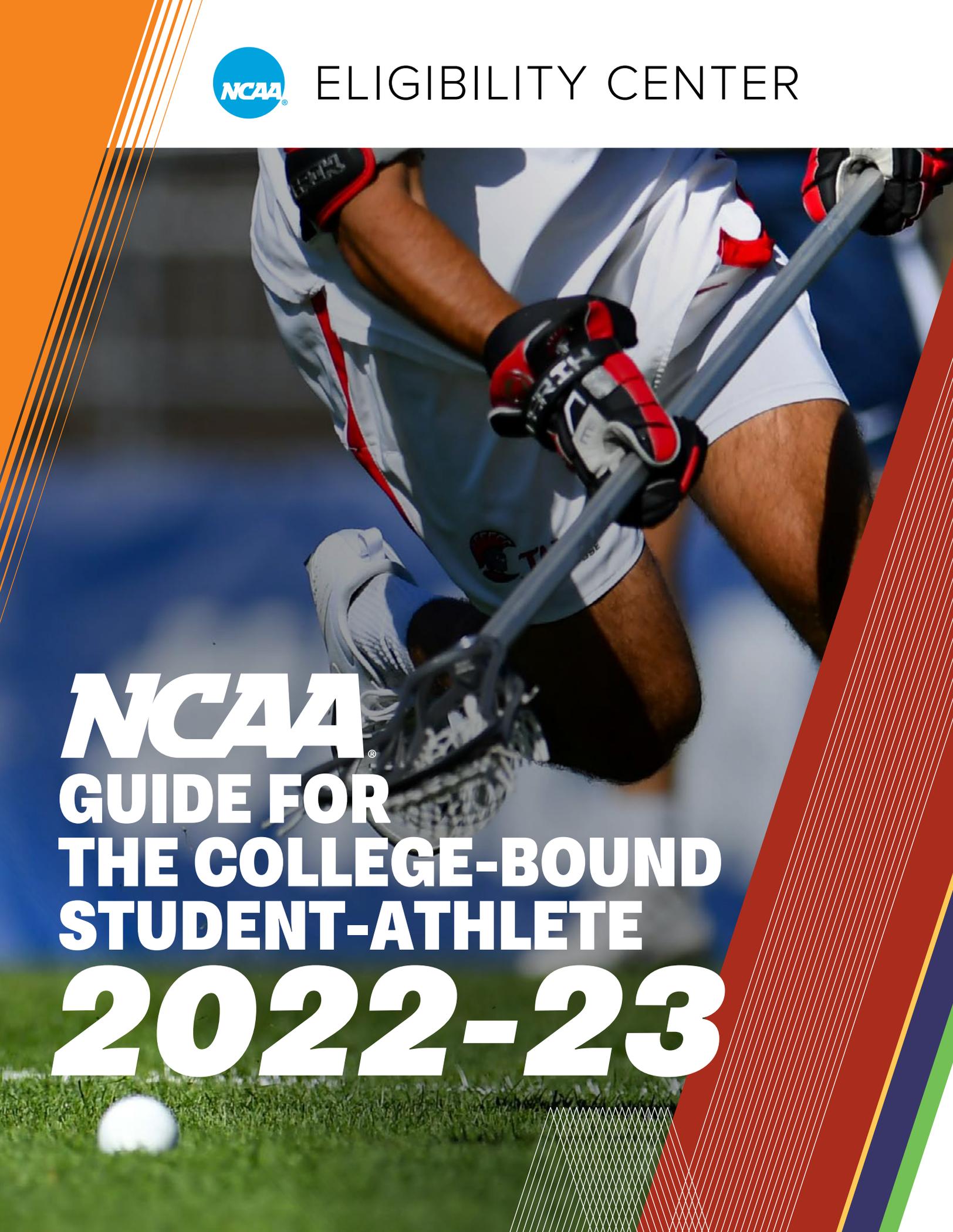




ELIGIBILITY CENTER

A close-up photograph of a lacrosse player in a white uniform with red accents, wearing black and red gloves, swinging a lacrosse stick. The player is in mid-air, and a white lacrosse ball is visible on the green grass in the foreground. The background is a blurred blue sky. The image is framed by orange and red diagonal stripes on the left and right sides, respectively.

**NCAA**  
GUIDE FOR  
THE COLLEGE-BOUND  
STUDENT-ATHLETE  
**2022-23**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR  
MY NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER ACCOUNT**



Date I registered: \_\_\_\_\_

My NCAA ID: \_\_\_\_\_ My password: \_\_\_\_\_

My username (email address): \_\_\_\_\_

High school(s) I attended: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date six-semester transcript submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date final transcript (with proof of graduation) submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date I requested final amateurism certification: \_\_\_\_\_

# CONTENTS

<b>2</b>	<b>WHAT IS THE NCAA?</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>NCAA SPORTS</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>THINKING OF GOING PRO?</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>OUR THREE DIVISIONS</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>TIME MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>INITIAL ELIGIBILITY</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>HIGH SCHOOL TIMELINE</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>STUDENT REGISTRATION</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>TEST SCORES</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPTS</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>EQUIVALENCY TESTS/DIPLOMAS</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>WHAT IS A CORE COURSE</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>NONTRADITIONAL AND ONLINE COURSES</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>GRADE-POINT AVERAGE</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>QUESTIONS TO ASK</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>DIVISION I ACADEMIC STANDARDS</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>DIVISION I WORKSHEET</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>DIVISION II ACADEMIC STANDARDS</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>DIVISION II WORKSHEET</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>DIVISION III REQUIREMENTS</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>AMATEURISM</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>EDUCATION-IMPACTING DISABILITIES</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>IMPORTANT RECRUITING TERMS</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>RECRUITING CALENDARS</b>



ELIGIBILITY CENTER

NCAA, Make It Yours, March Madness and Women's Final Four are trademarks of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. All other trademarks are property of their respective holders. January 2023.



*The NCAA membership and national office work together to help the nearly 500,000 student-athletes develop leadership, confidence, discipline and teamwork through college sports.*



## WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear college-bound student-athlete:

I am glad you are interested in pursuing your education and sport at an NCAA member school. College sports provide the unique opportunity to compete at a high level in sport while working toward a college degree that will lead to lifelong achievement. The NCAA aims to make sure your college experience shapes your leadership skills, personal development and future success. No matter what career path you choose, your college degree will serve you far beyond your final competition.

This guide equips you with information about academic requirements to compete, but also informs you about what to expect when becoming a collegiate student-athlete. At the NCAA national office, staff members want to ensure high school athletes meet standards that will best prepare them to succeed in college. Initial eligibility determines your ability to receive an athletics scholarship and to practice and compete in your first year as a full-time college student. We are committed to supporting students across all three divisions on their road to success.

I encourage you to take an active role in the process of preparing for college. About 1,100 NCAA schools sponsor tremendous academics and athletics programs that are each unique. It would be beneficial for you to work closely with your high school counselors, coaches, parents/guardians and mentors as you make the transition to college.

I hope the information helps inform you, your family and high school administrators about the initial-eligibility process for NCAA Division I and II schools. If you are interested in NCAA Division III, please visit [ncaa.org/d3](http://ncaa.org/d3) or read [page 28](#) to learn more about the initial-eligibility process in Division III.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us. My staff in the NCAA Eligibility Center strives to make your registration and certification experience positive and are always willing to help.

I wish you the best of luck as you embark on this important journey, and look forward to your future success.

All the best,

**Mark Emmert**  
NCAA President

## WHAT IS THE NCAA?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is an organization dedicated to providing a pathway to opportunity for college athletes. More than 1,100 colleges and universities are members of the NCAA. Those schools work together with the NCAA national office and athletics conferences across the country to support 500,000 college athletes that make up more than 19,500 teams competing in NCAA sports.

