19 **Division I Worksheet**
Use this worksheet to track your progress toward your Division I initial eligibility.

20 **Division II Worksheet**
Use this worksheet to track your progress towards your Division II initial eligibility.

21 **Transcripts**
Ask your high school counselor to send a six-semester and final high school transcript.

Equivalency Tests/Diplomas
Check the guidelines for using an equivalency test as proof of graduation.

Test Scores
You will need to have all ACT or SAT scores sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

22 **Education-Impacting Disabilities**
Useful information for students with EIDs.

23 **Home School Students**
Useful information for home school students.

International Students
Useful information for international students.

24 **Amateurism**
Learn which activities may impact your amateur status.

26 **Important Terms**
Learn some key terms about the initial-eligibility and recruiting processes.

27 **Recruiting Calendars**
Learn more about the recruiting rules for Divisions I, II and III.

31 **Scholarships**
Learn more about scholarship opportunities at NCAA schools.

National Letter Of Intent
Useful information about the National Letter of Intent.

NCAA and March Madness are trademarks of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. All other trademarks are property of their respective holders.



How To 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.

Where can you find answers to your questions 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 the Resources section of **eligibilitycenter.org**.
- Visiting **NCAA.org/playcollegesports**.
- Calling the NCAA Eligibility Center.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Online
eligibilitycenter.org
NCAA.org/playcollegesports
Follow us on Twitter **@NCAA_EC**

Phone
U.S. and Canada except Quebec
(toll free): 877-262-1492
International callers:
011-317-917-6222

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

Welcome From the President



Dear college-bound student-athlete:

I am so pleased you are interested in pursuing your education and sport at the college level. This guide is designed to 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 **NCAA.org/d3** or contact the athletics office at a Division III campus for its initial-eligibility standards.

I encourage you to take an active role in the process of preparing for college. Initial eligibility affects your ability to receive an athletics scholarship and to practice and compete in your first year as a full-time college student.

More than 1,100 schools in the NCAA sponsor stellar academic and athletics programs, so it is never too early to start looking for your best fit. Work closely with your high school counselors, coaches, parents/guardians and mentors as you transition to college.

At the NCAA national office, staff members want to ensure high school athletes meet standards that will best prepare them to succeed in the college classroom. In particular, the NCAA Eligibility Center strives to make your registration and certification experience positive and helpful.

The connection between sports and learning in college is a unique and valuable experience.

I wish you the best of luck as you embark on this important journey.

All the best,

Mark Emmert
NCAA President

HELPFUL HINTS

- Visit **NCAA.org/playcollegesports** to learn more about opportunities available at NCAA schools.
- Know current and future academic standards for Division I and Division II (2018).
- Complete NCAA-approved courses throughout high school. Your high school counselor can help.
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at **eligibilitycenter.org** during your sophomore year if you are interested in Division I or II sports participation.
- After six semesters, send official transcripts from all high schools attended to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

The NCAA membership and national office work together to help nearly half a million student-athletes develop leadership, confidence, discipline and teamwork through college sports.

National Collegiate Athletic Association

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is a membership-driven organization dedicated to safeguarding student-athlete well-being and equipping them with the skills to succeed on the playing field, in the classroom and throughout life.

We support learning through sports by integrating athletics and higher education to enrich the college experience of student-athletes and making college sports a pathway to opportunity. More than 1,100 NCAA members – mostly colleges and universities, but also conferences and affiliated groups – work together to create a framework of rules for fair and safe competition. Those rules are administered by NCAA national office staff, which also organizes national championships and provides other resources to support student-athletes and the schools they attend.

Our diverse membership includes schools with student bodies that range from hundreds of students to tens of thousands. The three-division structure creates a fair playing field for like-minded schools and provides student-athletes with a wide spectrum of opportunities to participate in 90 championship events.

College and university presidents and chancellors guide each division, supported by an extensive committee structure guided by athletics administrators, faculty and student-athlete representatives. Each division creates its own rules that follow the overarching principles of the NCAA.



Division I
Division I schools generally have more students, larger athletics budgets and more athletics department support than schools in Division II or III.



Division II
Schools in Division II emphasize a life balance in which academically and athletically gifted students can compete at a high level, while maintaining a traditional collegiate experience.



Division III
Academics are the primary focus for Division III student-athletes who experience shorter sports seasons, reducing their time away from academic studies and other campus activities.

Do schools in all three divisions offer athletics scholarships?

Schools in Divisions I and II provide more than $2.7 billion in athletics scholarships annually to more than 150,000 student-athletes. Division III schools do not offer athletically related financial aid, but student-athletes may receive academic or need-based financial aid similar to other students on campus. For more information about scholarships, see page 31.

Are initial-eligibility standards similar in all three divisions?

If you want to compete at a Division I or II school, you must meet academic and amateurism standards set by the NCAA membership. Divisions I and II requirements can be found on pages 11 and 13, respectively. At Division III schools, you must meet the admission standards set by the school for all incoming students and amateurism standards set by the NCAA membership. For more information about Division III, see page 15.

	Division I	Division II	Division III
Schools	346	307	439
Teams	6,552	4,705	7,910
Student-Athletes	178,178	114,541	187,483
Conferences	32	24	43
Average Undergraduate Enrollment Per School	12,712	3,985	2,614
Average Teams Per School	19	15	18
Average Student-Athletes Per School	516	374	428
Percentage of Students at Each School Who Participate in NCAA Sports	4%	9%	16%

Thinking of Going Pro?

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

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.

Student-Athletes	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Baseball	Men's Ice Hockey	Men's Soccer
High School Student-Athletes	541,054	433,344	1,093,234	482,629	35,393	417,419
High School Senior Student-Athletes	154,587	123,813	312,353	137,894	10,112	119,263
NCAA Student-Athletes	18,320	16,319	71,291	33,431	3,976	23,602
NCAA Freshman Roster Positions	5,234	4,663	20,369	9,552	1,136	6,743
NCAA Senior Student-Athletes	4,071	3,626	15,842	7,429	884	5,245
NCAA Student-Athletes Drafted	47	32	255	638	60	72
Percent High School to NCAA	3.4%	3.8%	6.5%	6.9%	11.2%	5.7%
Percent NCAA to Professional	1.2%	0.9%	1.6%	8.6%	6.8%	1.4%
Percent High School to Professional	0.03%	0.03%	0.08%	0.53%	0.04%	0.06%

*Percentages based on estimated data.

