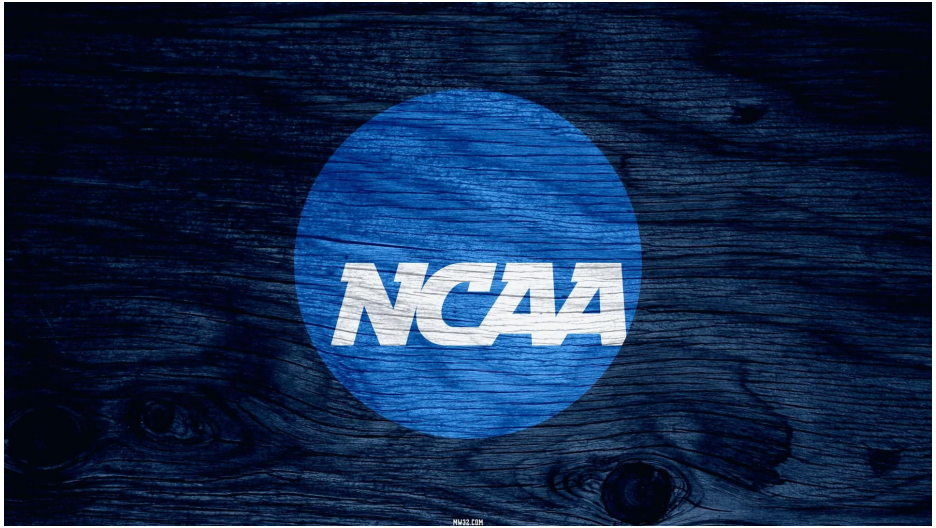
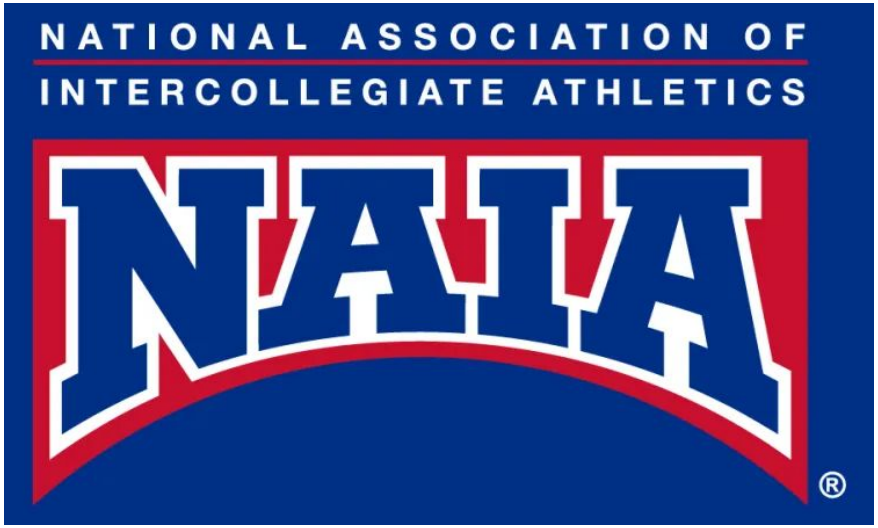




Collegiate Level Athletics: What To Know in High School

By: Kelly Richter & Marc Verikas

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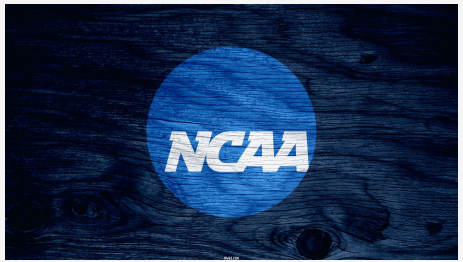
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01

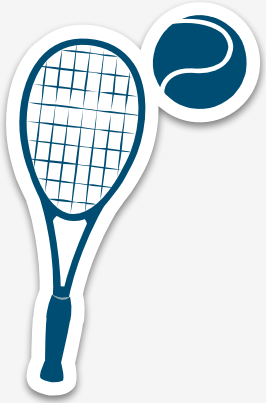


NCAA

National Collegiate
Athletic Association









WHAT IS THE NCAA?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is an organization for college athletes. There are three (3) divisions:

- **Division I** (Biggest schools, most $ for scholarships)
- **Division II** (Mid-sized schools, smaller scholarships)
- **Division III** (Smaller schools, no scholarships)

NCAA Schools Interactive Map



DIVISION I

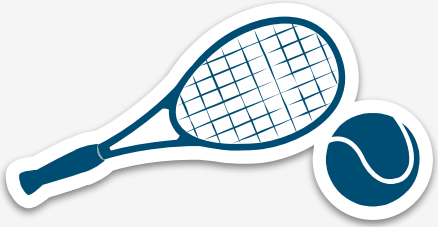
SIZE

DI schools are the l**argest universities** and have the lowest number of athletes.

SCHOLARSHIPS

DI athletes are the highest level of athletic competition, and are **awarded the most $ in athletic scholarships**





DIVISION	DIVISION I
ACTIVE SCHOOLS*	361 (33%)
MEDIAN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT	8,800
STUDENTS WHO ARE ATHLETES	1 in 22
AVERAGE NUMBER OF TEAMS PER SCHOOL	19
PERCENTAGE OF NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETES IN EACH DIVISION	37%
ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS	Multiyear, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships available. 57% of athletes receive athletics aid.
DID YOU KNOW?	Division I student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.

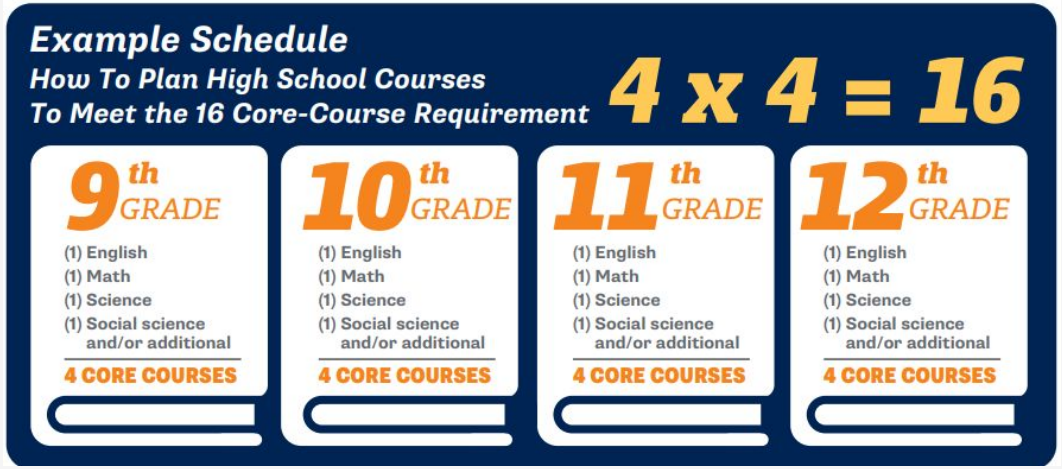


NCAA Division I Eligibility:

NCAA DIVISION I

To be eligible to play as a freshman with NCAA DI students must:

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved Core-Course Credits in 4 consecutive years/8 semesters
2. Meet the 10/7 requirement
3. Earn 2.3+ Core-Course GPA