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

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

To learn more about the pathway that's right for you, visit [ncaa.org/divisions](http://ncaa.org/divisions).

# WHO SHOULD USE THIS GUIDE?

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

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

# HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT NCAA ELIGIBILITY?

Find answers to many typical questions about NCAA eligibility by:

- » Reading this guide.
- » Searching frequently asked questions at [ncaa.org/studentfaq](http://ncaa.org/studentfaq).
- » Visiting [ncaa.org/playcollegesports](http://ncaa.org/playcollegesports).
- » Checking the Help section of [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).
- » Calling the NCAA Eligibility Center at 877-262-1492 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday-Friday.



ELIGIBILITY CENTER

## NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER INFORMATION

### ONLINE

[ncaa.org/playcollegesports](http://ncaa.org/playcollegesports)  
[eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)

### FOLLOW US

Twitter [@NCAAEC](https://twitter.com/NCAAEC)  
Instagram [@playcollegesports](https://www.instagram.com/playcollegesports)  
Facebook [@NCAAEC](https://www.facebook.com/NCAAEC)

### CONTACT

U.S. and Canada (except Quebec):  
877-262-1492 (toll free)  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday-Friday  
International (including Quebec):  
[ncaa.org/contactinternational](http://ncaa.org/contactinternational)

### CERTIFICATION PROCESSING

NCAA Eligibility Center  
Certification Processing  
P.O. Box 7110  
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7110

### OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

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

## HELPFUL HINTS

- » Visit [ncaa.org/playcollegesports](http://ncaa.org/playcollegesports) to learn more about opportunities available at NCAA schools.
- » Know the academic and amateurism standards for Divisions I and II and the [amateurism requirements](#) for Division III.
- » Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](http://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist).
- » Register with the Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) before your freshman year of high school (or year nine of secondary school) if you are interested in playing college sports.
- » After six semesters of high school, ask your high school counselor from each school you have attended to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.

# NCAA SPORTS

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

From signature events like the NCAA March Madness basketball tournaments to rowing, rifle, softball and skiing, the NCAA administers championships to ensure student-athletes have a

first-class experience. But the NCAA is also committed to quality events for everyone involved, from the coaches to the fans and broadcast audiences.

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

FALL SPORTS		WINTER SPORTS		SPRING SPORTS		EMERGING SPORTS
<b>Men:</b>	<b>Women:</b>	<b>Men:</b>	<b>Women:</b>	<b>Men:</b>	<b>Women:</b>	<b>Women:</b>
Cross Country	Cross Country	Basketball	Basketball	Baseball	Beach Volleyball	Acrobatics and Tumbling
Football	Field Hockey	Fencing	Bowling	Golf	Golf	Equestrian (Divisions I and II only)
Soccer	Soccer	Gymnastics	Fencing	Lacrosse	Lacrosse	Rugby
Water Polo	Volleyball	Ice Hockey	Gymnastics	Outdoor Track and Field	Outdoor Track and Field	Triathlon
		Indoor Track and Field	Ice Hockey	Tennis	Rowing	Wrestling
		Rifle	Indoor Track and Field	Volleyball	Softball	
		Skiing	Rifle		Tennis	
		Swimming and Diving	Skiing		Water Polo	
		Wrestling	Swimming and Diving			



# SCHOLARSHIPS

NCAA Division I and II schools provide more than \$3.7 billion in athletics scholarships annually to nearly 190,000 student-athletes. **Division III schools** do not offer athletics scholarships.

Only about **2%** of high school athletes are awarded athletics scholarships to compete in college. Of the student-athletes participating in sports with professional leagues, **less than 2%** 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 and board, and course-related books and supplies. Most student-athletes who receive athletics scholarships receive an amount covering a portion of these costs.

Many student-athletes also benefit from academic scholarships, NCAA financial aid programs such as the NCAA Division I Student Assistance Fund, and need-based aid such as federal Pell Grants. You must report all financial aid you receive to your NCAA school's financial aid office. If you have questions about what financial aid can be accepted, contact your NCAA school's financial aid office and athletics department for help.

Division I schools may provide you with multiyear scholarships. **Division II schools** must provide you with a one-year scholarship. Additionally, Division I and II schools may provide funding for degree completion to finish your bachelor's or master's

degree after your time playing NCAA sports ends. NCAA rules require you to be registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center to go on an official visit, receive a written offer of financial aid or sign a **National Letter of Intent**.

If a school plans to reduce or not renew your aid, the school must notify you in writing by July 1 before the start of the impacted school year 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

By signing a **National Letter of Intent**, you are agreeing to attend a Division I or II school for one academic year. NLI member institutions agree to provide athletics 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 coaches are prohibited from recruiting student-athletes who have signed NLIs with other NLI-member schools.

If you sign an NLI but decide to attend another college, you may request a release, but it is at the school's discretion to grant your NLI release. 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 [nationalletter.org](http://nationalletter.org).



## THINKING OF GOING PRO?

There are nearly 500,000 NCAA student-athletes, and **less than 2%** will go pro in their sport.

	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	FOOTBALL	BASEBALL	MEN'S ICE HOCKEY
High School Student-Athletes	540,769	399,067	1,006,013	482,740	35,283
NCAA Student-Athletes	18,816	16,509	73,712	36,011	4,323
NCAA Student-Athletes Drafted	52	31	254	791	71
*Percentage High School to NCAA	3.5%	4.1%	7.3%	7.5%	12.3%
*Percentage NCAA to Professional	1.2%	0.8%	1.6%	9.9%	7.4%

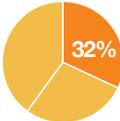
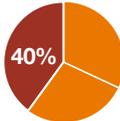
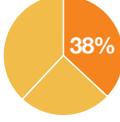
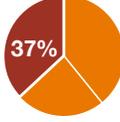
*\*Percentages based on estimated data.*

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

Overall, student-athletes graduate at higher rates than their peers in the student body, and those rates rise each year. For more information on graduation rates, search for "graduation rates" on [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org).

# Our Three Divisions

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

	DIVISION <b>I</b>	DIVISION <b>II</b>	DIVISION <b>III</b>
 <p>NUMBER OF SCHOOLS*</p>	<p>350</p> 	<p>300</p> 	<p>432</p> 
 <p>MEDIAN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT</p>	<p>8,466</p>	<p>2,323</p>	<p>1,655</p>
 <p>STUDENTS WHO ARE ATHLETES</p>	<p>1 in 23</p> 	<p>1 in 9</p> 	<p>1 in 6</p> 
 <p>AVERAGE NUMBER OF TEAMS PER SCHOOL</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>19</p>
 <p>PERCENTAGE OF NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETES IN EACH DIVISION</p>	<p>38%</p> 	<p>25%</p> 	<p>37%</p> 
 <p>ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS</p>	<p><b>Multiyear, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships available</b> 57% of athletes receive athletics aid</p>	<p><b>Partial athletics scholarship model</b> 60% of athletes receive athletics aid</p>	<p><b>No athletics scholarships</b> 80% of athletes receive nonathletics aid</p>

\*Numbers are from 2020-21. This does not include reclassifying, provisional or exploratory schools.

## What are the eligibility requirements in each division?

College-bound students who want to compete at a Division I, II or III school must meet academic and/or amateurism standards set by NCAA members. Eligibility standards can be found on each division's page on [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).

## How is each division governed?

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

## Did you know?

DI student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.



DI is the only division with schools in Alaska, Puerto Rico and Canada.

DIII's largest school has **25,854** undergraduates.

The smallest? **257.**



Learn more at [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org).