NCAA Sports

The NCAA conducts 90 national championships in 24 sports across Divisions I, II and III, with 44 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 hosts 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.

Fall Sports	Winter Sports		Spring Sports		Emerging Sports
Cross Country (W)	Basketball (M)	Basketball (W)	Baseball (M)	Softball (W)	Equestrian (W)
Cross Country (M)	Fencing (M)	Fencing (W)	Golf (M)	Golf (W)	Rugby (W)
Field Hockey (W)	Gymnastics (M)	Gymnastics (W)	Lacrosse (M)	Lacrosse (W)	Triathlon (W)
Football (M)	Ice Hockey (M)	Ice Hockey (W)	Outdoor Track and Field (M)	Outdoor Track and Field (W)	
Soccer (W)	Indoor Track and Field (M)	Indoor Track and Field (W)	Tennis (M)	Tennis (W)	
Soccer (M)	Rifle (M)	Rifle (W)	Rowing (W)	Volleyball (M)	
Volleyball (W)	Skiing (M)	Skiing (W)	Water Polo (W)	Beach Volleyball (W)	
Water Polo (M)	Swimming and Diving (M)	Swimming and Diving (W)			
	Bowling (W)	Wrestling (M)			

Initial Eligibility

Initial-eligibility standards help ensure you are prepared to succeed in the first year of 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. Throughout the process, NCAA Eligibility Center staff members partner with students and their families, as well as high school administrators and coaches.

As a college-bound student-athlete, you are responsible for your eligibility – that means planning ahead, taking high school classes seriously and protecting your amateur status. It can be a difficult first step, but the benefits of being a student-athlete are worth the effort.

Get Ready. Get Set. Go!

Grade 9

PLAN

- ☐ Start planning now: take the right courses and earn the best grades possible.
- ☐ Ask your counselor for a list of your high school's NCAA-approved core courses to make sure you take the right classes. Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved courses at **NCAA.org/courselist**.

Grade 10

REGISTER

- ☐ Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at **eligibilitycenter.org**.
- ☐ If you fall behind, ask your counselor for help with finding approved courses you can take.

Grade 11

STUDY

- ☐ Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved courses.
- ☐ Take the ACT or SAT and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code 9999.
- ☐ At the end of the year, ask your counselor to send or upload your official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center. If you took classes at more than one high school or program, submit an official transcript for each school.
- ☐ Make sure you are on track to graduate on time with your class.

Grade 12

GRADUATE

- ☐ Complete your final NCAA core courses as you prepare for graduation.
- ☐ Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code 9999.
- ☐ Request your final amateurism certification beginning April 1 (fall enrollees) or Oct. 1 (spring enrollees) in your NCAA Eligibility Center account at **eligibilitycenter.org**.
- ☐ After you graduate, ask your counselor to send or upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- ☐ Only students on an NCAA Division I or II school's certification 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**. You should plan to register during your sophomore year of high school. If you have questions about your eligibility or the registration process, call us toll free at 877-262-1492. International students should call 011-317-917-6222. The information below is intended to help walk you through the registration process.

Online Registration

The NCAA Eligibility Center has designed **eligibilitycenter.org** with you, the student-athlete, in mind. This is where you will find the tools and information you need to begin your college experience as a student-athlete. Allow at least 45 minutes to register completely. If you need to exit and return at a later time, you can save and exit once your account has been created. Some additional tips are listed below to help walk you through each section of the registration process.

Account Creation

You will need to provide a valid email address to create an account and begin the registration process. Be sure you provide an email address that will be active after you graduate from high school. This email should be one that you use frequently, because you may receive notices regarding your account. If you have a sibling that has previously registered, you will need to use a different email address than the one on your sibling's account to create your new account.

In this section, you will enter your name, address, date of birth and gender.

Coursework

Enter the name and location of the high school you currently attend. If you have attended more than one school (including summer school) during grades nine, 10, 11 or 12, you will need to list those schools as well. 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. You must also include information about courses you may have taken through other programs, such as an online school or credit recovery program for a class you did not pass or took to improve a grade.

Sports

Select the sport(s) you plan to participate in at an NCAA Division I or II school. You will also be asked about any teams outside your high school, such as club teams you have played on, and events you have participated in during your high school career.

Payment

Your account will be eligible for processing once the registration fee has been paid (or submission of a fee waiver if you are eligible). You may pay online by debit, credit card or e-check. Beginning Sept. 1, 2016, the registration fee will be $80 for students in the United States, U.S. territories and Canadian students (U.S. territories include American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands); and $135 for all other international students.

All fees are nonrefundable once you have successfully registered. If you completed a duplicate 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.

Important Information and Dates

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: _____





Fee Waiver

You are eligible for a waiver of the registration fee if you have received a waiver of the SAT or ACT fee. This is not the same as a U.S. state voucher. You must have an authorized high school official submit your fee waiver documentation online once you complete your registration.

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 Standard 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 federally funded TRIO Program such as Upward Bound.

SAT

You are eligible for consideration for an SAT fee waiver if you are a United States citizen or a foreign national taking the SAT in the United States or its territories and you meet one of the following requirements:

- 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.

If you are a home schooled 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. Students from countries other than the United States or its territories are not eligible for a fee waiver.



Division I Academic Standards

Division I schools require you to meet academic standards for NCAA core courses, core-course GPA and test scores.

To be eligible to practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships in your first full-time year at a Division I school, you must graduate from high school and meet ALL the following requirements:

1. Complete a total of 16 NCAA core courses in the following areas:
   - 4 years of English.
   + 3 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).
   + 2 years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if offered).
   + 2 years of social science.
   + 1 additional year of English, math or natural/physical science.
   + 4 additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy.

   Note: See the core-course progression requirements.

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, you must have more than 10 core courses completed to be able to repeat or replace any of the 10 courses used to meet the 10/7 requirement. Students whose academic credentials are solely international (including Canada) are not required to meet the 10/7 requirement.

3. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on the Division I sliding scale. SAT scores earned on or after March 2016 will be evaluated based on concordance tables established by the College Board.

If you plan to attend a Division I school, you must complete 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 must still meet core-course requirements.