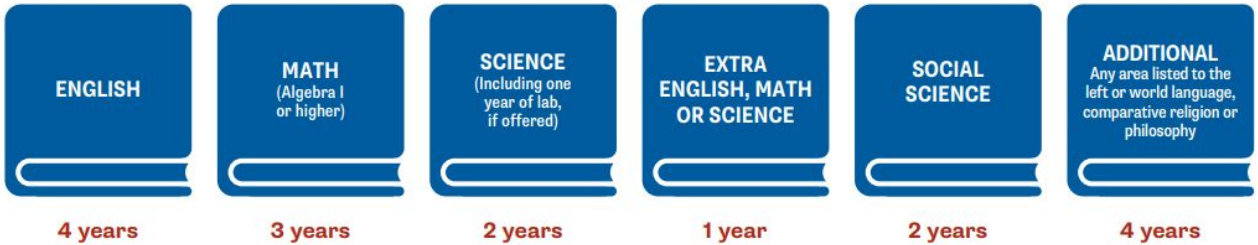


Division I Academic Standards

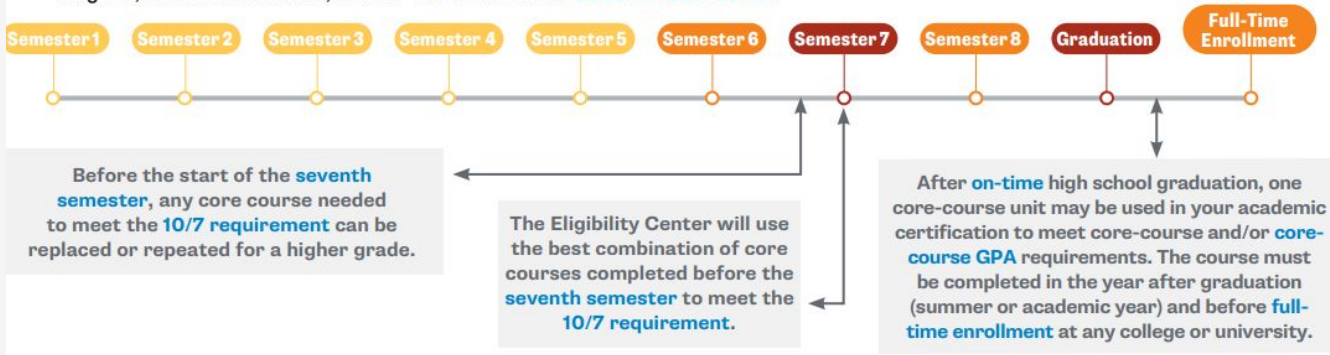
Division I schools require you to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of **full-time enrollment**, you must meet the following requirements:

NCAA DIVISION I

1. **Register** for an Academic and Athletics Certification account.
2. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:



3. Complete 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in four consecutive academic years (eight semesters) from your initial start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.
4. Meet the **10/7 requirement** by completing 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math and science, before the start of the **seventh semester**.



DIVISION II

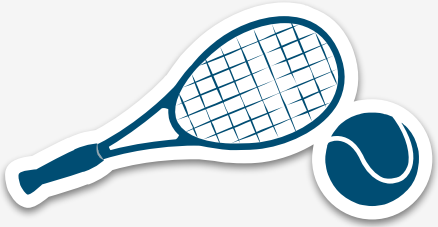
SIZE

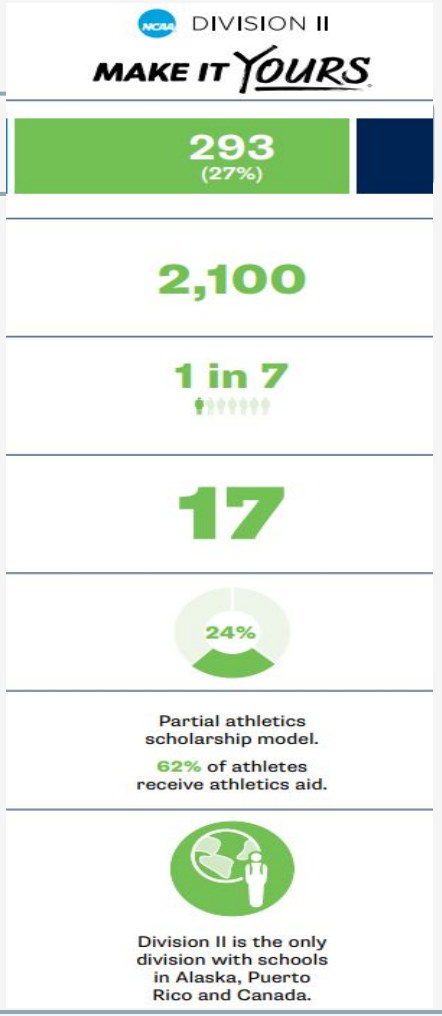
DII schools are generally mid-sized universities and have more athletes than DI

SCHOLARSHIPS

DII athletes are **awarded partial athletic scholarships**







NCAA Division II Eligibility:

NCAA DIVISION II
MAKE IT YOURS



To be eligible to play as a freshman with NCAA DII students must:

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved Core Course Credits
2. Earn 2.2+ core-course GPA

Use the Division II Worksheet to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards.