# DI Time Management

## What Division I student-athletes should expect.

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

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

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

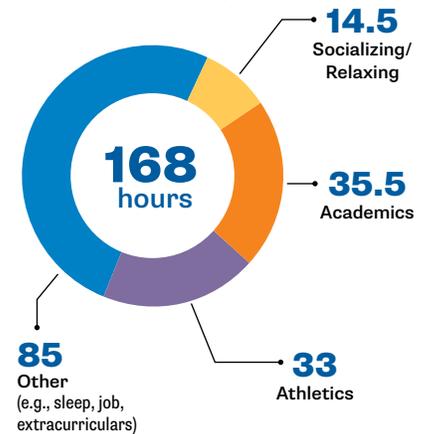


These activities do not count toward a team or student-athlete's countable athletically related activities limit.



### Time spent on activities per week

(numbers listed in hours)  
\*Medians collected from the 2015 NCAA GOALS study.



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

\*Based on the 2015 NCAA GOALS study.

### Game Day

During a typical day of competition, Division I student-athletes report spending anywhere from four to nine hours on their sport.



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

# DII Time Management

## What Division II student-athletes should expect.

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

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

These are considered countable athletically related activities (CARA).

NCAA rules limit the time student-athletes can spend on these activities each week. Check with your campus athletics compliance administrator for more information.

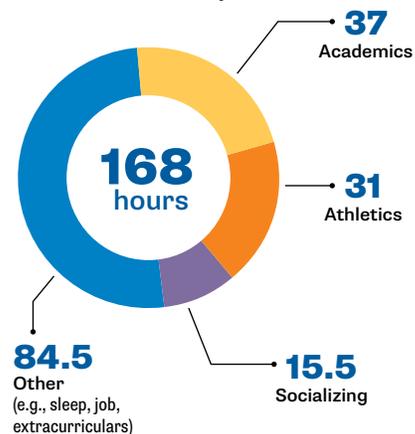


These activities do not count toward a team or student-athlete's countable athletically related activities limit.



### Time spent on activities per week

(numbers listed in hours)  
\*Median figures, collected from the 2019 NCAA GOALS study.



**63%** of Division II student-athletes said they spend as much or more time on athletics during the offseason as during their competitive season.

\*Based on the 2019 NCAA GOALS study.

1 in every 8.5 Division II student-athletes will participate in an NCAA championship during their college experience.



**1/3** of Division II student-athletes work during the academic year for about nine hours per week on average.

\*Based on the 2019 NCAA GOALS study.

# DIII Time Management

## What Division III student-athletes should expect.

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

### The Division III experience includes:

These are considered countable athletically related activities (CARA).

NCAA rules limit the time student-athletes can spend on these activities each week. Check with your campus athletics compliance administrator for more information.



Academics



Competition



Compliance meetings



Film review



Graduate school



Injury treatment and prevention



Internship/externship



Leadership



Practice



Strength and conditioning



Team fundraising



Teamwork

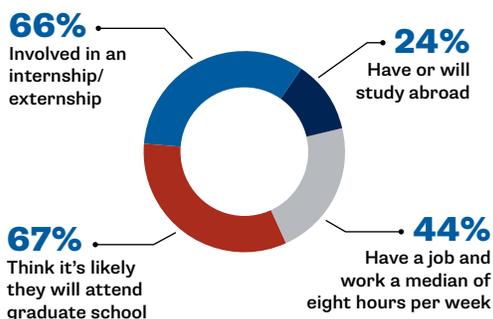


Time management



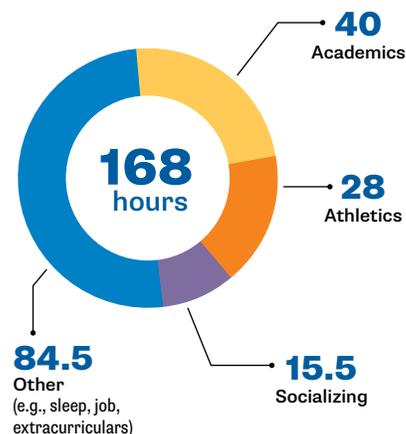
Work

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



### Time spent on activities per week

(numbers listed in hours)



Division III student-athletes report spending one day a week away from campus.

\*Median amount; based on 2015 NCAA GOALS study.

# 50%

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

\*Based on the 2015 NCAA GOALS study.

# INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

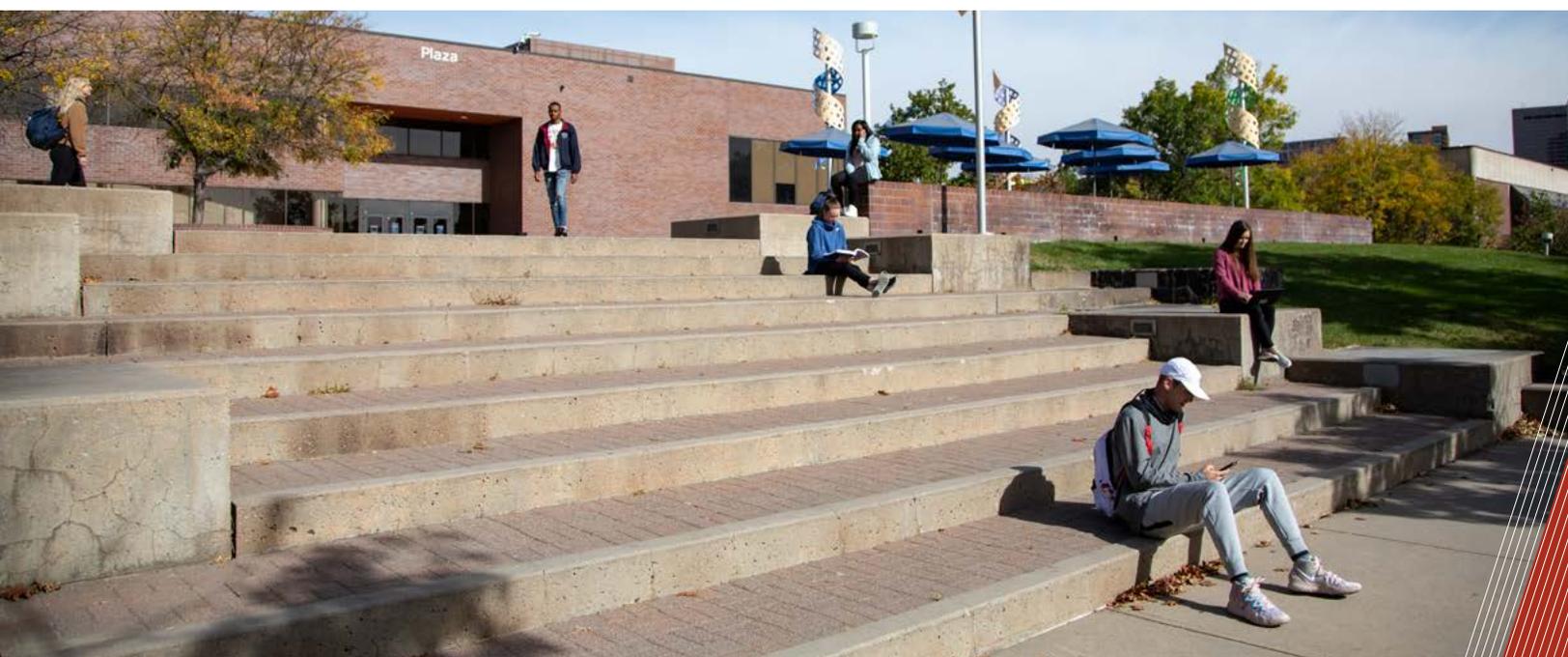
Initial-eligibility standards help ensure you are prepared to succeed in college. The eligibility process also protects the fairness and integrity of college sports by ensuring student-athletes are amateurs.