Core-Course Progression (10/7) Requirement

In order to be eligible to compete during your initial year of full-time enrollment, you must complete a total of 16 core courses. Ten of the 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester (senior year) of high school and at least seven of these 10 core courses must be in English, math, or science. Once students begin their seventh semester, they must have more than 10 core courses completed to be able to repeat or replace any of the 10 courses used to meet the 10/7 requirement.

Note: Students must also meet the Division I sliding-scale index for competition (minimum 2.300 core-course GPA).

Courses Taken After High School

For Division I, only courses completed in your first eight semesters will qualify as core courses for Division I. If you graduate from high school on time (in eight semesters) with your incoming ninth grade class, you may use one core course 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 and may initially enroll full time at a collegiate institution at any time after completion of the core course. A college course taken after high school graduation can be used toward your initial eligibility and will be awarded .5 unit unless awarded one full unit by your home high school and must appear on your home high school transcript with grade and credit.

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.

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 in 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.

How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement:

4 X 4 = 16

4 English courses (one per year)
+ 4 math courses (one per year)
+ 4 science courses (one per year)
+ 4 social science (and/or additional) courses (one per year)

16 NCAA core courses

Academic Certification Decisions

To receive an academic certification, you must have a final official transcript with proof of graduation, official transcripts from all high schools attended, test scores, no open academic tasks and be on a Division I school's certification request list. Being placed on a school's certification request list notifies the NCAA Eligibility Center to complete an academic evaluation for you once all of your appropriate documents have been submitted.

Once a certification has been completed, you will receive one of the following decisions if you are being recruited by a Division I school.

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If you meet specific criteria after six semesters, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division I and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of enrollment.

Minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 900 OR minimum ACT sum score of 75; and a core-course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses:

3 years of English;
2 years of math;
2 years of science;
2 additional years of English, math or natural/physical science; and
5 additional core courses in any area.

A final high school transcript is required to 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 enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

You may receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of 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, receive an athletics scholarship or compete during your first year of enrollment at a Division I school.

What if I Don't Meet the Division I Standards?

If you have not met all the Division I academic standards, you may not compete in your first year at 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 the following academic standards:

1. Complete 16 core courses; and
2. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA (minimum 2.000) on the Division I sliding scale for students enrolling on or after Aug. 1, 2016.

Sliding Scale for Division I Beginning Aug. 1, 2016

Core GPA	SAT	ACT
3.550 & above	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
3.450	440	41
3.425	450	41
3.400	460	42
3.375	470	42
3.350	480	43
3.325	490	44
3.300	500	44
3.275	510	45
3.250	520	46
3.225	530	46
3.200	540	47
3.175	550	47
3.150	560	48
3.125	570	49
3.100	580	49
3.075	590	50
3.050	600	50
3.025	610	51
3.000	620	52
2.975	630	52
2.950	640	53
2.925	650	53
2.900	660	54
2.875	670	55
2.850	680	56
2.825	690	56
2.800	700	57
2.775	710	58
2.750	720	59
2.725	730	60
2.700	740	61
2.675	750	61
2.650	760	62
2.625	770	63
2.600	780	64
2.575	790	65
2.550	800	66
2.525	810	67
2.500	820	68
2.475	830	69
2.450	840	70
2.425	850	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
2.299	910	76
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	81
2.125	970	82
2.100	980	83
2.075	990	84
2.050	1000	85
2.025	1010	86
2.000	1020	86

Division II Academic Standards

NCAA Division II
MAKE IT YOURS™

Division II schools require college-bound student-athletes to meet academic standards for NCAA core courses, core-course GPA and test scores. The standards are changing for students who initially enroll full time at a Division II school on or after Aug. 1, 2018.

If You Enroll BEFORE Aug. 1, 2018

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 the following requirements:

1. Complete a total 16 core courses in the following areas:
   - 3 years of English.
   - + 2 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).
   - + 2 years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if offered).
   - + 2 years of social science.
   - + 3 additional years of English, math or natural/physical science.
   - + 4 additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy.
2. Earn at least a 2.000 GPA in your core courses.
3. Earn an SAT combined score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68. SAT scores earned during or after March 2016 will be evaluated based on concordance tables established by the College Board.

If You Enroll AFTER Aug. 1, 2018

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 the following requirements:

1. Complete a total of 16 core courses in the following areas:
   - 3 years of English.
   - + 2 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).
   - + 2 years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if offered).
   - + 2 years of social science.
   - + 3 additional years of English, math or natural or physical science.
   - + 4 additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy.
2. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA (minimum 2.200) on the Division II competition sliding scale.



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.

Academic Certification Decisions

To receive an academic certification, you must have a final official transcript with proof of graduation, official transcripts from ALL other high schools attended, test scores, no open academic tasks and be on a Division II school's certification request list. Being placed on a school's certification request list notifies the NCAA Eligibility Center to complete an academic evaluation for you once all of your appropriate documents have been submitted.

Once a certification has been completed, you will receive one of the following decisions if you are being recruited by a Division II school.

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If you meet specific criteria below after six semesters, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division II and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship.

Minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 820 OR minimum sum score of 68 on the ACT; and a core-course GPA of 2.5 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses in the following areas:

3 years of English;
3 years of math;
2 years of natural/physical science; and
6 additional core courses in any area.

A final high school transcript is required to 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 during your first year of enrollment and may practice during your first year of enrollment, but may NOT compete.

NONQUALIFIER

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

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 at a location other than the high school from which you graduated. College courses taken after high school graduation can be used toward your Division II initial eligibility and will be awarded .5 unit unless awarded one full unit by your home high school and must appear on your home high school transcript with grade and credit.

What if I Don't Meet the Division II Standards?

If You Enroll BEFORE Aug. 1, 2018

If you enroll full time at a Division II school before Aug. 1, 2018, 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 ONE of the following standards:

1. Earn a 2.000 GPA in 16 core courses; OR
2. Earn an SAT combined score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68. SAT scores earned on or after March 2016 will be evaluated based on concordance tables established by the College Board.

If You Enroll AFTER Aug. 1, 2018

If you enroll full time at a Division II school after Aug. 1, 2018, 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 the following standards:

1. Complete 16 core courses; AND
2. 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. SAT scores earned on or after March 2016 will be evaluated based on concordance tables established by the College Board.



