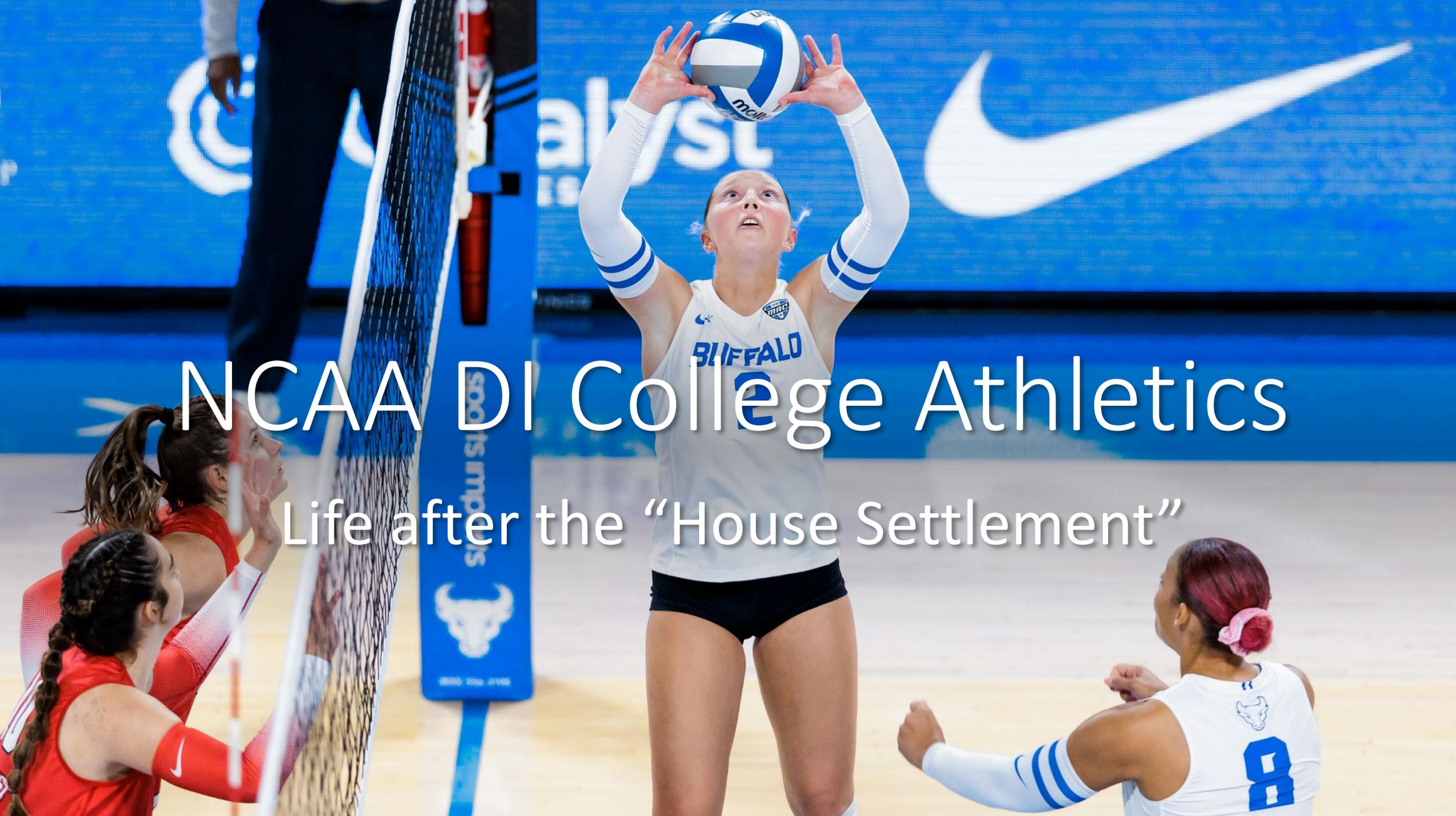




Kelly Cruttenden
Senior Associate
Athletic Director for
Compliance
University at Buffalo

*NCAA rules basics for those
considering DI or II athletics*



NCAA DI College Athletics

Life after the “House Settlement”

House Settlement – what you need to know

- Roster limits – all rosters need to be at the designated roster limit by the day before the team’s first date of competition for the 25-26 academic year.
- **Scholarship limits – Team scholarship limits have been eliminated.**
- Designated student athletes –Athletic Departments identified the group of student-athletes who meet the “designated student athlete” criteria by July 6, 2025. These student athletes can remain on rosters at the discretion of the Head Coach, over the roster limit for the duration of their athletic careers.
- Revenue Sharing–Athletic Departments can earmark funds to provide student athletes with revenue share funding, up to \$20.5 million.