If you want to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year at a Division I or II school, the NCAA Eligibility Center must certify you as eligible. International college-bound student-athletes planning to enroll at a **Division III school** must also receive an **amateurism-only certification** from the Eligibility Center. Throughout the process, Eligibility Center staff members partner with students and their families, as well as high school administrators and coaches, to guide you on your journey.

## REMEMBER



*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.*



“

*I'm really seeing how I've learned from being a student-athlete, how I've grown from being a student-athlete, how it shaped who I am and who I'm working toward becoming.*

**Eka Jose**

Track & Field, Washington University in St. Louis

”

# HIGH SCHOOL TIMELINE

## 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE REGISTER



- » Start planning now! Register for a free Profile Page account at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org) for information on NCAA initial-eligibility requirements.
- » Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](https://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist) to ensure you are taking the right courses, and earn the best grades possible!

## 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE PLAN



- » If you are being actively recruited by an NCAA school and have a Profile Page account, [transition](#) it to the right [Certification account](#).
- » Monitor the [task list](#) in your NCAA Eligibility Center account for next steps.
- » At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you have attended to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.
- » If you fall behind academically, ask your high school counselor for help finding [approved courses](#) you can take.

## 11<sup>th</sup> GRADE STUDY



- » Ensure your [sports participation](#) information is correct in your Eligibility Center account.
- » Check with your high school counselor to make sure you are on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved [core courses](#) and graduate on time with your class.
- » At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you have attended to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.

## 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE GRADUATE



- » [Request your final amateurism certification](#) beginning April 1 (fall enrollees) or Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees) in your Eligibility Center account at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org).
- » Complete your final NCAA-approved [core courses](#) as you prepare for graduation.
- » After you graduate, ask your high school counselor to upload your final [official transcript](#) with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

\*More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 can be found at [on.ncaa.com/COVID19\\_Spring2023](https://on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023).

# STUDENT REGISTRATION

If you want to compete in NCAA sports, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org). Plan to register before your freshman year of high school (or year nine of secondary school). The information below will help guide you through the registration process.

## TO GET STARTED, DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY CENTER ACCOUNT TYPE YOU NEED:

**1. Profile Page Account:** If you are not sure in which division you want to compete, or are a domestic student-athlete who plans to compete at a **Division III school**, create a free Profile Page account. If at any time you wish to pursue a Division I or II path, you'll be able to **transition** to the right **Certification account**. All **international student-athletes** who plan to compete at a Division III school should start with an Amateurism-Only Certification account.

**2. Academic and Amateurism Certification Account:** You must receive an academic and amateurism certification from the Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. Before you can go on official visits or sign a Division I or II **National Letter of Intent**, you must have completed the Academic and Amateurism Certification account registration (including payment or **fee waiver**).

**3. Amateurism-Only Certification Account: International student-athletes** (first-year students and transfers) must have their amateurism status certified by the Eligibility Center in order to compete at an NCAA Division III school. You must have completed the Amateurism-Only Certification account registration (including payment or **fee waiver**) to be eligible to practice or compete at a Division III school. See **page 28** for more information.

This account may also be right for domestic student-athletes transferring from a two-year school to an NCAA Division I or II school who have not previously been certified by the Eligibility Center. These students should speak with the compliance staff at the NCAA school they plan to attend to determine which account type is required.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER ACCOUNT TYPES			
In which division do you plan to compete?	Academic and Amateurism Certification Account	Amateurism-Only Certification Account	Profile Page* Account
<b>Division I</b>			
Any recent high school graduate (domestic or international), first-time enrolling at NCAA school.	✓		
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university. Check with compliance office at the school you may attend.	✓	OR	✓
<b>Division II</b>			
Any recent high school graduate (domestic or international), first-time enrolling at NCAA school.	✓		
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university. Check with compliance at the school you may attend.	✓	OR	✓
<b>Division III</b>			
Recent high school graduate (domestic only), first-time enrolling at NCAA school.			✓
Recent high school graduate (international only), first-time enrolling at NCAA school.		✓	
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university, attended domestic high school(s) only.			✓
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university, attended at least one international high school.		✓	
<b>Division Undecided/Unknown</b>			
Never enrolled full time at a two- or four-year college or university. Best for younger students or before recruiting begins. Can be transitioned to a Certification account when needed.			✓

Once you have determined the right account for you, visit [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) to start your account. A list of information you will need to complete your account is outlined on **page 14**. For a Profile Page account, please allow 15 minutes to complete. For Certification accounts, please allow between 30 and 45 minutes to complete. If you need to exit and come back at a later time, you can save and exit once your account is created.

**\*Unsure which account type you need?** We recommend starting with our free Profile Page account, then consulting with the compliance office at the NCAA school you may attend. If you need additional assistance, contact the Eligibility Center's Customer Service team at 877-262-1492, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday-Friday for assistance.

## HAVE ELIGIBILITY OR REGISTRATION QUESTIONS?

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

- » Search our frequently asked questions at [ncaa.org/studentfaq](https://ncaa.org/studentfaq).
- » *Domestic students and Canadian students (except Quebec)*: Call us toll-free at 877-262-1492, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday-Friday.
- » *International students*: Use our [International Contact Form \(ncaa.org/contactinternational\)](https://ncaa.org/contactinternational) to submit questions.

### ELIGIBILITY CENTER REGISTRATION ESSENTIALS

Below are some items you should have with you as you create an account at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org):

#### VALID EMAIL FOR STUDENT

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

#### BASIC STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION

This includes information such as your name, gender, date of birth, primary and secondary contact information, address and mobile number for texting.

#### BASIC STUDENT EDUCATION HISTORY

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

#### STUDENT SPORTS PARTICIPATION HISTORY

Select the sport(s) you plan to participate in at an NCAA school. For **Certification accounts**, we will ask you to provide details for any expenses or

awards you received, any teams you have practiced or played with or certain events in which you participated. We also ask about any individuals who have advised you or marketed your skills in a particular sport. This information helps the Eligibility Center certify your amateur status once you **request your final amateurism certification**.

#### PAYMENT (CERTIFICATION ACCOUNTS ONLY)

Your Academic and Amateurism or Amateurism-Only Certification account registration is complete only after your registration fee is paid (or upon submission of a **fee waiver**, if you are eligible). You may pay online by debit, credit card or echeck. For the Academic and Amateurism Certification account, the fee for college-bound student-athletes attending a high school in the United States, a **U.S. territory** or Canada is \$100; the fee for international students is \$160. For students for which an Amateurism-Only Certification account is the right choice, the fee for all students is \$70. Profile Page accounts do not have a fee.

*All fees are nonrefundable 30 days after the fee is paid for your Certification account. 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**.*

## FEE WAIVERS

If you are unable to pay the registration fee for the NCAA Eligibility Center due to financial considerations, there is an option in the Payment section of your Eligibility Center account to indicate you are eligible to receive a **fee waiver**. You are eligible for an Eligibility Center fee waiver if you meet any of the following criteria:

- » You are enrolled in or eligible to participate in the Federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch program (FRPL).
- » You have received or are eligible to receive an SAT or ACT fee waiver.
- » Your annual family income falls within the **income eligibility guidelines** set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.
- » Your family receives public assistance (e.g., SSI, SNAP).
- » You are enrolled in a government program that aids students from low-income families (e.g., GEAR UP, TRIO, Upward Bound).
- » You live in government-subsidized public housing, a foster home or are homeless.
- » You are a ward of the state or an orphan.
- » You have applied to FAFSA and have received or are eligible for a Pell Grant.
- » A school or government official can attest to your economic need.

If you meet any of the above criteria and have attended a **U.S. high school**, please ask your high school counselor to confirm your fee waiver eligibility through the Eligibility Center's High School Portal after you have completed your Certification account registration.

If you meet the above criteria and have not attended a U.S. high school (e.g., **international students**, **home school students**), a **task** will be assigned to your Eligibility Center account with additional instructions for completing the fee waiver requirement.

## TEST SCORES

In January 2023, NCAA **Divisions I** and **II** adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements. Check with the NCAA school you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.



# TRANSCRIPTS

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

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

- » Cialfo
- » Credentials/eScrip-Safe
- » National Student Clearinghouse
- » National Transcript Center
- » Naviance
- » NeedMyTranscript
- » Parchment (Docufide)
- » SCOIR
- » Scribbles Software
- » State of Georgia comes in DIRECT
- » USMO ET (Speede)
- » XAP

To send a transcript by U.S. mail or through an overnight or express delivery service, use the appropriate address on [page 3](#).

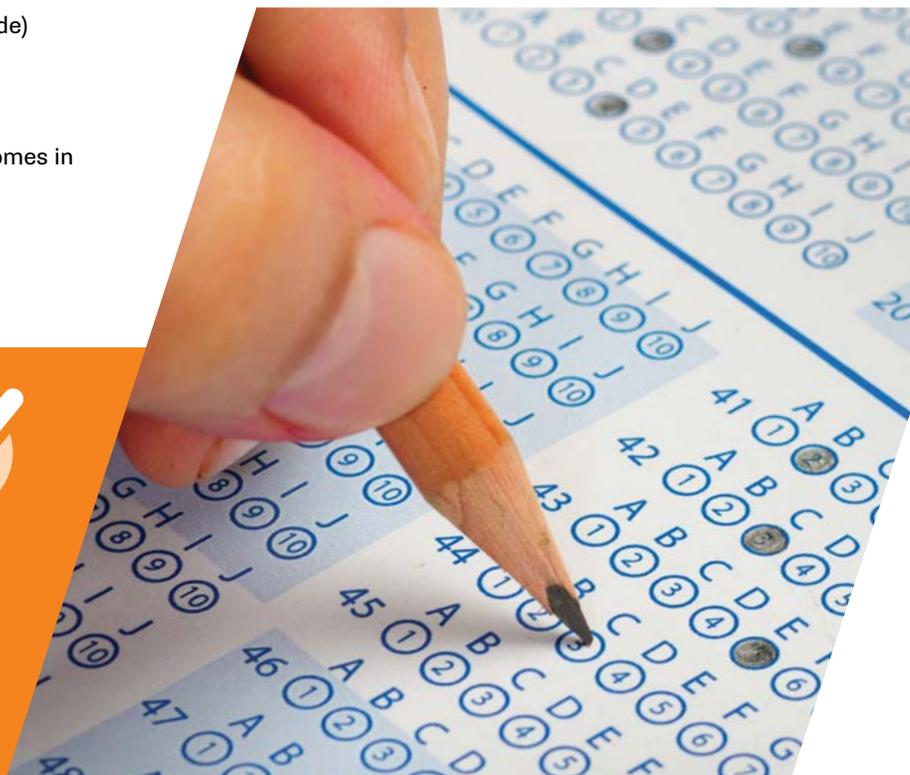
- » *International students:* For information on proper submission procedures for transcripts and academic records, [see page 31](#) or visit [ncaa.org/international](http://ncaa.org/international).

**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.

For information on how COVID-19 has impacted procedures for submitting transcripts, visit [on.ncaa.com/COVID19\\_Spring2023](http://on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023).

## REMEMBER

*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 EACH high school or program.*



# EQUIVALENCY TESTS/DIPLOMAS

A state high school equivalency test (e.g., General Educational Development) may be accepted as proof of graduation under certain conditions, but it will not satisfy requirements for core courses or [core-course GPA](#). The equivalency test may be accepted as proof of graduation if taken after the graduation date of your class

and before full-time enrollment into any college or university. You will need to mail an official copy of the applicable certificate along with your state high school-equivalency test scores to the Eligibility Center. Contact your state education agency to request the certificate and test scores to be sent to the Eligibility Center.

# WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?

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

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

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

Approved classes are added to **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved core courses. Make sure you are taking courses on the approved list; ask your high school counselor if you need help.

## 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 noncore areas, 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.
- » Credit-by-exam courses.

## CORE-COURSE CREDITS

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

## COURSES TAKEN BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL

If you take a high school class such as Algebra I or Spanish I before high school/ninth year, the class may count toward your 16 core-course credits requirement if it appears on your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses and is shown on your high school transcript with grade and credit.

## COURSES TAKEN AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

For information about courses taken after high school, [see page 22](#) for Division I or [page 25](#) for Division II.

## COLLEGE COURSES, DUAL-ENROLLMENT COURSES AND DUAL-CREDIT COURSES

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

## REMEMBER



**Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](http://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist).**



# NONTRADITIONAL AND ONLINE COURSES

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

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

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

A nontraditional course may not be approved for any of the following reasons:

- » Does not have teacher-based instruction.
- » Does not require regular and ongoing instructor-led interaction between the student and teacher.
- » Does not require students to complete the entire course.
- » Does not prepare students for four-year college class work.
- » Does not have official student grade records.
- » Does not meet NCAA core-course requirements.

When viewing your [school/program's list](#) of NCAA-approved core 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.

For information on how COVID-19 has impacted nontraditional and online classes, visit [on.ncaa.com/COVID19\\_Spring2023](https://on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023).



## REMEMBER



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

**To find out if a nontraditional program or course is approved, search for the school/program on [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](https://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist) and review the "Additional Information" box.**

# 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. This means that the cumulative GPA listed on your high school transcript could be different than the NCAA core-course GPA used in your certification. Your core-course GPA is based solely on the grades you received in NCAA-approved core courses. To find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses, visit [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](http://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist).

Your core-course GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are changed to letter grades, such as A or B. As part of this calculation, each grade received is assigned “quality points,” as shown in the scale below.

The Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating your core-course GPA. For example, grades of B+, B and B- will each be worth three quality points. Weighted honors or advanced placement courses may improve your core-course GPA, but your high school must notify the Eligibility Center that it awards weighted grades in these classes.

In “Pass/Fail” grading situations, the 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 Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade. For information on the impact of COVID-19 on “Pass/Fail” grades, visit [on.ncaa.com/COVID19\\_Spring2023](http://on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023).

## 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 unit):  
4 points x 0.34 unit = 1.36 total quality points
- » An A grade (4 points) for a semester course (0.50 unit):  
4 points x 0.50 unit = 2.00 total quality points
- » An A grade (4 points) for a full-year course (1.00 unit):  
4 points x 1.00 unit = 4.00 quality points

Use the worksheets on [pages 23](#) and [27](#) to help 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 unit
- 1 trimester unit = 0.34 unit
- 1 semester unit = 0.50 unit
- 1 year = 1 unit

# QUESTIONS TO ASK

While you are calculating your quality points, consider asking questions about these topics to learn more about the school, athletics program and life on campus. You also can get suggestions of questions to ask coaches and administrators at [ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/choosing-college](http://ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/choosing-college). In addition to receiving your academic and amateurism certification from the Eligibility Center, you also must apply and be accepted to your NCAA school before you can compete on campus.

- » Academic resources.
- » Scholarship renewals.
- » Financial aid and cost of attendance.
- » Admissions requirements.
- » Study abroad/internships.
- » Athletic training and medical expenses.
- » Degree programs and graduation rates.
- » Team time demands.
- » On-campus housing.
- » Coaching philosophy and style.
- » Injuries and rehabilitation.
- » Graduation rates.
- » Schedule planning and time management.
- » Playing time.
- » Mental health resources.
- » Degree completion support.
- » Additional team requirements.
- » Access to extracurricular activities.
- » Pursuing chosen academic major.