2018 Division II Competition Sliding Scale

Use for Division II beginning Aug. 1, 2018

Core GPA	SAT Verbal + Math ONLY	ACT
3.300 & above	400	37
3.275	410	38
3.250	420	39
3.225	430	40
3.200	440	41
3.175	450	41
3.150	460	42
3.125	470	42
3.100	480	43
3.075	490	44
3.050	500	44
3.025	510	45
3.000	520	46
2.975	530	46
2.950	540	47
2.925	550	47
2.900	560	48
2.875	570	49
2.850	580	49
2.825	590	50
2.800	600	50
2.775	610	51
2.750	620	52
2.725	630	52
2.700	640	53
2.675	650	53
2.650	660	54
2.625	670	55
2.600	680	56
2.575	690	56
2.550	700	57
2.525	710	58
2.500	720	59
2.475	730	60
2.450	740	61
2.425	750	61
2.400	760	62
2.375	770	63
2.350	780	64
2.325	790	65
2.300	800	66
2.275	810	67
2.250	820	68
2.225	830	69
2.200	840 & above	70 & above

2018 Division II Partial Qualifier Sliding Scale

Use for Division II beginning Aug. 1, 2018

Core GPA	SAT Verbal + Math ONLY	ACT
3.050 & above	400	37
3.025	410	38
3.000	420	39
2.975	430	40
2.950	440	41
2.925	450	41
2.900	460	42
2.875	470	42
2.850	480	43
2.825	490	44
2.800	500	44
2.775	510	45
2.750	520	46
2.725	530	46
2.700	540	47
2.675	550	47
2.650	560	48
2.625	570	49
2.600	580	49
2.575	590	50
2.550	600	50
2.525	610	51
2.500	620	52
2.475	630	52
2.450	640	53
2.425	650	53
2.400	660	54
2.375	670	55
2.350	680	56
2.325	690	56
2.300	700	57
2.275	710	58
2.250	720	59
2.225	730	60
2.200	740	61
2.175	750	61
2.150	760	62
2.125	770	63
2.100	780	64
2.075	790	65
2.050	800	66
2.025	810	67
2.000	820 & above	68 & above

Division III Academic Standards

Division III schools 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.

While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 75 percent of Division III student-athletes receive some form of merit or need-based financial aid.

If you are planning to attend a Division III school, you do not need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. 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.



What Is a Core Course?

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

For a high school class to be an NCAA-approved core course, it MUST meet these conditions:

1. Be an academic, four-year college preparatory course in one of these subject areas:
    - English.
    - Math (Algebra I or higher).
    - Natural/physical science.
    - Social science.
    - Foreign language.
    - Comparative religion or philosophy.
2. Be taught at or above your high school's regular academic level.
3. Receive credit toward high school graduation and appear on an official transcript with course title, grade, and credit awarded.

What Is Not a Core Course

Not all high school classes are NCAA-approved core courses. Some examples of courses that are not NCAA-approved core courses include:

- Courses in non-core areas, fine arts or vocations such as driver education, typing, art, music, physical education or welding.
- Courses that prepare students for the world of work or life, or for a two-year college or technical school, such as personal finance, consumer education or tech prep.
- Courses taught below grade level, at a slower pace or with less rigor or depth, such as basic, essential, fundamental or foundational courses.
- Courses which are not academic in nature such as film appreciation, video editing or greenhouse management.
- Credit-by-exam courses are not considered NCAA-approved core courses.

Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved courses at NCAA.org/courselist. Make sure you are taking the courses on the approved list. Ask your counselor if you need help.

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.

Generally, you receive the same number of credits from the NCAA for a core course that you receive from your high school for the class. A one-year class taken over a longer period of time is considered one core course and is not awarded more than one credit.

Courses Taken Before High School

If you take a high school class such as Algebra 1 or Spanish 1 in eighth grade, the class may count toward your 16 core courses if it appears on your high school's list of NCAA-approved 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 11 for Division I or Page 14 for Division II.





Nontraditional and Online Courses

Nontraditional courses are classes taught online or through distance learning, credit recovery, independent study, individualized instruction or correspondence methods.

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

- The course must prepare students for academic work at a four-year college.
- The course must be comparable in length, content and rigor to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting.
- A student 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 instruction.
- The course must have a defined time period for completion. For example, it should be clear whether the course is meant to be taken for an entire semester or a more condensed time period.
- The course should be clearly identified as nontraditional on the student's official high school transcript.
- The course must appear on the school's list of NCAA-approved courses.

A nontraditional course could fail to meet NCAA core-course requirements 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 have certified or qualified teachers.
- Does not require students to complete the entire course.
- Allows students to complete a course in a short period of time.
- Allows students to take numerous courses at the same time, especially courses in the same subject area or that are sequential.
- Does not prepare students for four-year college classwork.
- Does not verify a student's identity.
- Does not have formal assessments or has only limited assessments.
- Does not have official student grade records.

To find out if a nontraditional program or course is approved, you can go to **NCAA.org/courselist** and search the school or program's list of NCAA-approved courses. You will find information about any nontraditional programs or courses in the "Additional Information" box as seen below.

Additional Information
Coursework from this school/program meets NCAA nontraditional core-course legislation.

Remember: Log in to your NCAA Eligibility Center account frequently to update your information with all the academic programs you have taken, including computer-based instruction, alternative school, evening school, adult school, online courses, distance learning, independent study, individualized instruction and correspondence courses.



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. Grades from additional core courses will be used only if they improve your grade-point average.

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. The NCAA Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating your GPA. Weighted honors or advanced placement courses may improve your core-course GPA, but your high school must notify the NCAA Eligibility Center that it weights 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.

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.

The following worksheets will help you to determine your core-course GPA.

QUALITY POINTS

A = 4 points
B = 3 points
C = 2 points
D = 1 point

UNITS OF CREDIT

1 quarter unit = 0.25 units
1 trimester unit = 0.34 units
1 semester unit = 0.50 units
1 year = 1 unit



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 high school's list of NCAA-approved courses for the classes you have taken.

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

English (4 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
✓	Example: English 9	.5		A		(.5 x 4) = 2
	Total English Units					Total Quality Points

Mathematics (3 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	Example: Algebra 1	1.0		B		(1.0 x 3) = 3
	Total Mathematics Units					Total Quality Points

Natural/physical science (2 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	Total Natural/Physical Science Units					Total Quality Points

Additional year in English, mathematics or natural/physical science (1 year required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	Total Additional Units					Total Quality Points

Social science (2 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	Total Social Science Units					Total Quality Points

Additional academic courses (4 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Total	Total Additional Academic Units					Total Quality Points
	Total Quality Points from each subject area / Total Credits = Core-Course GPA		/		=	
		Quality Points	/	Credits	=	Core-Course GPA
	Core-Course GPA (16 required) *10 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester and seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science for competition purposes.*					

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 courses for the classes you have taken.