DIVISION III

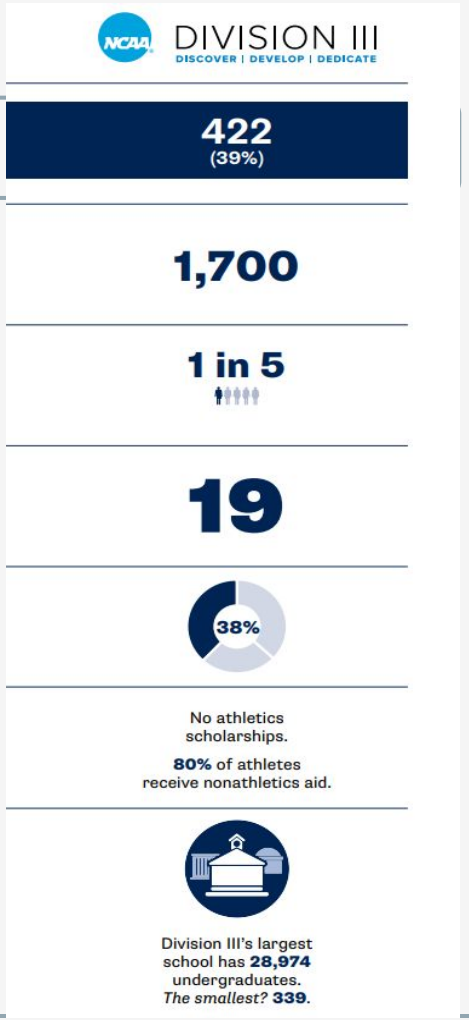
SIZE

DII schools are generally smaller universities and have the most athletes

SCHOLARSHIPS

DIII athletes **do not receive athletic scholarships** (though 80% earn merit-based aid)







NCAA Division III Eligibility:

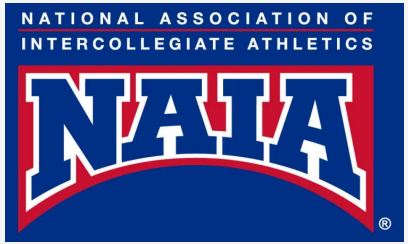
DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Division III schools provide an integrated environment focusing on academic success while offering a competitive athletics environment. Division III student-athletes are certified on campus. **Contact the Division III school you plan to attend for information about its academic requirements.**



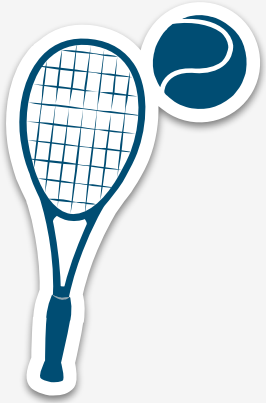


02











NAIA

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

WHAT IS NAIA?

“The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) is a governing body of small athletics programs dedicated to character driven, intercollegiate athletics.”

-Jim Carr, NAIA President



NAIA Eligibility

To be eligible to play as a freshman with NAIA students must:

1. Graduate from an accredited high school
2. Graduate with a 2.3 + GPA **OR** meet two of the three following requirements:

MUST MEET TWO OF THE THREE

1. TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT	2. HIGH SCHOOL GPA REQUIREMENT	3. CLASS RANK REQUIREMENT
Achieve a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 970 on the SAT	**Achieve a minimum overall high school grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale**	**Graduate in the top half of your high school class**
Tests must be taken on an international testing date prior to the start of the term in which you intend to participate in athletics and scores must be achieved on a single test date. The minimum SAT must be achieved on the Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and Math sections only; the Writing score cannot be used. Minimum score requirements for tests taken prior to May 1, 2019 varied. • For tests taken prior to March 1, 2016: 18 ACT, 860 SAT (reading, math) • For tests taken between March 1, 2016 and May 1, 2019: 16 ACT, 860 SAT (evidence-based reading & writing, math)	The NAIA accepts the grade point average determined by the high school, provided it is recorded and awarded in the same manner as for every other student at the school.	If a student's class rank does not appear on the transcript, a signed letter from the principal or headmaster, vice principal or guidance counselor written on the school's letterhead and with the school's official seal, stating the student's final class rank position or may be submitted. **Exception:** Completion of nine institutional credit hours prior to identification at any institution of higher education can be used if no class rank appears on the final official high school transcript. The credit hours must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