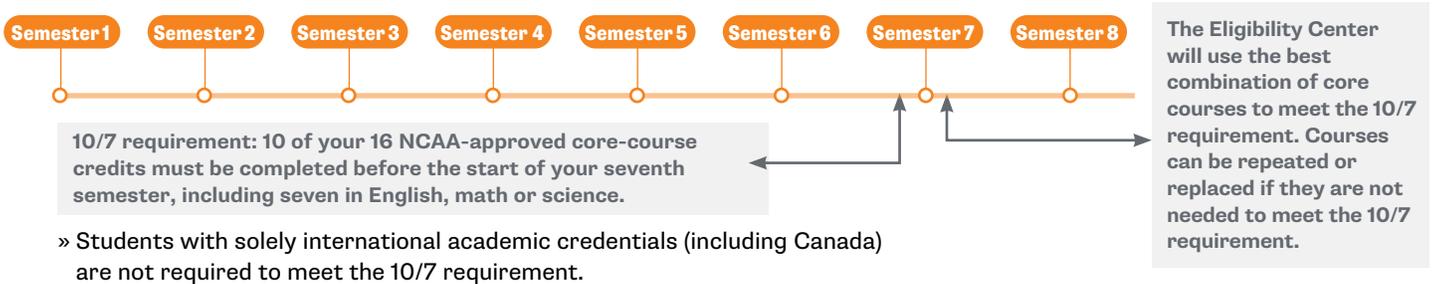
# DIVISION I ACADEMIC STANDARDS

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

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:



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



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

4. Earn a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA.

5. Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

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

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

## 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

**4 CORE COURSES**

## 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

**4 CORE COURSES**

## 11<sup>th</sup> GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

**4 CORE COURSES**

## 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

**4 CORE COURSES**

## ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

For Academic and Amateurism Certification accounts, an academic certification will be conducted to determine if you meet Division I academic standards. Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at a Division I school. (An amateurism certification is also required, and is included as part of an Academic and Amateurism Certification account; [see page 28](#).) The following items are required to complete your academic certification:

- » Official transcripts from **all** high schools attended.
- » Final **official transcript** with proof of graduation.
- » No open academic tasks in your NCAA Eligibility Center Certification account ([see page 13](#)).
- » Be on a Division I school's **institutional request list**.

Being placed on a Division I institutional request list means you are being recruited and notifies the Eligibility Center to complete an academic evaluation for you after all of your required documents have been submitted.

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



### EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

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

- » A **core-course GPA** of 3.0 or higher in a minimum of 14 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:
  - Three years of English.
  - Two years of math.
  - Two years of science.
  - Two additional years of English, math or science.
  - Five additional core courses in any area.

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

### QUALIFIER

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

### ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

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

### NONQUALIFIER

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

### WHAT IF I DON'T GRADUATE ON TIME?

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

### WHAT IF I DON'T MEET DIVISION I STANDARDS?

If you have not met all of the Division I academic standards, you may not compete in your first year at a Division I school.

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:

- » Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits.
- » Earn a minimum 2.0 **core-course GPA**.
- » Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

## COURSES TAKEN AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

For Division I, only courses completed in your first eight semesters will be used in your academic certification. If you graduate from high school on time (in eight semesters) with your incoming ninth-grade class, you may use one core-course unit completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year) and before enrolling full time at any college or university. You may complete the core course at a location other than the high school from which you graduated as long as the course is taken prior to full-time enrollment at any college or university.

A college course taken after high school graduation may be used toward your initial eligibility and awarded 0.5 units from

your college transcript (unless awarded one full unit on your home high school transcript). It 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. For more information on the impact of COVID-19 and initial-eligibility requirements, visit [on.ncaa.com/COVID19\\_Spring2023](https://on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023).

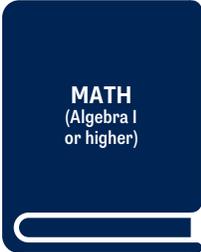
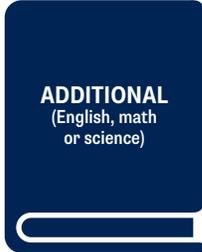
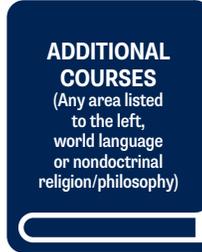


# DIVISION II ACADEMIC STANDARDS

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

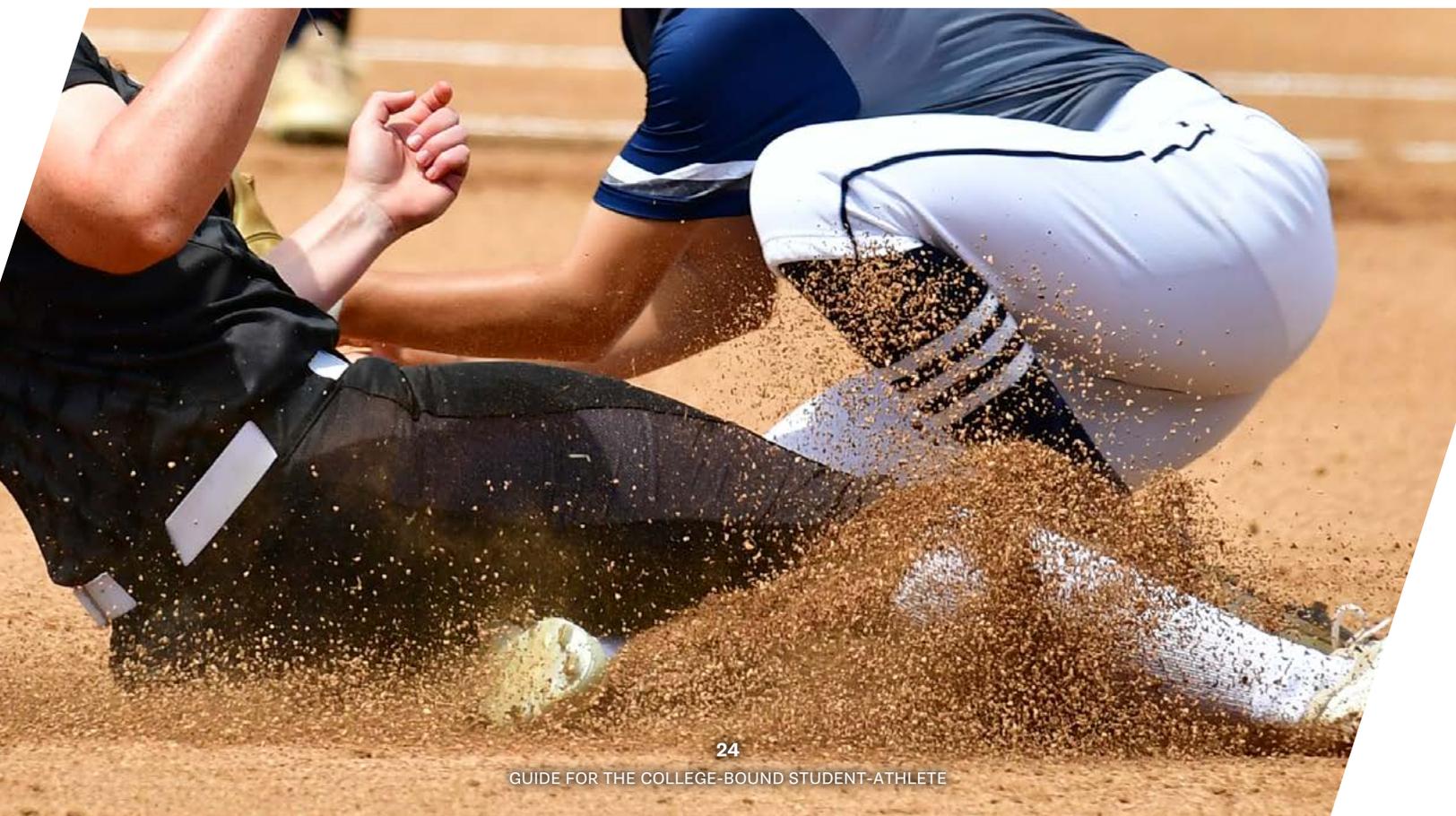


1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

					
<b>3 years</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<b>4 years</b>

2. Earn a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA (minimum 2.2).
3. Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Student-athletes enrolling at an NCAA member school Aug. 1, 2021, or later who do not meet Division II qualifier standards will be deemed partial qualifiers. All Division II partial qualifiers may practice and receive an athletics scholarship, but may NOT compete, during their first year of full-time enrollment at a Division II school.



## ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

For Academic and Amateurism Certification accounts, an academic certification will be conducted to determine if you meet Division II academic standards. Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at a Division II school. (An amateurism certification is required, and is included as part of an Academic and Amateurism Certification account as well as an Amateurism-Only Certification; [see page 28](#).) The following items are required to complete your academic certification:

- » Official transcripts from all high schools attended.
- » Final **official transcript** with proof of graduation.
- » No open academic tasks in your NCAA Eligibility Center Certification account ([see page 13](#)).
- » Be on a Division II school's **institutional request list**.

Being placed on a Division II school's **institutional request list** means you are being recruited and notifies the Eligibility Center to complete an academic evaluation for you after all of your required documents have been submitted.

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

### EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

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

- » A **core-course GPA** of 2.5 or higher in a minimum of 14 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:
  - Three years of English.
  - Three years of math.
  - Two years of science.
  - Six additional core courses in any area.

A final high school transcript must be submitted to the 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 practice and receive an athletics scholarship, but may NOT compete, during your first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

## WHAT IF I DON'T MEET DIVISION II STANDARDS?

If you have not met all of the Division II academic standards, you may not compete in your first year at a Division II school. However, you will be deemed a partial qualifier. All Division II partial qualifiers may practice and receive an athletics scholarship, but may NOT compete, during their first year of full-time enrollment at a Division II school.

## CORE-COURSE TIMELINE

If you plan to compete at a Division II school, you must earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits after starting freshman/ninth year and before your first full-time college enrollment.

## COURSES TAKEN AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

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



# DIVISION II WORKSHEET

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

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

ENGLISH (3 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
Example: English 9	0.5		4		(0.5 x 4) = 2
<b>TOTAL ENGLISH CREDITS</b>					<b>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</b>
MATH (2 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
Example: Algebra I	1.0		3		(1.0 x 3) = 3
<b>TOTAL MATH CREDITS</b>					<b>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</b>
SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
<b>TOTAL SCIENCE CREDITS</b>					<b>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</b>
ADDITIONAL YEARS IN ENGLISH, MATH OR SCIENCE (3 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL CREDITS</b>					<b>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</b>
SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
<b>TOTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE CREDITS</b>					<b>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</b>
ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSES (4 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC CREDITS</b>					<b>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</b>
<b>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA</b>		/		=	
<b>QUALITY POINTS / CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA</b>					

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# DIVISION III REQUIREMENTS

**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 to maximize academic, co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities. While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 80% of Division III student-athletes receive some form of merit or need-based financial aid.

While Division III schools set their own admissions and academic requirements, **international student-athletes** (first-year students and transfers) who initially enroll full time

at a Division III school on or after Aug. 1, 2023, are required to complete an Amateurism-Only Certification account. See the Amateurism section below for more information on the Amateurism-Only Certification account, which does not include an academic certification. Contact the Division III school you plan to attend for more information about its academic requirements.



**DIVISION III**  
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE



## AMATEURISM

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

### ISSUES REVIEWED AS PART OF THE AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION PROCESS

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

### REQUESTING FINAL AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION

College-bound student-athletes enrolling for the first time at an NCAA Division I or II school and international students enrolling for the first time at a Division III school must **request their final amateurism certification** before being eligible to compete. (This includes transfers from junior colleges, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, international schools or transfers from a Division I, II or III school to a school in a different division. **See page 13** to determine the right Eligibility Center account for your circumstances.) Students must request their final amateurism certification through their Eligibility Center account; the Eligibility Center staff cannot finalize your amateurism certification without your request. **Note:** You can request your final amateurism certification even if other tasks are still open in your account. When you can request your final amateurism certification depends on when you are starting at a Division I, II or III school:

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

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



## DELAYED ENROLLMENT (DIVISIONS I AND II ONLY)\*

After you graduate high school, you have a certain amount of time – called a “grace period” – to enroll full time at any two-year or four-year college or university. If you do not enroll at the first opportunity after your grace period and continue to compete in organized competition, you will use one season of NCAA eligibility for each calendar year during which you continue to compete. You also may be required to serve an academic year in residence at your NCAA school before you can compete. For more information on delayed enrollment, review the chart on [page 30](#).

The grace period ends on Oct. 1 for fall enrollees and March 1 for winter/spring enrollees. This does not apply to Division I men’s ice hockey and Division I men’s and women’s skiing. Division III student-athletes who plan to enroll at a [Division III school](#) before fall 2023 should discuss delayed enrollment with the school’s compliance office.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Which NCAA Eligibility Center account is right for you? See [page 13](#).

M&W TENNIS		MEN’S ICE HOCKEY		M&W SKIING		ALL OTHER SPORTS	
<b>DI</b> Grace Period*	<b>DII</b> Grace Period*	<b>DI</b> Up to	<b>DII</b> Grace Period*	<b>DI</b> Up to	<b>DII</b> Grace Period*	<b>DI</b> Grace Period*	<b>DII</b> Grace Period*
<b>6</b> months	<b>12</b> months	<b>21<sup>ST</sup></b> BIRTHDAY	<b>3</b> YEARS	<b>21<sup>ST</sup></b> BIRTHDAY	<b>3</b> YEARS**	<b>12</b> months	<b>12</b> months

\*A college-bound student-athlete’s grace period is the period between their expected date of high school graduation and initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

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

## FREQUENTLY ASKED AMATEURISM QUESTIONS

### What is Organized Competition?

For Division I and II schools, competition is considered organized if ANY of the following exist:

- » Official score is kept.
- » Standings or statistics are maintained.
- » Official timer or game officials are used.
- » Admission is charged.
- » Teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined.
- » Team uniforms are used.
- » An individual or team is privately or commercially sponsored.
- » The competition is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency.
- » Division I: The competition is scheduled and publicized in advance.
- » Division II: The competition is scheduled in advance.

## Who Is an Agent?

An **agent** is an individual who directly or indirectly represents you by marketing your athletics ability or reputation for financial gain, or attempts to benefit from your enrollment at an educational institution or your potential earnings as a professional athlete. For more information on the NCAA's interim NIL policy, visit [on.ncaa.com/NIL-Q&A](https://on.ncaa.com/NIL-Q&A).

## What Is a Professional Team?

A professional team is one that declares itself as professional or provides any player *more* than actual and necessary expenses. Actual and necessary expenses are defined as:

- » Meals and lodging directly tied to competition or practice directly related to the competition.
- » Transportation expenses, such as to and from practice, training or competition.
- » Apparel, equipment and supplies related to competition, or practice directly related to competition.
- » Coaching and instruction, or the use of facilities and entry fees.
- » Health or medical insurance, medical treatment and physical therapy directly associated with an individual's participation on a team or in an event.
- » Other reasonable expenses such as laundry money.