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

English (3 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Example: English 9	.5		A		(.5 x 4) = 2
Total English Units					Total Quality Points

Mathematics (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Example: Algebra 1	1.0		B		(1.0 x 3) = 3
Total Mathematics Units					Total Quality Points

Natural/physical science (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Total Natural/Physical Science Units					Total Quality Points

Additional years in English, math or natural/physical science (3 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Total Additional Units					Total Quality Points

Social science (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Total Social Science Units					Total Quality Points

Additional academic courses (4 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Total Additional Academic Units					Total Quality Points
Total Quality Points from each subject area / Total Credits = Core-Course GPA		/		=	
	Quality Points	/	Credits	=	Core-Course GPA

Transcripts

Ask your high school counselor to send an official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center after completing your junior year. 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 school(s) or program(s) you attended. You also will need to ask your high school counselor to send your final transcript with proof of graduation once you have completed high school. The NCAA Eligibility Center does not accept grades from one high school or program transcribed on another high school's transcript.

High schools now have the capability to upload transcripts directly to a student's account from the High School Portal. It is free and easy. As with other electronic transcript providers, this process is much quicker than using the U.S. Postal Service or any overnight delivery method. When transcripts are uploaded directly to a student's account, the NCAA Eligibility Center has near real-time access to the transcript. Students should contact their high school counselor to ask for their transcript to be uploaded, or that it be sent electronically through one of the approved e-transcript providers listed below:

- Parchment.
- Scrip Safe.
- ConnectEDU.
- National Transcript Center/Pearson Edustructure.
- USMO ET.
- XAP.

Please note that the NCAA Eligibility Center does not accept faxed or emailed transcripts. In order to send a transcript by U.S. mail or through an overnight or express delivery service, please use the appropriate addresses on Page 4.

Note: Some approved programs that have a list of NCAA-approved courses are not 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, but in order for it to be used in an academic certification, it MUST be accompanied by an official transcript from a high school that formally awards credit with the course title, grade and credit awarded represented.

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 school(s) or program(s) attended.

Equivalency Tests/Diplomas

A state high school equavalency 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 ACT/SAT 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 submit an official copy of the applicable certificate along with test scores through the mail to the NCAA Eligibility Center. You can contact your state education agency to request the certificate and test scores be sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Test Scores

Every time you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 to ensure your scores are sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores on transcripts will NOT be used in your academic certification. The NCAA Eligibility Center does not accept SAT subject test scores.

Note: If you took the SAT before March 2016 and then take the redesigned SAT at a later date, the NCAA Eligibility Center will not combine section scores from the current and redesigned SAT when determining your initial eligibility.We will only combine section scores from the same version of the test. Because the redesigned SAT varies in design and measures different academic concepts than the current SAT, a numerical score on the current test may not be equivalent to the same numerical score on the redesigned test.

If you take the SAT or ACT test after you graduate high school, the NCAA Eligibility Center may ask you to confirm that you have not yet enrolled full time in college, by completing and submitting a student matriculation letter.

ACT

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

SAT

A combined SAT score is calculated by adding your critical reading and math subscores. SAT scores earned on or after March 2016 will be evaluated based on concordance tables established by the College Board.

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. Here is an example of a student taking the SAT in October 2015 and December 2015:

	MATH	CRITICAL READING	TOTAL
SAT (October 2015)	350	470	820
SAT (December 2015)	420	440	860
Scores Used	**420**	**470**	**890**

Testing Dates

The NCAA Eligibility Center accepts national SAT and ACT exams, and state-administered ACT exams.

NATIONAL TESTING DATES

SAT	ACT
Oct. 1, 2016	Sept. 10, 2016
Nov. 5, 2016	Oct. 22, 2016
Dec. 3, 2016	Dec. 10, 2016
Jan. 28, 2017	Feb. 11, 2017
March 11, 2017	April 8, 2017
May 6, 2017	June 10, 2017
June 3, 2017	

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.

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:

- Learning disabilities or disorders.
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.
- Mental health disorders.
- Medical conditions.
- Deaf or hard of hearing.
- Autism spectrum disorder.

If you have a documented EID, you must meet the same initial-eligibility standards as other students but may be provided certain accommodations to help meet those standards. For instance, if you have a documented EID, you may be allowed to take classes designed for students with EIDs if the classes appear on the list of NCAA-approved courses at your school.

If you plan on attending a **Division I** school and your EID documentation is approved by the NCAA Eligibility Center, you may take up to three additional core courses after graduating from high school and before enrolling full time at a Division I school, as long as you graduate high school in eight consecutive semesters after starting ninth grade.

If you plan on attending a **Division II** school, you may take an unlimited number of core courses after starting ninth grade and before enrolling full time at a Division II school.

Submitting Your EID Documentation

If you are a student with a documented EID, you only need to alert the NCAA Eligibility Center to your EID if you are planning on enrolling full time at a Division I school and would like to take additional core courses after you graduate high school. Information about EIDs submitted to the NCAA is not released to colleges unless the student-athlete makes a specific written request.

To document your EID with the NCAA Eligibility Center, you must submit the following materials:

1. A complete NCAA EID cover sheet.
2. Your NCAA identification number, high school graduation year, permanent address and phone number.
3. Current, signed documentation of your diagnosis (including test data) and/or recommendations from the treating professional (e.g., medical doctor, clinical psychologist or other qualified individual).
4. Current copy of your Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan. If your high school did not provide an IEP or 504 Plan, the high school must submit documentation describing the available accommodations or an explanation of why accommodations were not provided.
5. A signed Buckley statement form allowing certain individuals to review your EID information and speak on your behalf to the NCAA. A parent or guardian who would like to discuss your EID request with the NCAA must be listed on the Buckley statement.

The cover sheet and Buckley statement can be found at **NCAA.org/playcollegesports**.

Where To Send Your EID Documents

NCAA Eligibility Center
EID Services
P.O. Box 7110
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7110

Fax: 317-968-5100
Email: ec-processing@ncaa.org

If approved, you will be notified in writing and provided with additional information about available accommodations.