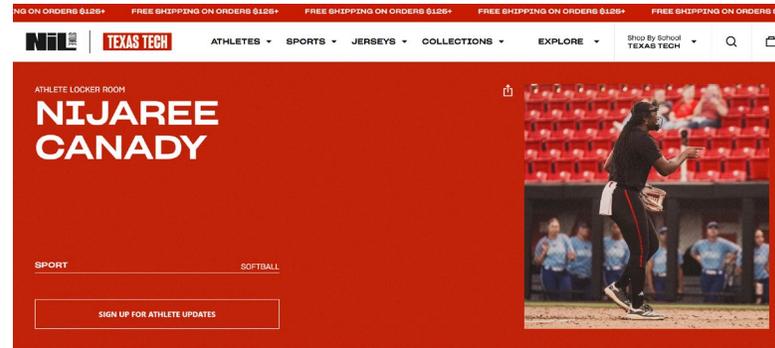
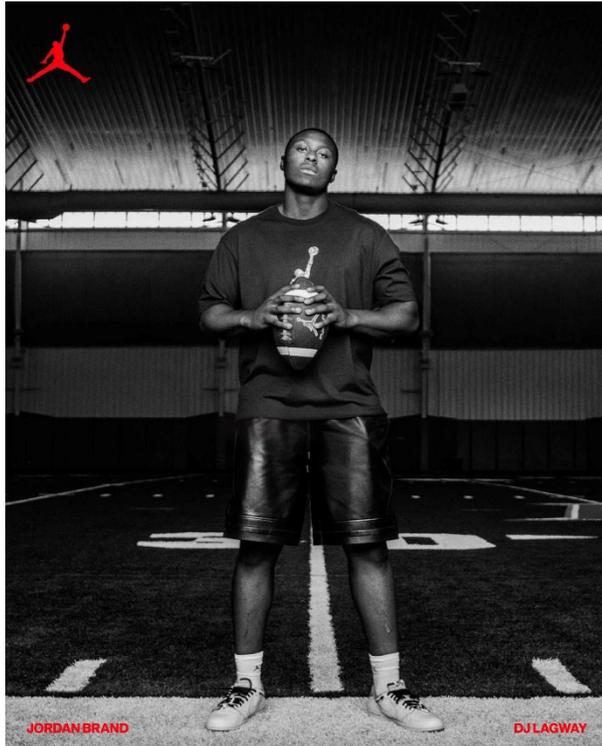


Sport	Old Scholarship Limit	New Roster Limit
Acrobatics & Tumbling (W)	14	55
Baseball (M)	11.7	34
Basketball (M)	13	15
Basketball (W)	15	15
Beach Volleyball (W)	6	19
Bowling (W)	5	11
Cross Country (M)	5	17
Cross Country (W)	6	17
Equestrian (W)	15	50
Fencing (M)	4.5	24
Fencing (W)	5	24
Field Hockey (W)	12	27
Football (M)	85	105
Golf (M)	4.5	9
Golf (W)	6	9
Gymnastics (M)	6.3	20
Gymnastics (W)	12	20
Ice Hockey (M)	18	26
Ice Hockey (W)	18	26
Lacrosse (W)	12	38
Lacrosse (M)	12.6	48
Rifle (M & W)	3.6	12
Rowing (W)	20	68
Rugby (W)	12	36
Skiing (M)	6.3	16
Skiing (W)	7	16
Soccer (M)	9.9	28
Soccer (W)	14	28
Softball (W)	12	25
Stunt (W)	14	65
Swimming & Diving (M)	9.9	30
Swimming & Diving (W)	14	30
Tennis (M)	4.5	10
Tennis (W)	8	10
Track & Field Indoor (M)	12.6	45
Track & Field Indoor (W)	18	45
Track & Field Outdoor (M)	12.6	45
Track & Field Outdoor (W)	18	45
Triathlon (W)	6.5	14
Volleyball (M)	4.5	18
Volleyball (W)	12	18
Water Polo (M)	4.5	24
Water Polo (W)	8	24
Wrestling (M)	9.9	30
Wrestling (W)	10	30

**NCAA Division I
scholarship limits
POST House
settlement**

What is Name, Image and Likeness?

“NIL”