## OVERVIEW OF NCAA DIVISION 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?
<b>Delay enrollment (grace period)?*</b>	<b>Tennis (men and women):</b> Yes, six months. <b>Men's ice hockey and skiing (men and women):</b> Yes, until 21st birthday. <b>All other sports:</b> Yes, 12 months.	<b>Men's ice hockey and skiing (men and women):</b> Yes, three years.** <b>All other sports:</b> Yes, 12 months.
<b>Use a recruiting or scouting service?</b>	<b>Yes.</b> The fee the service charges cannot be based on receipt or the amount of an athletics scholarship.	<b>Yes.</b> The fee the service charges cannot be based on receipt or the amount of an athletics scholarship.
<b>Receive funding from an outside source?</b>	<b>Yes,</b> if the funding is less than or equal to the student-athlete's actual and necessary expenses related to competition and practice directly associated with competition. Training expenses may only be provided by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, appropriate national governing body (or international equivalent organization for international students) or a governmental entity.	<b>Yes.</b>
<b>Receive prize money?</b>	<b>Tennis:</b> Yes, if it does not exceed \$10,000 per calendar year and comes from the sponsor of the event. Once the \$10,000 limit is reached, additional prize money may not exceed actual and necessary expenses for each subsequent event in the calendar year. <b>All other sports:</b> Yes, if it does not exceed actual and necessary expenses for a calendar year and comes from the sponsor of the event.	<b>Precollegiate enrollment - Yes.</b>  <b>Precollegiate enrollment - Yes.</b>
<b>Enter into an agreement (verbal or written) with an agent to identify or secure playing opportunities?</b>	<b>Baseball and men's ice hockey:</b> Yes, provided it is before collegiate enrollment AND the individual has already been drafted. The agent may then negotiate with the professional team, provided the individual is not awarded any benefits, pays the going rate for the representation and the agreement is discontinued before enrolling in college. <b>All other sports:</b> No.	<b>No.</b>
<b>Receive benefits from an agent or professional service provider?</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b>Try out with a professional team?</b>	<b>Men's ice hockey and skiing:</b> Yes. May receive actual and necessary expenses for one tryout (up to 48 hours) from each professional team. Tryout may extend past 48 hours if all expenses, including return transportation, are self-funded. Self-financed tryouts may exceed 48 hours. <b>All other sports:</b> Yes. May not exceed actual and necessary expenses.	<b>Precollegiate enrollment - Yes.</b>  <b>Precollegiate enrollment - Yes.</b>
<b>Be selected in a professional draft?</b>	<b>Yes.</b> Contact the NCAA or your school's compliance office before entering an opt-in draft.	<b>Yes.</b> Contact the NCAA or your school's compliance office before entering an opt-in draft.

\*A college-bound student-athlete's grace period is the period between their expected date of high school graduation and initial full-time collegiate enrollment. The grace period ends on Oct. 1 for fall enrollees and March 1 for winter/spring enrollees. Does not apply to Division I men's ice hockey and Division I men's and women's skiing.

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

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Learn more about amateurism and recruiting/scouting services at [ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/amateurism](https://ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/amateurism).



“

*Coming from a country where sports are only played at a club level, I was beyond excited to find out I was given an opportunity that allowed me to combine athletics with academics, while also living abroad.*

**Laura van der Doorn**  
Field Hockey, Southern  
New Hampshire University

”

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

An **international student** is one who has taken coursework outside the United States (not including **Department of Defense Dependent Schools or American schools abroad**) at any point from the initial start of school year nine through secondary school graduation. As an international student, you must submit the following information:

- » Transcripts for years nine and up in the native language.
- » Proof of graduation in the native language, which may include certificates, diplomas and/or final leaving exams.
- » Certified line-by-line English translations of these documents if they are issued in a language other than English.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For specific details about the documents you must submit, refer to the current **Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility** or visit the International Student-Athletes page at [ncaa.org/international](https://ncaa.org/international).

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

- » For information on **how to submit international documentation** and the impact of COVID-19 on submission procedures, visit [on.ncaa.com/COVID19\\_Spring2023](https://on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023).
- » All documents submitted to the Eligibility Center become the property of the Eligibility Center and cannot be returned. This includes any mailed original documents.

Failure to include any of these items will delay the review of your records, so be sure to understand the documents required for the country in which you attended school by reviewing the current **Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility**, available for download at [ncaapublications.com](https://ncaapublications.com), or visit your country's specific information page at [ncaa.org/countries](https://ncaa.org/countries).

**Need help?** For specific questions that you can't find the answer to in our other resources, use our International Contact Form, found at [ncaa.org/contactinternational](https://ncaa.org/contactinternational).

# HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

Courses evaluated as home school courses are those in which a parent or parent-directed tutor:

- » Plans and delivers actual instructional activities such as lectures, discussions, tutorials, feedback or assistance.
- » Determines the student's comprehension of the material by grading and evaluating student performance and achievement on assignments and assessments and providing appropriate re-teaching and feedback.

- » Determines the overall grade the student achieved in the course.
- » Places the grade on a transcript or grade report or reports the grade to an approved home school umbrella program.

## HOW TO REGISTER

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

Once you have completed your registration, visit [ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/home-school-students](https://ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/home-school-students) and download the **Home School Toolkit**. This resource provides you with all of the necessary **home school resources**.



# EDUCATION-IMPACTING DISABILITIES

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

Some of the most common EIDs include:

- » Learning disabilities.
- » Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.
- » Mental health conditions.
- » 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 [your high school's list](#) of NCAA-approved courses.

## SUBMITTING YOUR EID DOCUMENTATION

If you are a student with a documented EID, you only need to alert the NCAA Eligibility Center about your disability if you plan to enroll full time at a Division I or II school and would like to take additional core courses after you graduate high school.

If your EID documentation is approved by the Eligibility Center and you plan to attend a [Division I school](#):

- » You may take up to three additional core courses after graduating high school but before enrolling full time at a Division I school – as long as you graduate from high school in eight consecutive semesters after starting ninth grade.

If your EID documentation is approved by the Eligibility Center and you plan to attend a [Division II school](#):

- » You may take an unlimited number of core courses after starting ninth grade but before enrolling full time at a Division II school.

Information submitted to the NCAA about your EID is **not** released to colleges unless the student-athlete makes a specific written request.

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

1. A complete NCAA [EID cover sheet](#).
2. Your NCAA ID, 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 Plan or 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/student-athletes/future/education-impacting-disabilities](http://ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/education-impacting-disabilities).

## 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](mailto:ec-processing@ncaa.org)

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

# IMPORTANT RECRUITING TERMS

**Celebratory standardized signing form (a form used by Division III schools):** This 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 family members off the college’s campus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Full-time student:** Each school determines what full-time status means. Typically, you are a full-time student if you are enrolled for at least 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.

**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 adding a college-bound student-athlete to the IRL informs the NCAA Eligibility Center of the school’s interest in having an academic and amateurism certification decision for the student-athlete.

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

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

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

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

**Recruited:** If a college coach 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 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.

**Recruiting shutdown:** A recruiting shutdown is a period of time when no forms of recruiting (e.g., contacts, evaluations, official or Division I unofficial visits, correspondence, or making or receiving telephone calls) are permissible.

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

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

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

**Unofficial visit:** Any visit by you and your family members to a college campus paid for by you or your family members. The only expense you may receive from the college is three complimentary admissions to a Division I home athletics contest and one meal on or off campus, or five complimentary admissions to a Division II home athletics contest. You may make as many unofficial visits as you like after the first permissible date in each sport. The only time you cannot talk with a coach during an unofficial visit is during a dead period. In Division I, it is not permissible to make an official visit during a recruiting shutdown period or a dead period. In Division II, you may not make an unofficial visit during a dead period. In Division III, you may receive one on-campus meal as well as admission to a home athletics event for you and those accompanying you.

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

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

# RECRUITING CALENDARS

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

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MILLION  
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ELIGIBILITY CENTER

[ncaa.org/playcollegesports](http://ncaa.org/playcollegesports)