SAT/ACT Exam With Accommodations

If you have a documented EID, you may also 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.
- Follow 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.

Remember: You should complete your NCAA Eligibility Center registration before submitting your EID documentation.



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 home school.

Courses that will be evaluated as home school courses are those in which a parent or 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.
- Determines the overall grade the student achieved in the course.
- Places the grade on a transcript or grade report or reports the grade to a transcription agency.

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, you will want to go to **NCAA.org/playcollegesports** and visit the Home School Students section for a Tool Kit to provide you with necessary home school resources.

Where to Send Your Home School Documents

All documents must be submitted via email to ec-processing@ncaa.org or mailed to the following address:

NCAA Eligibility Center
(ATTN: Home School Evaluation)
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202-6222

International Students

If you are an international college-bound student-athlete or if you have attended secondary school outside the United States or Canada (except Quebec), please refer to the "Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility," located in the International Students section at **NCAA.org/playcollegesports**.

If you are an international college-bound student-athlete, you must submit the following academic documents:

- Your academic records for years nine and up, in your native language and translated to English.
- Proof of graduation, including certificates, diplomas or final leaving exams.
- SAT or ACT scores.

Failure to include any of these items may delay review of your records. In certain situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center may ask for additional academic documentation to clarify that your academic information is complete, valid and accurate. For more information, call the NCAA Eligibility Center's international academic certification staff at 011-317-917-6222.

All documents sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center become the property of the NCAA Eligibility Center and cannot be photocopied or returned. In special circumstances, when your country's school or ministry of education issues only one set of official leaving exam results, transcripts or credentials after departure and will never provide additional copies, the NCAA Eligibility Center will return that set to you, only if you include a prepaid, self-stamped, pre-addressed envelope accompanying your documents.

If no prepaid, self-stamped, pre-addressed envelope is included with the documents, or if the envelope does not include a return address or a legitimate address and is thus incomplete, the documents will become the property of the NCAA Eligibility Center and will not be returned or photocopied.

CHRIS PIKE
FOOTBALL
GANNON UNIVERSITY



"College sports has given me not only the opportunity to play the game I love at the next level, but also allow myself to get a great education while developing as a leader as well. College athletics is the best combination to allow a student athlete to develop into their fullest potential as an individual."

ASHTON MCKEOWN
WOMEN'S SOCCER
LONG BEACH STATE UNIVERSITY



"Being a student-athlete has taught me the value of hard work and dedication toward something bigger than myself. It has taught me that there is always room for improvement, and no matter how I am performing at the moment, to always strive to better myself. Success is not a single event, but it is a continuous process and I am loving every step of the way."

RYAN YEWCHIN
MEN'S WRESTLING
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY



"As a Canadian, the opportunity to attend and compete for the only international institution in the NCAA has been a historic and memorable opportunity. Collegiate athletics has pushed me as a student and an athlete beyond what I could have imagined. These experiences have been essential to my development as a scholar, a competitor and a leader."

Amateurism

When you register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, you will be asked a series of questions about your sports participation to determine your amateur status. More than 90 percent of student-athletes who register are automatically certified. In some instances, the NCAA Eligibility Center staff may need to gather additional information to evaluate your amateur status.

The following activities may impact your amateur status:

- Signing a contract with a professional team.
- Playing with professionals.
- Participating in tryouts or practices with a professional team.
- Accepting payments or preferential benefits for playing sports.
- Accepting prize money above your expenses.
- Accepting benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
- Agreeing to be represented by an agent.
- Delaying your full-time college enrollment to play in organized sports competitions.

Requesting Final Amateurism Certification

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

Delayed Enrollment

After you graduate from high school, you have a certain amount of time – called a grace period – to enroll full time at an NCAA school. If you do not enroll at the first opportunity after your grace period, you will use one season of competition for each calendar year during which you continue to compete in organized competition. Please see the chart on the next page for specific time frames per sport in Divisions I and II.

In most sports, you may delay full-time college enrollment for one year after your expected high school graduation without impacting your eligibility. In Division I tennis, you must enroll full time at a college or university during the first regular academic term of college, which occurs following the six-month period after you graduate from high school. In Division I men's ice hockey or skiing, you may be required to enroll full time in college before you turn 21 to avoid impacting your eligibility.

WHO IS AN AGENT?

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

WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL TEAM?

A team that declares itself to be professional or provides any player MORE than the following expenses for participation:

- Meals and lodging directly tied to competition and practice directly related to the competition.
- Transportation expenses, such as to and from practice, training or competition.
- Apparel, equipment and supplies related to competition and practice directly related to the 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.

WHAT IS ORGANIZED COMPETITION?

Competition is considered organized if ANY of the following conditions exist:

Division I: It is scheduled and publicized in advance.
Division II: It is scheduled in advance.

- 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.

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

Before initial full-time enrollment at a college or university, may a college-bound student-athlete ...	Permissible in Division I?	Permissible in Division II?
try out with a professional team?	**Men's Ice Hockey and Skiing:** Yes. May receive actual and necessary expenses for one visit (up to 48 hours) from each professional team. Self-financed tryouts may be for more than 48 hours. **All Other Sports:** Yes. May not be compensated above actual and necessary expenses.	Yes
enter into a professional draft?	Yes	Yes
accept prize money?	**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 provided by the sponsor of the event, or the team in which the individual represents. **All Other Sports:** Yes. If it is does not exceed actual and necessary expenses and comes from an amateur team or sponsor of the event.	Yes
receive benefits from an agent?	No	No
enter into an agreement with an agent (oral or written)?	No, except in baseball a student-athlete who is drafted before collegiate enrollment may use the services of an agent to negotiate with a professional team, provided he discontinues the agent agreement before enrolling in college.	No
delay full-time collegiate enrollment and participate in organized competition? [If you are charged with season(s) of competition under this rule, you will also have to serve an academic year in residence at the NCAA college or university.]	**Tennis:** Must enroll full time at a Division I school during the first regular academic term that occurs following the six-month period after high school graduation. **Men's Ice Hockey and Skiing:** Any activity in organized competition within one year after your 21st birthday and before initial full-time enrollment in a Division I school will count as one year of varsity competition (no academic year-in-residence requirement). **All Other Sports:** Must enroll full time at a college or university during the first regular academic term that occurs following the one-year period after high school graduation or will lose one season of intercollegiate competition for each calendar year during which you continue to participate in organized competition.	**All Sports:** Must enroll full time at a college or university during the first regular academic term, which occurs following the one-year period after high school graduation or will lose one season of intercollegiate competition for each calendar year during which you continue to participate in organized competition.