03

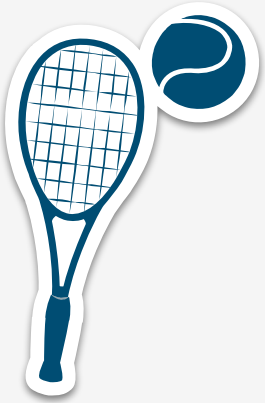


NJCAA

National Junior College Athletics Association









WHAT IS NJCAA?

“The National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA)’s mission is to promote, govern, and foster a competitive environment for two-year college athletics.”

-NJCAA’s Mission Statement njcaa.org





NJCAA Eligibility

In order to be eligible for NJCAA, students must have graduated from high school and be enrolled in the Junior College.

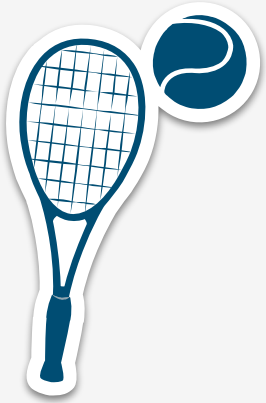


04

THE ACADEMY OF CHARTER SCHOOLS









High School Timeline

Where Do I Go From Here?

WHERE DO I START?

STEP 01
Work hard at the high school level

STEP 02
Stay eligible!

STEP 03
Put yourself out there

STEP 04
Create the necessary accounts

STEP 01: Work Hard at the High School Level

- Show up and work hard at every practice
- Be a leader on your team
- Keep up with your academics



STEP 02: Stay Eligible!

- Enroll in 2.5 credits/semester
- Keep your grades up
  - No more than 1 F, or 2 Ds
    - Use office hours
    - Communicate with your teachers
- Show up to practice = participate in every game



STEP 03: Put Yourself Out There

- MaxPreps
- Cold Calls
- Create Content & Share It
- Stay Eligible = Play More



STEP 04: Create The Necessary Account(s)

- **What level do you want to play?**
- Hint: Choose the level you'll *actually play*
  - NCAA: eligibilitycenter.org
  - NAIA: naia.org
  - NJCAA: Your JuCo's website



NCAA DIVISION I REQUIRES THE HIGHEST ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

- **Not sure what you want to do? Aim for DI!**
- Watch the full NCAA webinar here
- NCAA Initial Eligibility Standards
- Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete



THINKING OF GOING PRO?

Of the student-athletes participating in college sports with professional leagues, **less than 2%** become professional athletes.

	Baseball	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Men's Ice Hockey	Women's Soccer	Softball
High School Student-Athletes	478,451	537,438	373,366	1,028,761	33,013	377,838	344,952
NCAA Student-Athletes	38,849	19,213	16,668	77,204	4,388	29,959	21,646
Drafted NCAA Student-Athletes	444	46	33	259	69	47	24
Percentage High School to NCAA	8.1%	3.6%	4.5%	7.5%	13.3%	7.9%	6.3%
*Percentage NCAA to Major Professional	5.1%	1.1%	0.9%	1.5%	7.1%	0.7%	0.5%

Note: High school and college participation data are from the 2022-23 academic year.

*The percentage of NCAA student-athletes moving on to major professional leagues is based on the number of draft picks in the 2023 MLB, NBA, WNBA, NFL, NHL, NWSL and WPF drafts.

ELIGIBILITY CENTER

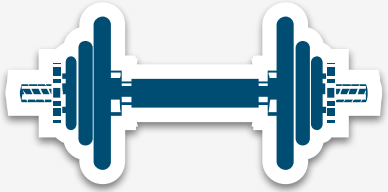
CHOOSING AN NCAA SCHOOL



You have to be accepted first!

» Visit on.ncaa.com/choosing for suggestions of questions to ask NCAA schools recruiting you.


High School Timeline
9th GRADE REGISTER
10th GRADE PLAN
11th GRADE STUDY
12th GRADE GRADUATE







QUESTIONS?