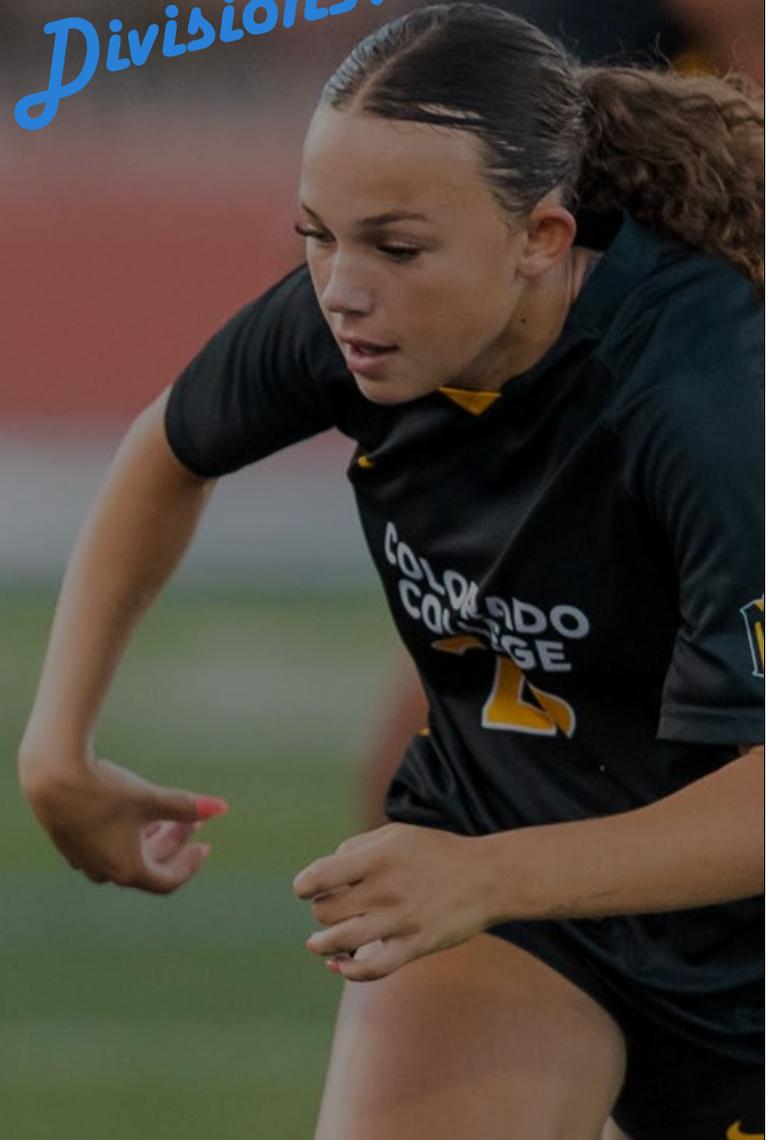


- Time commitment

- Level of play

- Eligibility standards

What else is different between the Divisions?



DI—UB, Stony Brook, Albany, Binghamton, Niagara, Canisius, St. Bonaventure, Syracuse, Penn State, Michigan State, Duke, Stanford

DII—Roberts Wesleyan, **Daemen**, **D'Youville**, PA state schools, CW Post, Dowling, Concordia, Dominican, Le Moyne, Nyack, Pace, Queens, Saint Rose, St. Thomas Aquinas College

DIII-Cortland, Brockport, Buff State, St John Fisher, Nazareth, University of Rochester, Ithaca, Keuka



Baseball	9.0	Rifle	3.6
Basketball	10.0	Skiing	6.3
Cross Country/Track and Field	12.6	Soccer	9.0
Fencing	4.5	Swimming and Diving	8.1
Football	36.0	Tennis	4.5
Golf	3.6	Volleyball	4.5
Gymnastics	5.4	Water Polo	4.5
Ice Hockey	13.5	Wrestling	9.0

Acrobatics and Tumbling	9.0	Rowing	20.0
Basketball	10.0	Rugby	12.0
Beach Volleyball	5.0	Skiing	6.3
Bowling	5.0	Soccer	9.9
Cross Country/Track and Field	12.6	Softball	7.2
Equestrian	15.0	Stunt	9.0
Fencing	4.5	Swimming and Diving	8.1
Field Hockey	6.3	Tennis	6.0
Golf	5.4	Triathlon	5.0
Gymnastics	6.0	Volleyball	8.0
Ice Hockey	18.0	Water Polo	8.0
Lacrosse	9.9	Wrestling	10.0

Division II men's and women's scholarship limits

We live in a Division III
“hotbed”

Within three-five hours of
the Western NY area, there
are countless excellent,
affordable DIII schools with
successful athletic programs
and great academics.





Athletics Scholarships

- Contracts that can be issued for 1-5 years [some conferences mandate four-year agreements]
- May be “full” (tuition, fees, room, board and books); or
- May include a cost of attendance stipend for supplies, clothing, etc
- May be “partial” or a percentage of a full scholarship (.5 or .75); or
- May be issued as a dollar amount (\$5000) or
- May be issued as an item like “tuition” or “room and board”

Scholarship Basics

Can be taken away for:

- **Quitting the team voluntarily**
 - **Becoming academically ineligible**
 - **Disciplinary reasons**
-
- **All athletic scholarships will outline rules, expectations, and other stipulations.**
 - **NCAA has implemented additional protections for scholarships.**

NCAA department that determines
freshmen initial eligibility for
Division I and II intercollegiate athletic
competition and athletic scholarships



Eligibility
Center

Plan to compete in NCAA sports?

Create the Eligibility Center account that's right for you!

- If you plan to compete at a [Division I or II school](#), register for an [Academic and Athletics Certification](#) account.
- [International student-athletes](#) enrolling at a [Division III school](#) should register for an [Athletics Certification](#) account.
- If you're not yet in high school or secondary school, register for a [Profile Page](#) account.

Option 1:
Academic and Athletics Certification Account

[Who should create this account?](#)

Option 2:
Athletics Certification Account

[Who should create this account?](#)

Option 3:
Profile Page Account

[Who should create this account?](#)

Already have an NCAA account?

If unsure, please contact Customer Service at 877-262-1492 for assistance, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time.

- NCAA EC registration is for any student who plans on competing at the DI or II level

- 3 types of NCAA accounts



Eligibility Center

Register before junior year

Pay the registration fee

Counselor uploads transcript at the end of each academic year

Upon graduation, counselor uploads final transcript with proof of graduation

April 1 senior year-finalize “amateur” status with the NCAA through your eligibility center account

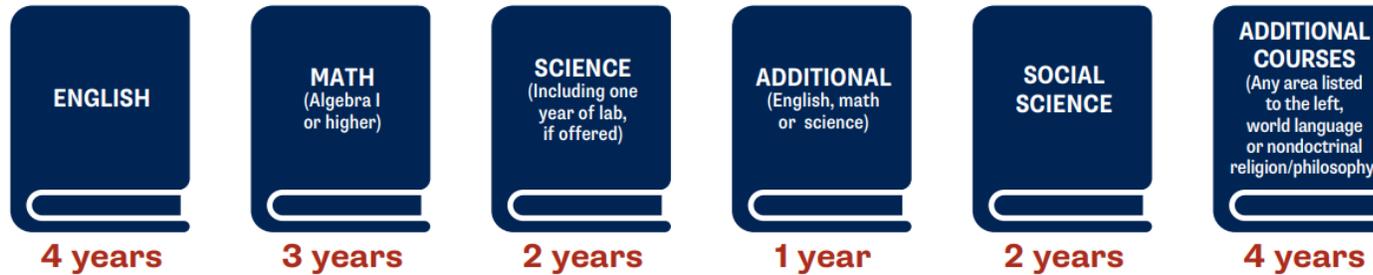
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To study and compete at a Division I or II school, you must earn 16 NCAA-approved **core-course credits**, earn a minimum 2.3 (Division I) or 2.2 (Division II) **core-course GPA** and submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

CORE-COURSE REQUIREMENTS

DIVISION I

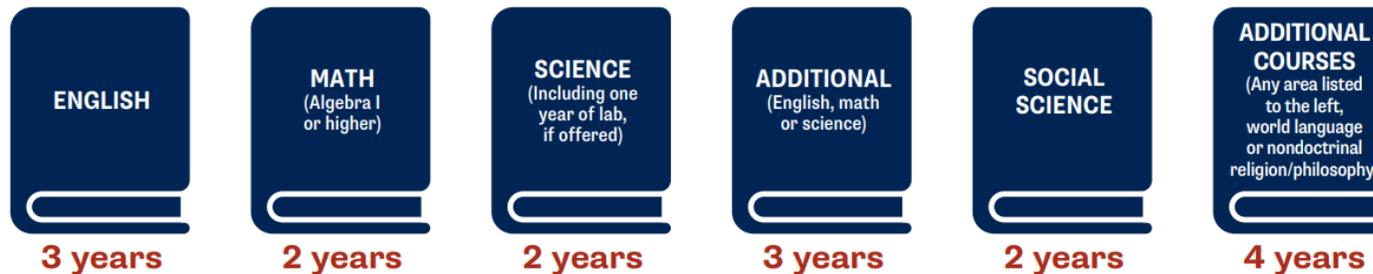
Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:



For Division I, 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits must be completed before the start of your seventh semester, including seven in English, math or science.

DIVISION II

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



GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

The Eligibility Center calculates your **core-course GPA** based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses.

- » Division I requires a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA.
- » Division II requires a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA.

- Are you on track?
- Registered?
- Have a transcript on file?
- Met with your counselor to ensure you have the right classes?

A female softball player in a blue pinstriped uniform is crouching on a field, ready for action. She is wearing a blue pinstriped jersey and pants, white socks, and a tan softball glove. Her hair is braided. In the background, an umpire in a dark blue uniform with light blue accents is standing with hands on hips. The scene is set on a baseball field with a white fence and bleachers in the distance.

Division I recruiting – the basics



June 15th at the end of grade 10:

Most sports can start calling and sending emails, texts, messages and printed recruiting materials. *Softball and w. basketball are slightly later.

Camp brochures, admissions materials and NCAA educational materials can be mailed at any time.

Evaluation: A coach comes to watch your game, practice, camp, clinic, tournament, PE class—this can take place at any time during your athletic career during permissible recruiting periods

Contact: A coach talks to you, face to face, not on the institution's campus (at your school, home, game)



Recruiting Contacts

Most sports: August 1 at the beginning of 11th grade

Baseball: July 1 after 11th grade

Football: January 1 of 11th grade

Men's basketball: first day of 11th grade

Women's basketball: September 1 of 12th grade

Softball and Lacrosse: September 1 of 11th grade

Recruiting Visits to college campuses

Unlimited official paid visits --the school can pay travel, hotel, food, entertainment for you and your family.

Unofficial visits-where you pay all your expenses to visit campus and meet the coaches. Normally requested by the coach but recruits can ask to set these up as well. Tour campus, watch practice, attend a game, attend class, meet with academic staff, etc.





Unofficial visits

- Most sports-August 1 junior year
- Football and women's basketball-any time
- Men's basketball-August 1 start of grade 10
- Baseball, softball, lacrosse-September 1 junior year
- Men's ice hockey-January 1 sophomore year

These are VERY common and a main form of on campus recruiting in Division I.



Official Paid Visits

Most sports-August 1 junior year

Baseball, softball, lacrosse-September 1 junior year

Women's basketball-April junior year

Football- April 1- June junior year; September 1 senior year

Typically reserved for the top prospects at each school and those being offered athletic scholarships

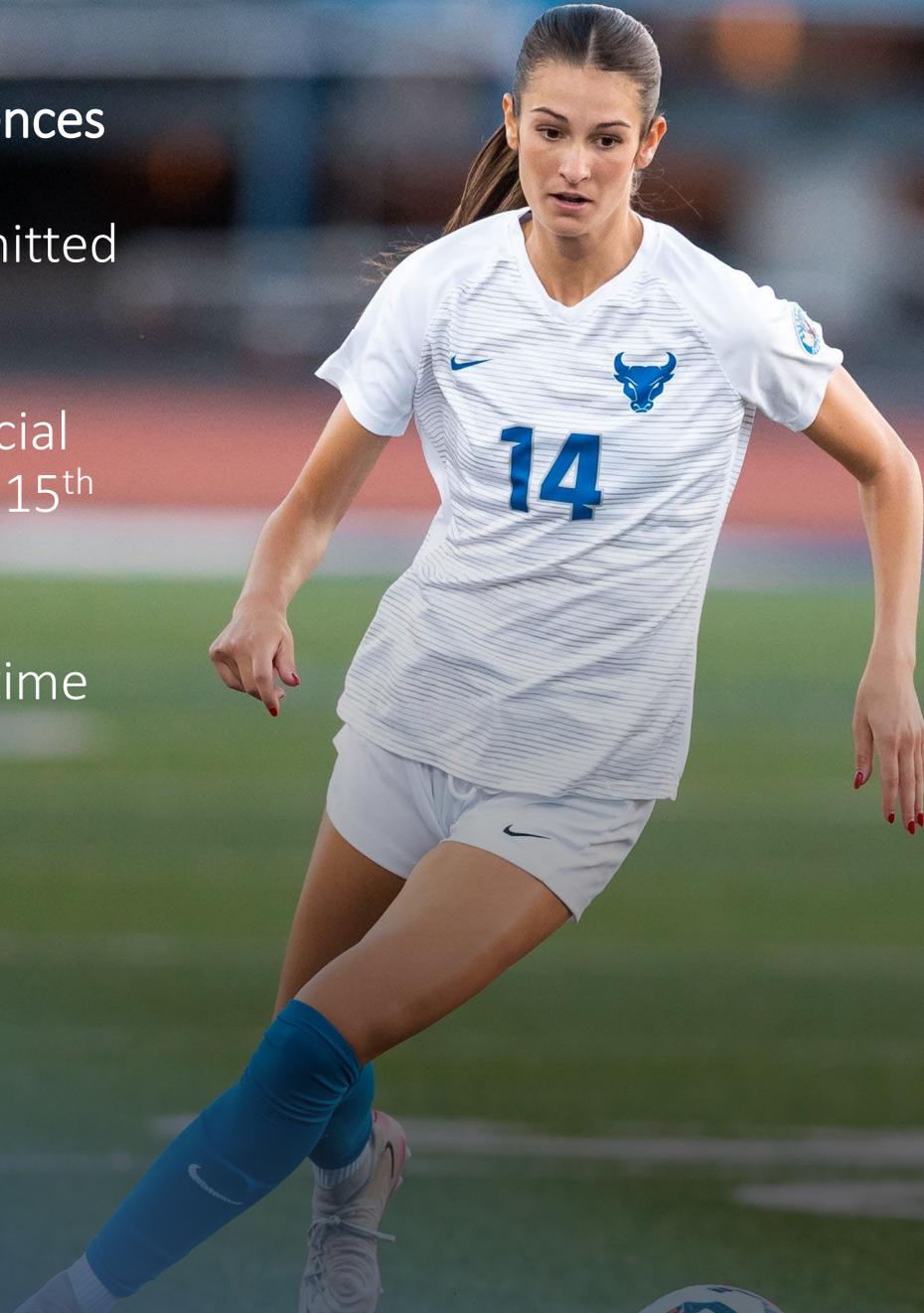
DII—recruiting differences

Communication permitted
at any time

Contact date and official
paid visit date = June 15th
before 11th grade

Unofficial visit – any time

Tryouts permitted



- Have schedules, highlight video, and game video (links to online video) readily available and accessible online for coaches [online profiles]
- Have a copy of your transcript and test scores [if you have them, if not, that's ok]available upon request
- **Recruiting services**
- Follow the teams on social media- twitter, Instagram, Snapchat—good insight on their programs
- Schedule campus visits, coordinate with the coaching staff



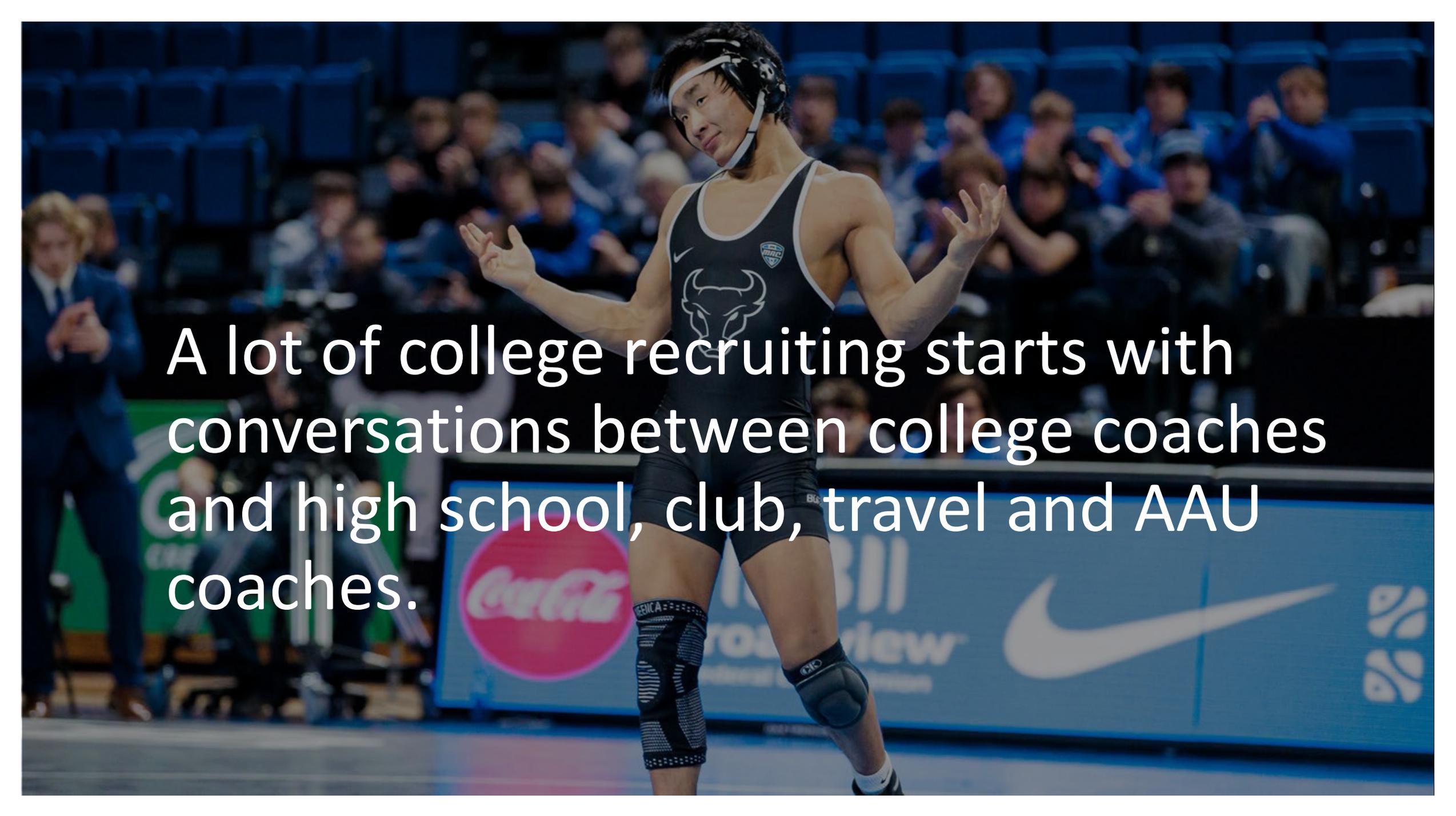
- 🐮 Stay in contact—be responsive to emails, direct messages on social media, calls and texts
- 🐮 Attend summer camps at your top schools
- 🐮 Attend competitions at your top schools
- 🐮 Recruit yourself—the number of kids looking for scholarships is EXPONENTIALLY higher than the number of scholarships available

Recommendation



Who are good people to speak on your behalf to college coaches? Who can attest to your athletic and academic ability? Which of your current coaches can start the recruiting conversations with college coaches?

- High school coach
- Travel/AAU/club coach
- Counselor and teachers
- Trainers or personal coaches

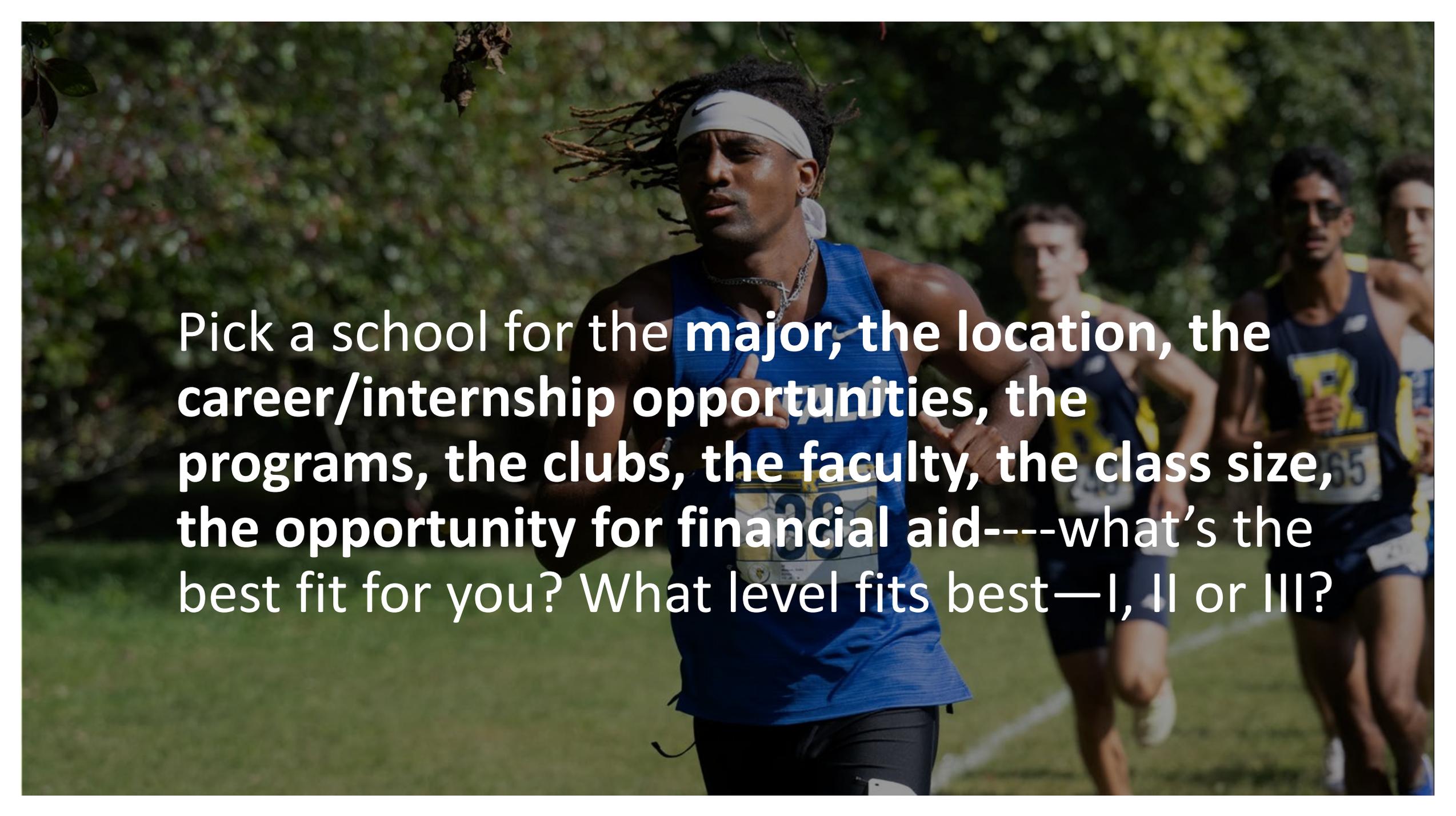


A lot of college recruiting starts with conversations between college coaches and high school, club, travel and AAU coaches.

Different styles/methods of recruiting



- Recruiting is very specific to Division, to coach, to sport and to school.
- Some sports rely on times and are looking for those who run/swim/jump/throw/pitch the fastest.
- Some coaches watch a lot of film to recruit.
- Some go to high school games, while some only watch large club/travel tournaments.



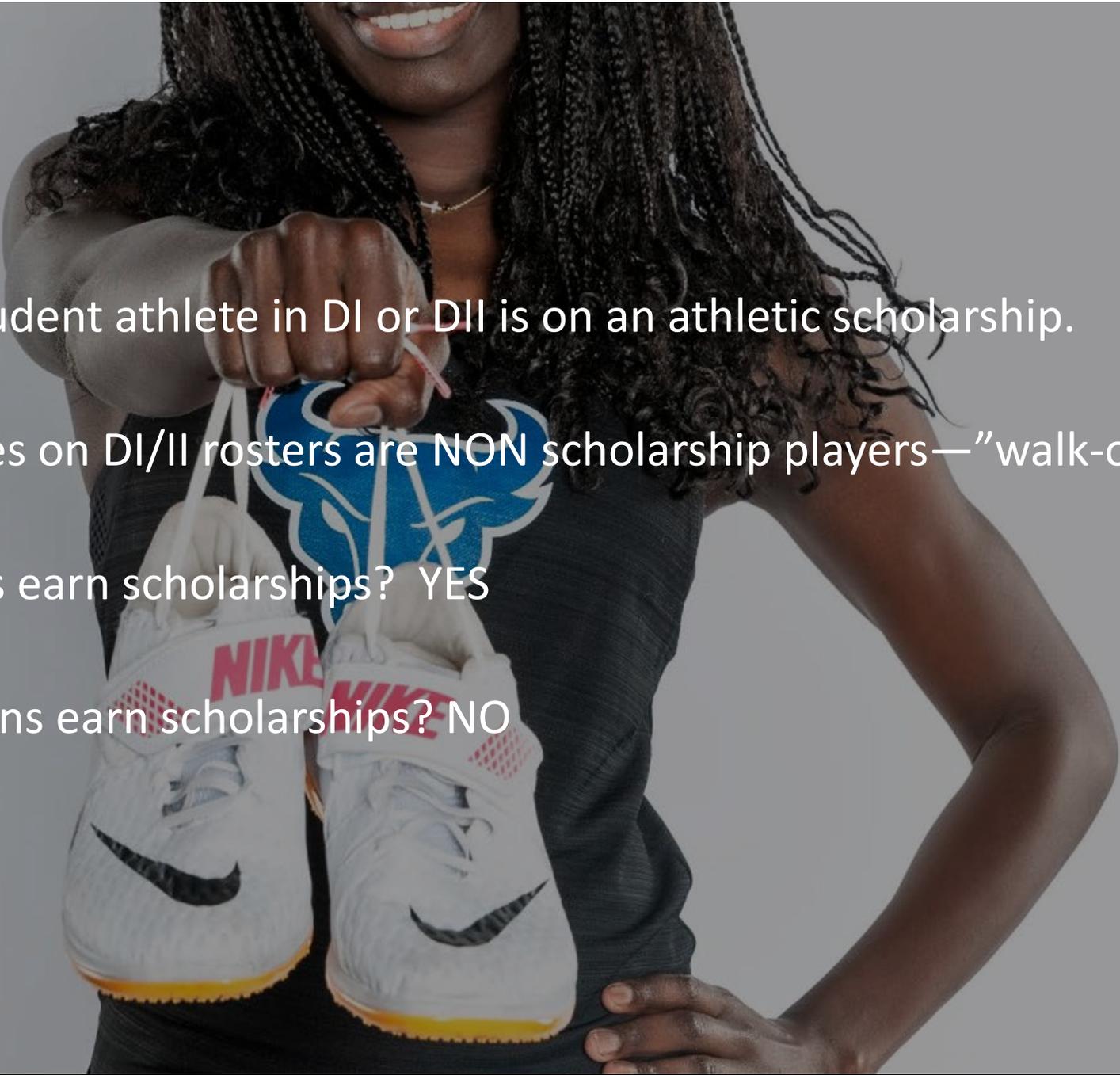
Pick a school for the **major**, the location, the **career/internship opportunities**, the **programs**, the **clubs**, the **faculty**, the **class size**, the **opportunity for financial aid**----what's the best fit for you? What level fits best—I, II or III?

PRIORITIES



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- Close or far? Location?
- Big or small?
- High level academics
- Athletic \$\$
- Quality, winning coaches
- Playing time, ability to start right away
- Tradition/winning history
- New athletic facilities
- Job placement %
- On-campus apartments

- 
- A woman with long, dark braids is smiling and holding a pair of white Nike sneakers. She is wearing a dark-colored t-shirt with a blue and white logo on the front. The background is a plain, light gray color.
- ✓ Not every student athlete in DI or DII is on an athletic scholarship.
 - ✓ Many athletes on DI/II rosters are NON scholarship players—“walk-ons”.
 - ✓ Can walk-ons earn scholarships? YES
 - ✓ Do all walk-ons earn scholarships? NO

Have your questions ready



How many other athletes are they recruiting at your position?



How many athletes are already on the team in my position?



Will I play as a freshman or will I “redshirt”?



How much scholarship money is available? Are there other grants or scholarships available?



Will I go home for the summer or does the team stay and train and take classes?

Do I go home for winter break/spring break or will I be on campus practicing?

Am I restricted from any majors due to class conflicts with practice times?

What level of academic support to athletes have access to?

Counseling services?
Nutrition services?
Mental health services?
Medical services?

High school grades MATTER

- Every school has different admissions standards...find out what they are for your choices.

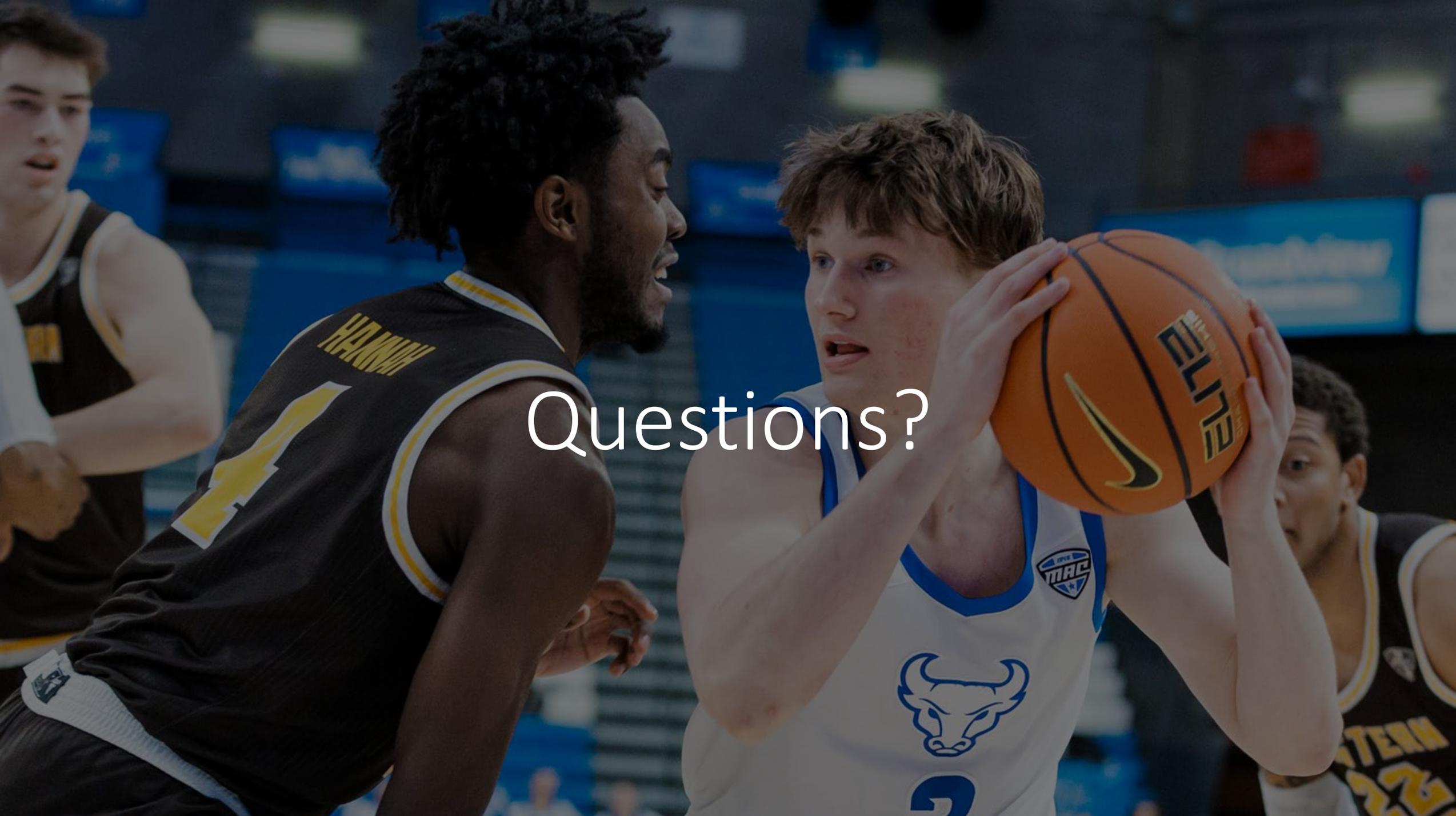
- Don't think "if the coach wants me to play, then he/s will get me in to school". Th NOT true at most schools.



Have a very firm understanding of:

- The cost of school, including living expenses and travel
- How much athletic \$\$, if any, you will get
- Other funding, including grants and loans—do your FAFSA!
- TAP, excelsior, loans, grants, Pell
- **The criteria to get and KEEP any aid**





Questions?