Important Terms

Celebratory Standardized Signing Form: (A form used by Division III institutions.) The Celebratory Standardized Signing Form is a standard NCAA-provided, nonbinding athletics celebratory signing 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 write or telephone you or your parents.

Dead period: A college coach may not have any face-to-face contact with you or your parents on or off the college campus at any time during a dead period. The coach may write and call 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 write or telephone 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 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 12 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.

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).

Institutional Request List: An Institutional Request List is a list of college-bound student-athletes who an NCAA Division I and/or II school is interested in recruiting. The action of activating a college-bound student-athlete to the IRL informs the NCAA Eligibility Center of the school's interest in having an academic certification decision for the student-athlete.

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, lodging and meals (Division I allows for up to three meals per day) for you and your parents or guardians, as well as reasonable entertainment expenses including three tickets to a Division I home sports event or five tickets to a Division II home sports event. Before a college may invite you on an official visit, you will have to provide the college with a copy of your high school transcript and ACT, SAT or PLAN score (test scores are required for Division I only) and register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Quiet period: During this time, a college coach may not have any in-person contact with you or your parents off the college's campus. The 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 write or call you or your parents during this time.

Recruited: If a college coach calls you more than once, contacts you off campus, pays your expenses to visit the campus, or in Divisions I and II, issues you a National Letter of Intent or a written offer of financial aid, you are considered to be 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.

Season of competition: Generally, NCAA rules say that any competition in a season — regardless of the amount of time — counts as having played a 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. Your season of competition starts when you spend one second in competition on the field, court, gym or track.

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 participation. 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: A school where students can earn an Associate of Arts degree, an Associate of Science degree or an Associate of Applied Science degree within two years. Some people call these schools community colleges or junior colleges.

Unofficial visit: Any visit by you and 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 may take those visits at any time. The only time you cannot talk with a coach during an unofficial visit is during a dead period.

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 and can be made at any time.

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

SOPHOMORE YEAR - DIVISION I

Recruiting Method	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Other Sports
Recruiting materials	• You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials, and nonathletics recruiting publications. • You may begin receiving recruiting materials June 15 after your sophomore year.	• You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials, and nonathletics recruiting publications.	• You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials, and nonathletics recruiting publications.	• You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials, and nonathletics recruiting publications. • **Men's Ice Hockey**—You may begin receiving recruiting materials Jan. 1 of your sophomore year.
Telephone calls	• You may make calls to the coach at your expense only. • A college coach can make unlimited calls beginning June 15 after your sophomore year.	• You may make calls to the coach at your expense only. • A college coach cannot call you.	• You may make calls to the coach at your expense only. • A college coach cannot call you.	• You may make calls to the coach at your expense only. • A college coach cannot call you. • **Women's Ice Hockey**—A college coach may call international college-bound student-athletes once on or after July 7 through July 31 after sophomore year. • **Men's Ice Hockey**—A college coach may not call you before Jan. 1 of sophomore year.
Off-campus contact	None allowed.	None allowed.	None allowed.	• None allowed. • **Men's Ice Hockey**—Contact may not be made before June 15 after sophomore year.
Official visit	None allowed.	None allowed.	None allowed.	None allowed.
Unofficial visit	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.





JUNIOR YEAR - DIVISION I

Recruiting Method	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Other Sports
Electronic correspondence (e.g., text messaging, instant messenger, email)	• You may begin receiving electronic correspondence June 15 after your sophomore year. • Correspondence must be private between you and the coach until you provide a written commitment to the NCAA school.	• You may begin receiving electronic correspondence Sept. 1 of your junior year. • Correspondence must be private between you and the coach until you provide a written commitment to the NCAA school.	• All forms of electronic correspondence (e.g., texting) are permissible beginning Sept. 1 of your junior year.	• All forms of electronic correspondence permissible beginning Sept. 1 of your junior year. • Correspondence must be private until you provide a written commitment to the NCAA school. • **Men's Ice Hockey**—You may begin receiving Jan. 1 your sophomore year.
Recruiting materials	• Allowed. • You may begin receiving recruiting materials June 15 after your sophomore year.	You may begin receiving Sept. 1 of your junior year.	You may begin receiving Sept. 1 of your junior year.	• You may begin receiving recruiting materials Sept. 1 of your junior year. • **Men's Ice Hockey**—You may begin receiving recruiting materials Jan. 1 after your sophomore year.
Telephone calls	You may make calls to the coach at your expense.	You may make calls to the coach at your expense.	You may make calls to the coach at your expense.	You may make calls to the coach at your expense.
College coaches may call you	Unlimited.	Unlimited beginning Sept. 1 of your junior year.	One call from April 15 to May 31 of your junior year. Additional calls may not be made before Sept. 1 of your senior year.	• May not be made before Sept. 1 at the beginning of your junior year. • **Women's Ice Hockey**—Once per week beginning July 7 after your junior year. • **Swimming & Diving**—Beginning July 1 prior to your junior year. • **Cross Country and Track & Field**—Beginning July 1 after your junior year.
Off-campus contact	• Allowed beginning opening day of classes. Contacts other than April period may only occur at your school. Contacts in April may occur at your school or residence. • No contact on the day of a competition. • Contacts may not occur during the time of day when classes are in session.	• Allowed Sept. 1 at the beginning of your junior year. • No contact on the day of a competition.	None allowed.	• Allowed starting July 1 after your junior year. • **Women's Gymnastics**—Allowed beginning July 15 after your junior year. • **Women's Ice Hockey**—Allowed beginning July 7 after your junior year.
Official visit	• Allowed Jan. 1 of your junior year. • 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.	• Allowed April of your junior year beginning Thursday after the Women's Final Four.	None allowed.	None allowed.
Unofficial visit	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.

