



Collegiate Athletics: Promoting Opportunities Within Your School Community

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Opportunities

- National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA):
Divisions I, II, and III
- National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
- National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

Strategies for un-recruited athletes

I would like to participate in college athletics - Why?

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NJCAA Snapshot

- 510 member institutions across 24 regions
- 16 sports in which national championships are conducted
- Athletic scholarships are available

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NJCAA Initial Eligibility Requirements

- Graduate of a high school with an academic diploma or GED
- Non-High-School Graduates: one term of college work, passing 12 hours with at least a 1.75 GPA
 - If the student-athlete (SA) has not earned enough credits for high school graduation status, he/she may not be eligible until after the SA's class has graduated.

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NAIA Snapshot

- 290 member institutions
- 21 sports in which national championships are conducted
- Athletic scholarships are available at some institutions



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NAAIA Initial Eligibility Requirements

- Graduate of accredited high school or be accepted as regular student in good standing
- Meet *two* of the following requirements:
 - Test Score: 18 ACT, 970 SAT (Critical Reading and Math Sections)
 - Minimum overall high-school GPA of 2.0/4.0 scale
 - Graduate in the top half of the class

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NAIA Eligibility Center

- Opened in fall 2010
- \$100 registration fee (fee waiver available)
- NAIA certification is separate from NCAA certification
- www.playnaia.org

PLAYNAIA™

THE NAIA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

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What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

- Formerly known as the NCAA Clearinghouse
- Certifies the academic and amateur credentials of all college bound student athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics
- Database for all collegiate athletic departments to access a student-athlete's eligibility status



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NCAA Division III Snapshot

- 429 member institutions
- No athletic scholarships available
- 20+ sports in which national championships are conducted



Division III

DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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Division III – Sample Institutions

University of Chicago

Augustana College

Carthage College

Elmhurst College

North Central College

North Park University

Wheaton College

Loras College

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Division III Initial Eligibility

- No NCAA initial eligibility standard.
- Check with the specific Division III institution regarding policies on eligibility for practice and competition upon initial enrollment.

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Division II Snapshot

- 291 member institutions
- Athletic scholarships are available
- 20+ sports in which national championships are conducted
- Initial eligibility certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center



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Division II Sample Institutions

Lewis University – Romeoville

University of Southern Indiana

University of Wisconsin – Parkside

Grand Valley State University

University of Illinois - Springfield

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Division II Initial Eligibility - Qualifiers

Graduate from high school

Complete 16 core courses

Earn a 2.20 core-course GPA

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.

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Division I Snapshot

- 331 member institutions
- Athletic scholarships are available
- 20+ sports in which national championships are conducted
- Initial eligibility certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center



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Division I Institutions in Illinois

Bradley University

DePaul University

Eastern Illinois University

University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign

Illinois State University

Loyola University Chicago

Northern Illinois University

Northwestern University

SIU – Carbondale

SIU – Edwardsville

University of Illinois – Chicago

Western Illinois University

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Division I Initial Eligibility - Qualifiers

- Graduate from high school
- Complete 16 core courses
- 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.

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Early Academic Certification: After Six semesters

Division I

- 980 combined SAT or 75 ACT sum score
- 3.00 GPA or higher (on 4.00 scale) in 14 core courses, including 3 English, 2 math, 2 science, and 5 in any other core area

Division II

- 900 combined SAT or 68 ACT sum score
- 2.50 GPA or higher (on 4.00 scale) in 14 core courses, including 3 English, 3 math, 2 science, and 6 in any other core area

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Definition of a Core Course

- Is considered four-year college preparatory;
- Is taught at or above the regular academic level
- Is taught by a qualified instructor as defined by the appropriate academic authority
- Courses included are in the academic areas of:
 - English
 - Mathematics (Algebra 1 or higher)
 - Natural / Physical Science – w/ lab
 - Additional English/Math/Science
 - Social Science
 - Additional Academic Courses (foreign/world language, philosophy, comparative religion or above courses)

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Obtaining Your School's List of NCAA Courses

- Go to NCAA Eligibility Center site (easiest to Google)
- Select the link for high school administrators to enter.
- Select “List of NCAA Courses”
- Follow prompts to select school by name or your six-digit College Board (CEEB)- HFHS 142307
- Who Updates them?

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Core Course Time Limitation: DI

- 16 core courses must be completed in eight semesters beginning with the first semester of 9th grade
- SA who graduates “on time” with his/her class may use one additional core course earned in the summer following graduation

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Testing Requirements

- 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.

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Suggested Timeline

Freshmen and Sophomores

- Start planning now!
- Communicate interest in collegiate athletics to coaches and counselor
- Take courses from the approved list of core courses
- Work hard to get the best grades possible in approved core courses
- Use summer school to catch up if necessary

Juniors

- Work with counselor to determine the number of core courses that need to be completed prior to graduation
- Continue to get the best grades possible in approved core courses
- Register with the Eligibility Center
- Send an official transcript to the Eligibility Center at the end of the year (AFTER 6 completed semesters are on your transcript)
- Use summer school to catch up if necessary

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Suggested Timeline

Seniors

- Continue to get the best grades possible in approved core courses
- Review amateurism questionnaire and submit beginning April 1st
- Graduate on time (i.e., after eight semesters)
- Send final official transcript with proof of graduation (find out who does that, you or school?)

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NCAA Eligibility Center Registration

- On-line Registration
- \$100 fee (Free to create a Profile Page)
- Fee waiver available if eligible for an ACT/SAT fee waiver
- 80,000 final certifications between June - August!!!!

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New Initial-Eligibility Standards for NCAA Division I College-Bound Student-Athletes

- **Full Qualifier:** A college-bound student-athlete may receive athletics aid (scholarship), practice and compete in the first year of enrollment at the Division I college or university.
 - **Full Qualifier must:**
 - Complete 16 core courses (same distribution as in the past);
 - Ten of the 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester (senior year) of high school.
 - Seven of the 10 core courses must be English, math or science.
 - Have a minimum core-course GPA of 2.300;
 - Grades earned in the 10 required courses required before the senior year are “locked in” for purposes of GPA calculation.
 - A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used to improve the GPA if taken after the seventh semester begins; and
 - Graduate from high school.

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New Initial-Eligibility Standards for NCAA Division I a Student-Athletes

- **Academic Redshirt:** A college-bound student-athlete may receive athletics aid (scholarship) in the first year of enrollment and may practice in the first regular academic term (semester or quarter) but may NOT compete in the first year of enrollment. After the first term is complete, the college-bound student-athlete must be academically successful at his/her college or university to continue to practice for the rest of the year.
 - **Academic Redshirt must:**
 - Complete 16 core courses
 - Have a minimum core-course GPA of 2.000-2.299; and
 - Graduate from high school.

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New Initial-Eligibility Standards for NCAA Division I College-Bound Student-Athletes

- **Nonqualifer:** A college-bound student-athlete cannot receive athletics aid (scholarship), cannot practice and cannot compete in the first year of enrollment.
 - **Nonqualifer** is a college-bound student-athlete who fails to meet the standards for a qualifier or for an academic redshirt.

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How student recruit themselves

- Keep working hard at their sport
- Set yearly goals to get to the next step
- Work with their coach (high school, AAU, etc.)
- Understand the role of the coach
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center
- Identify colleges compatible for you

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Recruiting Yourself (cont.)

- Send a letter of introduction to college coach
- Send a “Sports Resume” to college coaches
- Fill out all questionnaires available.
- Continue to communicate with target schools
- Arrange for Campus & Athletic visits
- Stay focused on your future - **ACADEMICS**

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Questions?

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