SENIOR YEAR - DIVISION I

Recruiting Method	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Other Sports
Electronic correspondence (e.g., text messaging, instant messenger, email)	• You may begin receiving electronic correspondence June 15 after your sophomore year. • Correspondence must be private between you and the coach until you provide a written commitment to the NCAA school.	• You may begin receiving electronic correspondence September 1 of your junior year. • Correspondence must be private between you and the coach until you provide a written commitment to the NCAA school.	• All forms of electronic correspondence (e.g., texting) may be sent to a student-athlete beginning September 1 of your junior year.	• All forms of electronic correspondence permissible September 1 of your junior year. • Correspondence must be private until you provide a written commitment to the NCAA school.
Recruiting materials	Allowed.	Allowed.	Allowed.	Allowed.
Telephone calls	You may make calls to the coach at your expense.	You may make calls to the coach at your expense.	You may make calls to the coach at your expense.	You may make calls to the coach at your expense.
College coaches may call you	Unlimited.	Unlimited.	• Once per week beginning September 1 outside contact period. • Unlimited calls after you sign a National Letter of Intent, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you. • Unlimited during contact period.	• **Women's Ice Hockey**—Once per week beginning July 7 after your junior year. • Unlimited calls after you sign a National Letter of Intent, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you.
Off-campus contact	Allowed.	Allowed.	Allowed beginning July 1 before your senior year.	Allowed.
Official visit	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.	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.	• Allowed beginning opening day of classes your senior year. • 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.	• Allowed beginning opening day of classes your senior year. • 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.
Unofficial visit	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.
How often can a coach see me or talk to me off the college's campus?	• A college coach may contact you or your parents/legal guardians (including evaluating you off the college's campus) seven times. • Unlimited number of contacts and evaluation after you sign a National Letter of Intent, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you.	• A college coach may contact you or your parents/legal guardians (including evaluating you off the college's campus) seven times. • Unlimited number of contacts and evaluation after you sign a National Letter of Intent, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you.	• A college coach may contact you or your parents/legal guardians (including evaluating you off the college's campus) six times. • One evaluation during September, October and November. • Two evaluations—April 15 through May 31 (once to evaluate athletics ability and once to evaluate academic qualifications). • Unlimited number of contacts and evaluation after you sign a National Letter of Intent, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you.	• A college coach may contact you or your parents/legal guardians not more than three times. • Unlimited number of contacts and evaluation after you sign a National Letter of Intent, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you.

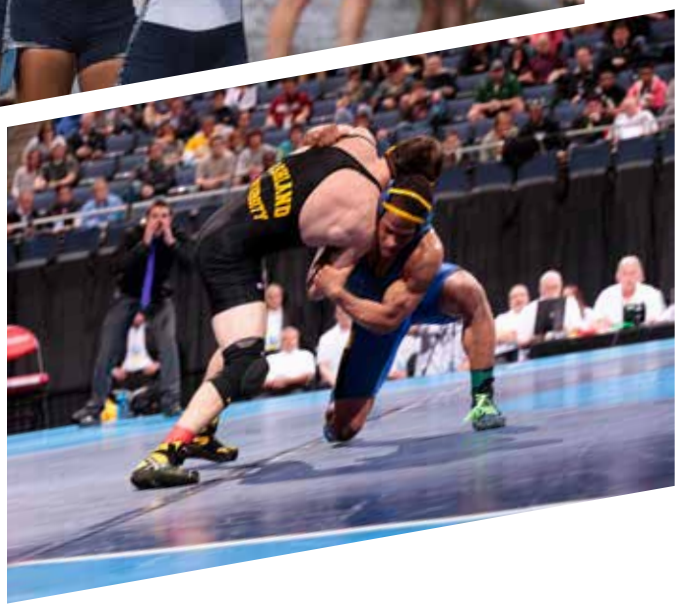
DIVISIONS II AND III

Recruiting Method	Division II	Division III
Recruiting materials	• You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials, and nonathletics recruiting publications at any time. • A coach may begin sending you printed or electronic recruiting materials June 15 before your junior year in high school.	You may receive printed materials any time.
Telephone calls	• No limit on number of calls by college coach beginning June 15 before your junior year. • You may make calls to the coach at your expense.	• 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.
Off-campus contact	• A college coach can have contact with you or your parents/legal guardians off the college's campus beginning June 15 before your junior year. • No limit on number of contacts off campus.	• A college coach may begin to have contact with you or your relatives or guardians off the college's campus after your sophomore year. • No limit on number of off-campus contacts.
Unofficial visit	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits any time, except during a dead period.	You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits any time.
Official visit	• You may make official visits starting June 15 before your junior year. • 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.	• You may make official visits starting Jan. 1 of your junior year. • 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 III colleges.









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 percent 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 full scholarships 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-Athlete Opportunity 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, you should contact your NCAA school's financial aid office and athletics department for help.

Division I schools may provide you with multiyear scholarships. Additionally, Division I 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 be recruited, to go on an official visit, to receive an offer of financial aid or to sign a National Letter of Intent, but it is not required for you to receive an academic evaluation before any of these.

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.

National Letter of Intent

A National Letter of Intent is signed by you agreeing to attend a Division I or II college for one academic year. Participating colleges agree to provide financial aid to you for a minimum of one academic year as long as you are admitted to the school and are eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules.

The NLI is voluntary and not required for you to receive financial aid or participate in sports. Signing an NLI ends the recruiting process because participating schools are prohibited from recruiting student-athletes who already have signed letters with other participating schools.

If you sign an NLI but decide to attend another college, you may request a release from your contract with the school. If you sign an NLI with one school but attend a different school, you lose one full year of eligibility and must complete a full academic year at the new school before being eligible to compete. If you have questions about the NLI, visit the website at **nationalletter.org**.

ASHLEY BEATON
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD



"I am beyond grateful for the opportunity I was given to play collegiate athletics, for it has given me the chance to reach my full potential as an athlete and as a leader. The relationships I have built throughout my career in collegiate sports have led me to become the person I have always wanted to be, and has prepared me for a life outside of athletics."

MATT WARD
MEN'S GOLF
VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY



"Being a Division I student-athlete has provided me with intangible skills that cannot be learned in a classroom, but are necessary for success after graduation."

SYDNI EPPS
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY



"I have been able to create a path of my own and build my brand not just as a student-athlete but as an individual. This journey has been a challenge, but I must say it is worth it. I have learned how to enhance my leadership skills, break out of my shell and become a woman with a voice because of my participation with our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee."



THE NCAA SALUTES MORE THAN

480,000 STUDENT-ATHLETES

PARTICIPATING IN **24** SPORTS

AT NEARLY **1,100**

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES