



ELIGIBILITY CENTER



NCAA[®]
GUIDE FOR
HIGH SCHOOL
COUNSELORS
2021-22

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide answers important questions for high school counselors and administrators involved in assisting college-bound student-athletes with the NCAA initial-eligibility process.

Where can you find answers to your questions about NCAA eligibility?

- » Read this guide.
- » Visit eligibilitycenter.org and click on High School Administrators to view available high school resources.
- » View tutorials and webinars on the [High School Portal](#).
- » Search [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- » Review the [High School Counselor Quick Tips flyer](#).
- » Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center.



ELIGIBILITY CENTER

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER INFORMATION

ONLINE

ncaa.org/playcollegesports
eligibilitycenter.org

FOLLOW US

Twitter [@NCAAEC](#)
Instagram [@playcollegesports](#)
Facebook [@NCAAEC](#)

HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORT LINE

High school administrators only
877-622-2321
Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time

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



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 nearly half a million college athletes that make up 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 pathways, visit ncaa.org/divisions.

DO SCHOOLS IN ALL THREE DIVISIONS OFFER ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS?

NCAA Division I and II schools provide more than \$2.7 billion in athletics scholarships annually to more than 150,000 student-athletes. Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, but student-athletes may receive academic or need-based financial aid similar to other students on campus. For more information about scholarships, see [page 29](#).

ARE INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS SIMILAR IN ALL THREE DIVISIONS?

College-bound student-athletes must meet academic and amateurism standards set by the NCAA membership to compete in Division I or II. At Division III schools, students must meet the admission standards set by the school for all incoming students and amateurism standards set by the NCAA membership.

NCAA FACTS

1906

Year established

1,100+

NCAA member schools

350

Active Division I members

309

Active Division II members

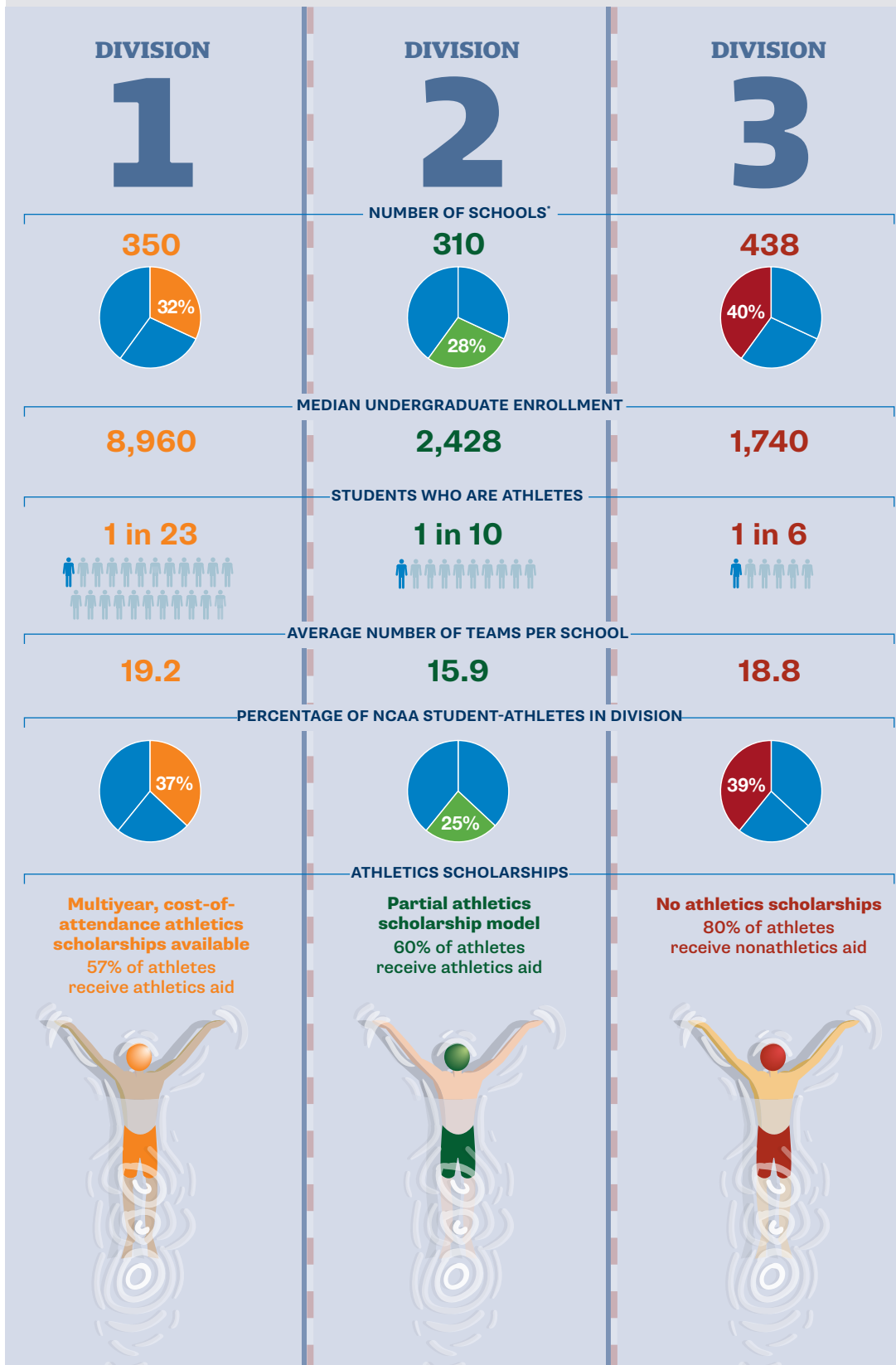
443

Active Division III members



Our Three Divisions

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



What are the eligibility requirements in each division?

College-bound students who want to compete at a Division I or II school must meet standards set by NCAA members. For Division III, athletes must meet the admissions standards set by the school. Eligibility standards can be found at 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.

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



DIII's largest school has 25,725 undergraduates. The smallest? 285.

Learn more at ncaa.org.

*Numbers are from 2019-20. All other figures are from 2018-19.

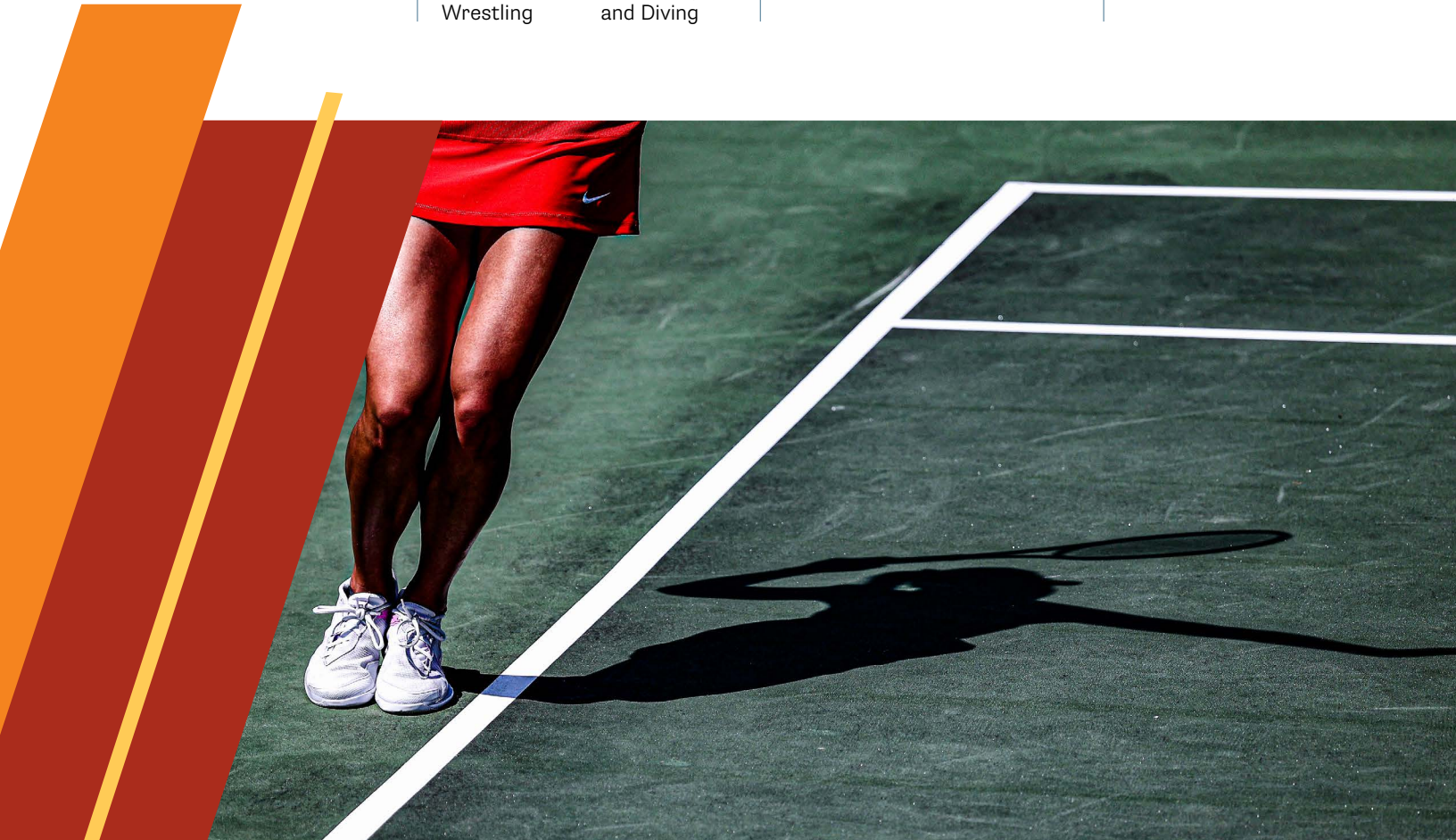
NCAA SPORTS

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 co-ed national championships. That means almost 54,000 student-athletes participate in NCAA championships each year.

From signature events like the NCAA March Madness® men’s and women’s basketball tournaments to rowing, rifle, softball and skiing, the NCAA 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.

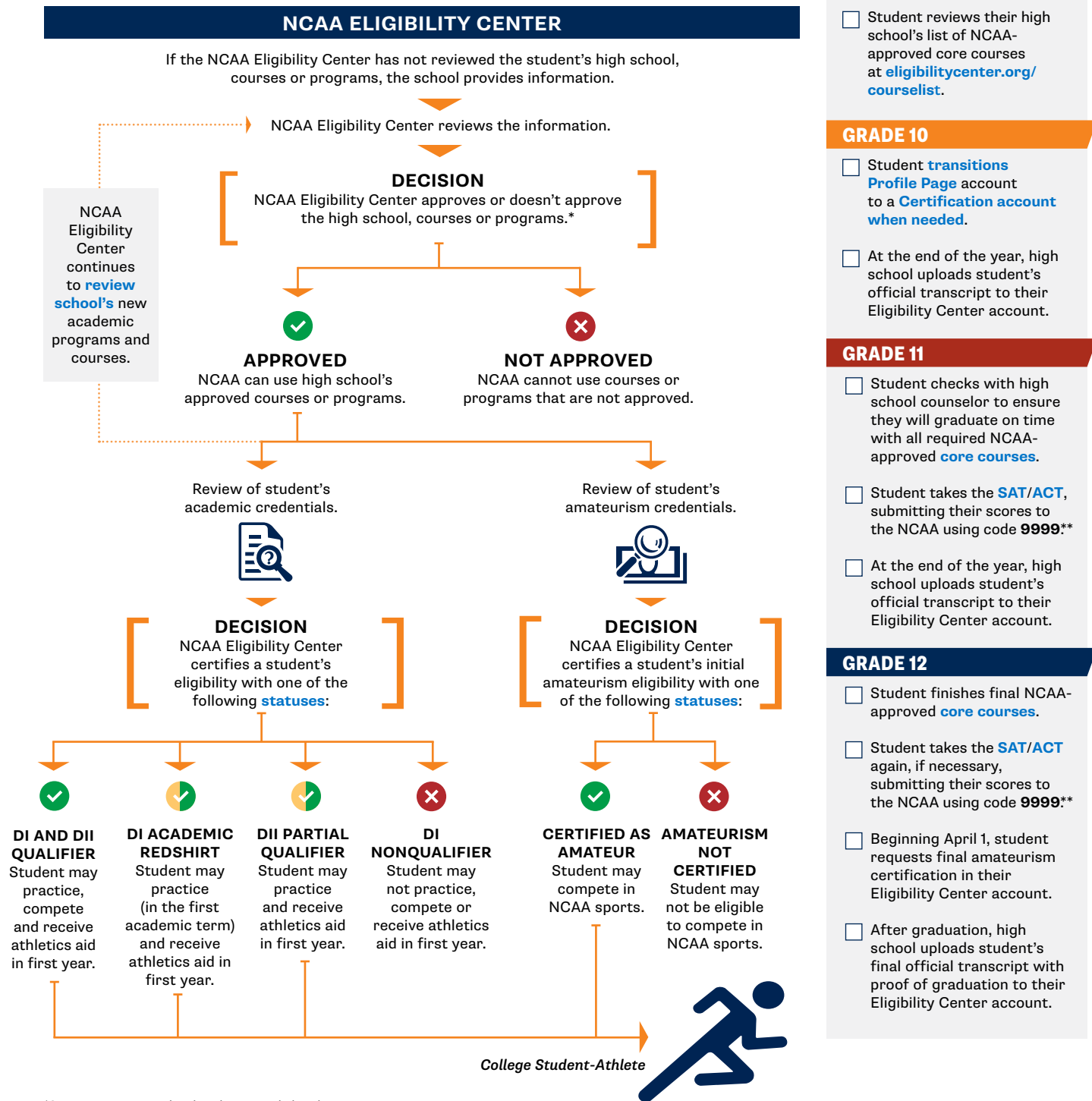
FALL SPORTS		WINTER SPORTS		SPRING SPORTS		EMERGING SPORTS
Men:	Women:	Men:	Women:	Men:	Women:	Women:
Cross Country	Cross Country	Basketball	Basketball	Baseball	Beach Volleyball	Acrobatics and Tumbling
Football	Field Hockey	Fencing	Bowling	Golf	Golf	Equestrian (Divisions I and II only)
Soccer	Soccer	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			



NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

This chart presents a general overview to help you, students and their families to better understand the components of the initial-eligibility process. Please see detailed information throughout the rest of the guide to supplement this overview.

An NCAA school recruits students by placing them on its institutional request list, which begins a request for certification from the NCAA Eligibility Center.



*Some programs may be placed on extended evaluation.

**More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

GRADE 9

- Before ninth grade, student registers for a free Profile Page account at eligibilitycenter.org.
- Student reviews their high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.

GRADE 10

- Student transitions Profile Page account to a Certification account when needed.
- At the end of the year, high school uploads student's official transcript to their Eligibility Center account.

GRADE 11

- Student checks with high school counselor to ensure they will graduate on time with all required NCAA-approved core courses.
- Student takes the SAT/ACT, submitting their scores to the NCAA using code 9999.**
- At the end of the year, high school uploads student's official transcript to their Eligibility Center account.

GRADE 12

- Student finishes final NCAA-approved core courses.
- Student takes the SAT/ACT again, if necessary, submitting their scores to the NCAA using code 9999.**
- Beginning April 1, student requests final amateurism certification in their Eligibility Center account.
- After graduation, high school uploads student's final official transcript with proof of graduation to their Eligibility Center account.

STUDENT REGISTRATION

College-bound student-athletes who want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org. Students should plan to register before their freshman/ninth year of high school.

Students can choose from two account types to get started:

- 1. Profile Page Account:** If students plan to compete at a Division III school or currently are not sure in which division they want to compete, they should create a free Profile Page account. If at any time they wish to pursue a Division I or II path, they can [transition to a Certification account](#). Students cannot move from a Certification account to a Profile Page account.
- 2. Certification Account:** Students must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. Students also must complete the Certification account registration (including payment or fee waiver) before they can go on official visits or sign a Division I or II [National Letter of Intent](#).

For Certification accounts, please allow 30 to 45 minutes to register completely or 15 to 30 minutes to register for a Profile Page account. If students need to exit and come back at a later time, they can save and exit once their account is created.

Students can reference the “Help” section (located in the top task bar) at any time to answer their questions as they work through registration. Below is a list of items we recommend students have before beginning their registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

ELIGIBILITY CENTER REGISTRATION ESSENTIALS

Below are some items student-athletes should have with them as they create an account at eligibilitycenter.org:

VALID EMAIL FOR STUDENT

To register, a student-athlete needs a valid email address that they check regularly and will have access to after high school. The NCAA Eligibility Center uses email to update the student-athlete about their account throughout the process. **Please note:** If a student has a sibling who has previously registered, they will need to use a different email address than the one in their sibling’s account.

BASIC STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

BASIC STUDENT EDUCATION HISTORY

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

If students need to edit or add schools after they have completed their registration, they can log back in to eligibilitycenter.org and visit the “Schools” section. They can select their schools listed and edit the information or add another school.

STUDENT SPORTS PARTICIPATION HISTORY

Students will select the sport(s) they plan to participate in at an NCAA school. For Certification

accounts, we will ask them to provide details for any expenses or awards they received, any teams they have practiced or played with or certain events in which they participated. We also ask about any individuals who have advised them or marketed their skills in a particular sport. This information helps the [Eligibility Center](#) certify a student’s amateur status when requested by the student or an NCAA school.

PAYMENT (CERTIFICATION ACCOUNTS ONLY)

A student’s Certification account registration is complete only after their registration fee is paid (or upon submission of a [fee waiver](#), if they are eligible). They may pay online by debit, credit card or e-check. The registration fee for students in the United States, U.S. territories (includes American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands) and Canada is \$90. The fee for all other international students is \$150. Profile Page accounts do not have a fee.

Students may receive a fee waiver if they qualify for a waiver of the SAT or ACT fee, or free or reduced lunch. A student’s high school counselor must submit fee waiver verification online to the student’s Eligibility Center account in order to qualify.

All fees are nonrefundable once students have successfully registered. If they completed a duplicate registration and paid their registration fee twice, they may be eligible for a refund of the duplicate registration fee. To receive a refund, they will need to complete and submit an [NCAA refund form](#).

WHAT ARE CORE COURSES?

To be considered college preparatory, a course must provide students the academic foundation for successful completion of academic work at the four-year college level. This includes a balanced evaluation of (a) a course's content and (b) the rigor of performance tasks and assessments.

COURSE CONTENT

This refers to what students are expected to know and do by the end of the course (e.g., content standards, desired learning outcomes, competencies, scope and sequence of topics, etc.). Specific examples of the criteria used for reviewing a course's content are available in Appendix A of the [High School Review Committee Policies and Procedures](#).

RIGOR OF PERFORMANCE TASKS AND ASSESSMENTS

To be approved, a course must include the application of knowledge through higher-order thinking and skills. Generally, this means a course shall include:

- » **Application of Skills and Concepts:** Assignments and assessments that require learners to apply information, conceptual knowledge and procedures to demonstrate subject matter mastery.
- » **Strategic Thinking:** Assignments and assessments that require learners to dissect large-scale knowledge and information into its smaller conceptual components.
- » **Extended Thinking:** Assignments and assessments that require linking multiple informational and knowledge-based elements to evaluate a concept as a whole.

Performance tasks and assessments may include quizzes, tests, projects-based assessments, midterm examinations, capstone experiences, final examinations, etc.

KEEP YOUR COURSE LIST UP TO DATE

After your school determines new course offerings, you should update your school's list of courses. If your school determines new course offerings in January and you promptly update your NCAA course list, course decisions will be made by the NCAA Eligibility Center in time for you to schedule students for the next academic year. You may update your school's list of NCAA courses through the [High School Portal](#), which also includes a [tutorial](#) on how to update your list.

Courses submitted through the High School Portal will be reviewed within three to five business days. Your high school's contacts will be notified by email of the status of the submitted courses.

CHANGING COURSE TITLES

If the title of a course is substantively changing, you should update your list in the [High School Portal](#). If it is simply a matter of word order, there is no need to submit the change. For example, Honors Biology, Biology Honors, H/Biology, HBio, BioH, Bio-H are all titles used to represent the same honors course in biology.

The following course title changes SHOULD BE updated:

- » *Freshman Composition to English 1;*
- » *Biology to Living Environment; and*
- » *Ancient Cultures to World History I.*

The following course title changes DO NOT need to be updated:

- » *Algebra 1 to Algebra I;*
- » *H Chem to Chem/H; or*
- » *Econ to Economics.*



ARCHIVING COURSE TITLES

You may choose to archive courses that are no longer taught, leaving them visible on your school's archived list. For example, if your school stopped teaching a class on Shakespeare at the end of the 2020-21 school year, you may archive it, even though students who took the class may still be working through the NCAA eligibility process. A student who completed Shakespeare in the 2020-21 school year or before may be able to use the course in their certification.

Some schools prefer to keep courses on their active list until the last students who could have taken the course graduate. Other schools prefer to archive their courses once they are no longer taught. What difference does it make? A more concise list can help students, families and coaches find active courses more easily. Archiving your courses and updating your list of courses can be done via the [High School Portal](#).

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN COURSES ARE DESIGNATED “ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED”?

When a course is designated “[Additional Information Required](#),” it means the review staff needs more documentation about the course to determine if it meets the criteria for review. The documentation may be uploaded through the [High School Portal](#) for review.

For courses that are not approved and have a specific reasoning code assigned to it (i.e., RC5, RC11, RC12 and RC17), you may also submit additional information as listed above if your school believes the course meets the NCAA core-course legislation and criteria for review. Make sure you read and understand the [criteria for review for core courses](#) before taking the time to gather and submit documentation.

AUDITED COURSES

There may be times when a course erroneously appears on a high school's list of NCAA courses. This may be due to changes in NCAA legislation, or a course that was mistakenly submitted or approved.

When it becomes necessary to audit a course from a list, the NCAA Eligibility Center staff works to ensure students who have taken such a course in the past are not negatively impacted by the removal. For example, if “Health” appeared on a high school's list of NCAA courses and was subsequently audited, it would appear as “Not Approved” beginning the next academic year, with a notation that the course may be used through the school year it was audited. Therefore, students who took the course before it was audited and removed still would be able to use the course in their NCAA academic certification.

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


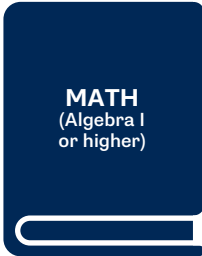

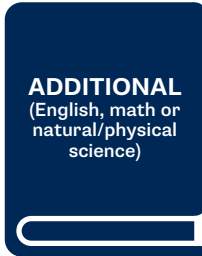


College courses may be used to satisfy core-course requirements if the courses are awarded a grade and credit by the high school for any student and meet all other requirements for core courses. College courses must be placed on the student's high school transcript with a designation that the course was completed through a two- or four-year college. Courses completed at a college should not be submitted for your high school's list of NCAA courses. Dual-enrollment courses that meet core-course requirements and are taught by your high school instructors should be submitted for inclusion on your school's core-course list.

DIVISION I ACADEMIC STANDARDS

College-bound student-athletes must meet academic and amateurism standards set by the NCAA membership to compete in Division I or II. At Division III schools, students must meet the admission standards set by the school for all incoming students and amateurism standards set by the NCAA membership.

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

1. Complete a total of 16 core courses in the following areas:

 <p>ENGLISH</p>	 <p>MATH (Algebra I or higher)</p>	 <p>NATURAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)</p>	 <p>ADDITIONAL (English, math or natural/physical science)</p>	 <p>SOCIAL SCIENCE</p>	 <p>ADDITIONAL COURSES (Any area listed to the left, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)</p>
4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years	4 years

2. Complete 10 of their 16 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before the start of their **seventh semester**. Once they begin their seventh semester, any course that is needed to meet the 10/7 requirement cannot be replaced or repeated. Students with solely international academic credentials (including Canada) are not required to meet the 10/7 requirement.





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

4. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA (minimum 2.3) on the **Division I full-qualifier sliding scale**. More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

5. Submit proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

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

$4 \times 4 = 16$

<div style="background-color: white; color: #003366; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">9TH GRADE</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or additional <p style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">4 CORE COURSES</p>  </div>	<div style="background-color: white; color: #003366; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">10TH GRADE</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or additional <p style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">4 CORE COURSES</p>  </div>	<div style="background-color: white; color: #003366; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">11TH GRADE</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or additional <p style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">4 CORE COURSES</p>  </div>	<div style="background-color: white; color: #003366; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">12TH GRADE</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or additional <p style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">4 CORE COURSES</p>  </div>
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ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

To receive an academic certification, students must have on file with the Eligibility Center:

- » A **final official transcript** with proof of graduation.
- » Official transcripts from all high schools attended.
- » Test scores.*
- » No open academic tasks.
- » Be on a Division I school's **institutional request list**.

*Information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

Being placed on a school's **institutional request list** means the student is being recruited and notifies the NCAA Eligibility Center to complete an academic evaluation for them after all of their required documents have been submitted.

Once an academic certification has been completed, students will receive one of the following decisions if they are being recruited by a Division I school:

Early Academic Qualifier

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

Minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 980 OR minimum ACT sum score of 75; and a core-course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses in the following areas:

- » Three years of English.
- » Two years of math.
- » Two years of science.
- » Two additional years of English, math or natural/physical science.
- » Five additional core courses in any area.

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

Qualifier

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

Academic Redshirt

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

Nonqualifier

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

WHAT IF A STUDENT DOESN'T GRADUATE ON TIME?

In Division I, if students don't graduate on time (in four years/eight semesters), the NCAA Eligibility Center will still use their grades and coursework for the first four years/eight semesters for certification. Students still need to provide proof of graduation (once they graduate) but may not use any coursework taken after their high school graduation toward their certification. Information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and delayed enrollment can be found at on.ncaa.com/DelayedEnroll.

COURSES TAKEN AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

For Division I, only courses completed in the first eight semesters will qualify as core courses. Students who graduate from high school on time (in four years/eight semesters) with their incoming ninth-grade class may use one core-course unit completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year) before full-time collegiate enrollment. Students may complete the core course at a location other than the high school from which they 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 their initial eligibility and awarded 0.5 units from their college transcript (unless awarded one full unit on their home high school transcript). It must appear on their 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. Information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and courses taken after high school can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

WHAT IF A STUDENT DOESN'T MEET THE DIVISION I STANDARDS?

If a student has not met all the Division I academic standards, they may not compete in their first year at a Division I school. However, if a student qualifies as an academic redshirt, they may practice during their first term in college and receive an athletics scholarship for the entire year.

To qualify as an academic redshirt, a student must graduate high school and meet all the following academic standards:

- » Complete 16 core courses in the appropriate areas.
- » Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching the core-course GPA (minimum 2.000) on the [Division I sliding scale](#). More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.
- » Submit proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.



SLIDING SCALE FOR DIVISION I

Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and core-course GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances the student's test score with their core-course GPA. To find more information about test scores, visit naaa.org/test-scores. More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE					
Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*	Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*
3.550	400	37	2.750	810	59
3.525	410	38	2.725	820	60
3.500	430	39	2.700	830	61
3.475	440	40	2.675	840	61
3.450	460	41	2.650	850	62
3.425	470	41	2.625	860	63
3.400	490	42	2.600	860	64
3.375	500	42	2.575	870	65
3.350	520	43	2.550	880	66
3.325	530	44	2.525	890	67
3.300	550	44	2.500	900	68
3.275	560	45	2.475	910	69
3.250	580	46	2.450	920	70
3.225	590	46	2.425	930	70
3.200	600	47	2.400	940	71
3.175	620	47	2.375	950	72
3.150	630	48	2.350	960	73
3.125	650	49	2.325	970	74
3.100	660	49	2.300	980	75
3.075	680	50	2.299	990	76
3.050	690	50	2.275	990	76
3.025	710	51	2.250	1000	77
3.000	720	52	2.225	1010	78
2.975	730	52	2.200	1020	79
2.950	740	53	2.175	1030	80
2.925	750	53	2.150	1040	81
2.900	750	54	2.125	1050	82
2.875	760	55	2.100	1060	83
2.850	770	56	2.075	1070	84
2.825	780	56	2.050	1080	85
2.800	790	57	2.025	1090	86
2.775	800	58	2.000	1100	86

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

*Full sliding scale research between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.

DIVISION II ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Division II schools require college-bound student-athletes to meet academic standards for NCAA-approved core courses, core-course GPA and test scores. More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in their first full-time year at a Division II school, students must graduate from high school and meet all the following requirements:

1. Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:



2. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches the student's core-course GPA (minimum 2.200) on the **Division II full-qualifier sliding scale**. More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.
3. Submit proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

To receive an academic certification, students must have on file with the Eligibility Center:

- » A **final official transcript** with proof of graduation.
- » Official transcripts from all other high schools attended.
- » Test scores.*
- » No open academic tasks.
- » Be on a Division II school's **institutional request list**.

*Information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

Being placed on a school's **institutional request list** means the student is being recruited and notifies the NCAA Eligibility Center to complete an academic evaluation for them after all of their required documents have been submitted.

Once an academic certification has been completed, students will receive one of the following decisions if they are being recruited by a Division II school:

Early Academic Qualifier

If students meet specific criteria listed below after six semesters, they may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division II and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment. Students will need:

Minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 900 or ACT sum score of 68; and a core-course GPA of 2.5 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses in the following areas:

- » Three years of English.
- » Three years of math.
- » Two years of natural or physical science.
- » Six additional core courses in any area.

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

Qualifier

Students may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

Partial Qualifier

Students enrolling at an NCAA member school Aug. 1, 2021, or later, that do not meet Division II qualifier standards 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 an NCAA Division II school.

CORE-COURSE TIMELINE

Students who plan to compete at a Division II school must complete 16 NCAA core courses after starting grade nine and before their first full-time college enrollment.

COURSES TAKEN AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

For Division II, students may use an unlimited number of core courses completed after graduation (summer or academic year) before full-time collegiate enrollment. They may complete the core course(s) at a location other than the high school from which they graduated. A college course taken after high school graduation may be used toward their initial eligibility and awarded 0.5 units from their college transcript (unless awarded one full unit on their home high school transcript). It must appear on their home high school transcript with grade and credit.

WHAT IF A STUDENT DOESN'T MEET THE DIVISION II STANDARDS?

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



SLIDING SCALE FOR DIVISION II

Division II uses a sliding scale to match test scores and core-course GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances the student's test score with their core-course GPA. To find more information about test scores, visit ncaa.org/test-scores. More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

DIVISION II FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*
3.300 & above	400	37
3.275	410	38
3.250	430	39
3.225	440	40
3.200	460	41
3.175	470	41
3.150	490	42
3.125	500	42
3.100	520	43
3.075	530	44
3.050	550	44
3.025	560	45
3.000	580	46
2.975	590	46
2.950	600	47
2.925	620	47
2.900	630	48
2.875	650	49
2.850	660	49
2.825	680	50
2.800	690	50
2.775	710	51
2.750	720	52
2.725	730	52
2.700	740	53
2.675	750	53
2.650	750	54
2.625	760	55
2.600	770	56
2.575	780	56
2.550	790	57
2.525	800	58
2.500	810	59
2.475	820	60
2.450	830	61
2.425	840	61
2.400	850	62
2.375	860	63
2.350	860	64
2.325	870	65
2.300	880	66
2.275	890	67
2.250	900	68
2.225	910	69
2.200	920	70 & above

*Full sliding scale research between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.



GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates core-course GPAs based on the grades students earn in NCAA-approved core courses. Only the best grades from the required number of NCAA core courses will be used. This means that the cumulative GPA listed on the student's high school transcript could be different than the NCAA core-course GPA used in their certification. Their core-course GPA is based solely on the grades they received in NCAA-approved core courses. To find your school's NCAA-approved core-course list, visit eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.

GPAs are calculated on a 4.000 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are converted 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 NCAA Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating a core-course GPA. For example, grades of B+, B and B- each will be worth three quality points. Weighting may be applied to courses whose titles indicate they are honors, AP/IB or advanced (such as Pre-AP/Pre-IB) to improve a student's core-course GPA. However, the high school must **notify** the NCAA Eligibility Center that it weights grades in these classes.

In "Pass/Fail" grading situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center will assign the high school's lowest passing grade for a course in which the student received a "Pass" grade. For most high schools, the lowest passing grade is a D, so the NCAA Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade. Information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and Pass/Fail grades can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

CALCULATING A STUDENT'S QUALITY POINTS

In order to determine the quality points earned for each course, multiply the quality points for the grade by the amount of credit earned.

Examples:

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

Use the worksheets on [pages 27](#) and [28](#) to help determine a student's core-course GPA.

QUALITY POINTS

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

UNITS OF CREDIT

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

TEST SCORES

Divisions I and II both require students to have an SAT or ACT score for their certification. Every time students register for the **SAT** or **ACT**, they can use code **9999** to send their scores directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores on transcripts will **NOT** be used in a student's academic certification.

A combined SAT score is calculated by adding critical reading and math subscores. An ACT sum score is calculated by adding English, math, reading and science subscores. Students may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before they enroll full time in college. If students take either test more than once, the best subscores from different tests are used to give them the best possible score. More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

DIVISION III INFORMATION

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.

If students are planning to attend a Division III school, they can create a free Profile Page account at eligibilitycenter.org to learn more about college sports. Division III schools set their own admissions and eligibility standards. Students can visit ncaa.org/d3 or contact the Division III school they are planning to attend to learn more.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE



HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

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 reteaching 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.

Home school courses must meet all of the requirements of NCAA-approved core courses and, when appropriate, nontraditional courses.

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.

If you know home school students who want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school, they will need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and meet the same standards as all other students. Find more information about home school students [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

If you are assisting international college-bound student-athletes or students who attended secondary school outside of the United States, please refer to the [Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#) to determine when the student began year nine in their former pattern of education and the impact if reclassifying this student. You can also contact the NCAA Eligibility Center through our [International Contact Form](#). International students can also access our [country-specific web pages](#) with the academic requirements for that country.

International college-bound student-athletes must submit the following academic documents:

- » 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.
- » SAT or ACT test score. More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

Failure to include any of these items may delay review of the student's records. In certain situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center may request additional academic documentation to clarify that the student's academic information is complete, valid and accurate. [Click here](#) for more information about international registration and document submission.



ROLE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL

We know that, as a high school counselor, you are pulled in many different directions every day. We would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You!” for the efforts that you put forth for student-athletes. When working with future NCAA student-athletes, here are some guidelines that can help streamline your efforts:

WHAT STUDENTS NEED FROM THEIR HIGH SCHOOL

- » Maintain your school’s account to ensure it is accurate and up to date. We recommend you update your [NCAA list of core courses](#) after your school determines new course offerings, but before you begin registering students for those courses.
- » Upload official transcripts for all student-athletes at the end of each academic year and when they graduate high school.
- » [Submit fee waivers](#) online for student registrations, when applicable.
- » Respond to “tasks” assigned by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

HOW HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS CAN HELP THEIR STUDENTS

- » Know Division I and II initial-eligibility standards and [where to find them](#).
- » Encourage your college-bound student-athletes to create a Profile Page account at [eligibilitycenter.org](#) before their freshman/ninth year of high school.
- » Help students calculate their [core-course GPA](#) with the worksheets on [pages 27](#) and [28](#).

One of the main tools you will use as a counselor is the [High School Portal](#). Through the portal, your school’s primary or secondary contacts may submit core-course changes, upload official transcripts, [submit fee waivers](#), search for students from your high school who have registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center and update your school’s contact information. You can find a tutorial on using the portal [here](#).

RESPONSIBILITIES THAT MAY BE DELEGATED TO OTHER INDIVIDUALS

- » *Who determines who should and should not register with the NCAA Eligibility Center?*
 - The student’s family should make the final decision on whether the student should register for a Certification account (Division I or II) or a Profile Page account (undecided or Division III). High school counselors should encourage students to create a Profile Page account until they want to take an official visit, sign an NLI or are being actively recruited by a Division I or II school, at which time they can transition their account to a Certification account.
 - Coaches should provide advice on how likely it is that the student will play NCAA sports.
- » *How are students noticed or recruited for college sports?*
 - Coaches should advise and assist students during the recruiting process.
 - The student’s family should contact [NCAA schools](#) the student is interested in attending.
- » *Who helps the student and their family understand recruiting rules?*
 - The NCAA school(s) recruiting the student should ensure the recruiting rules are followed. Rules differ by [sport and division](#).
- » *How does a student meet eligibility requirements?*
 - The ability to meet initial-eligibility requirements is the responsibility of the student.
 - When an academic certification is requested by an NCAA member school, the NCAA Eligibility Center will perform a certification based on the academic information provided by the student and high school(s). This certification determines if the student is eligible to compete in Divisions I and/or II.
 - Student-athlete academic achievement begins in **grade nine**. Eligibility is a four-year process and every semester counts.

Want this information in a printable form? [Click here](#) to access our Quick Tips.



ACCESSING YOUR SCHOOL'S ACCOUNT

If your school has an account, please log in with your six-digit high school code and password. Your high school will also have a five-digit PIN. This will be required as validation for contacts who call the Eligibility Center's Customer Service team. **Note:** Each high school account only has one unique password that is shared between contacts.

You can keep your code and PIN handy by entering them in the form below:

HS Code

PIN

FORGOT YOUR PASSWORD?

- » If you are listed as a current contact in your school's account and have forgotten your password, please select "Forgot Password? Click here to reset it" on the [High School Portal](#) login page. A temporary password will be sent to your email. You will use this temporary password to log in and create a new password. If you do not receive a temporary password, please contact our Customer Service team at 877-622-2321.
- » If you are a new contact and need to access your high school's account, please complete the [High School Contact Change Form](#).
- » If you have forgotten your PIN, log in to your account, click "High School Info," then select "View/Update PIN" from the dropdown.

If you do not yet have an account with courses listed, please call our Customer Service team to start the [high school account review process](#).

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR RESOURCES

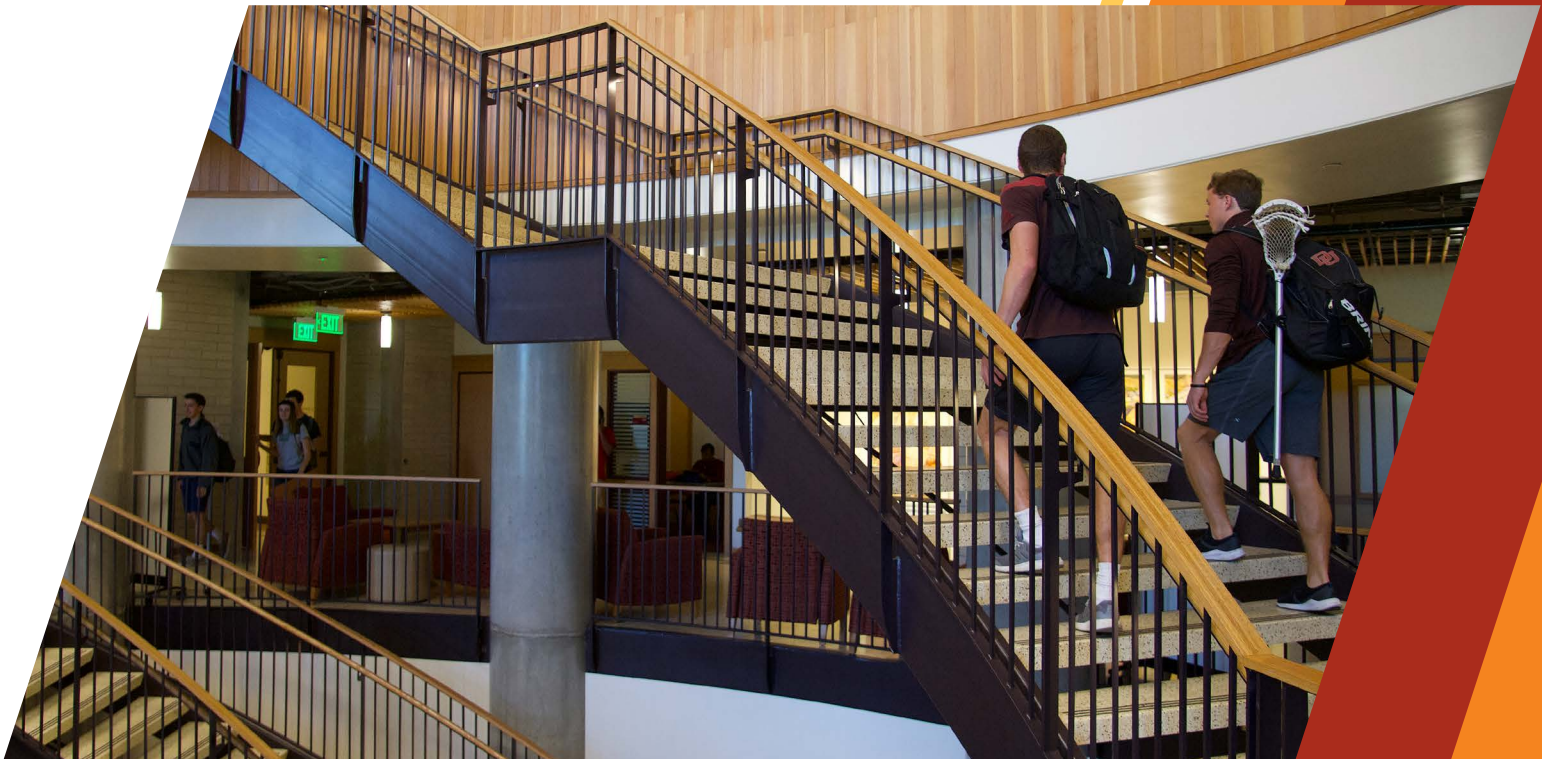
As a high school counselor, you play an important role in helping students understand the requirements to study and compete in college sports at an NCAA school. Below are resources to help answer additional questions not answered in this guide.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

- [How to Use the High School Portal](#)
- [Resources for High School Administrators](#)
- [Division I Academic Requirements](#)
- [Division II Academic Requirements](#)
- [Fee Waiver Submission Tutorial](#)
- [High School Presentation Resources](#)
- [High School Counselor Quick Tips](#)
- [High School Tasks Tutorial](#)
- [Home School Toolkit](#)
- [Initial-Eligibility Flyer](#)
- [What is a Core Course?](#)

FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- [Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#)
- [Initial-Eligibility Flyer](#)
- [NCAA Eligibility Center Registration](#)
(eligibilitycenter.org)
- [NCAA Eligibility Center Information](#)
(ncaa.org/playcollegesports)
- [National Letter of Intent](#)
- [Our Three Divisions](#)
- [Student FAQs](#)



SENDING TRANSCRIPTS

High schools have the capability to upload transcripts directly to a student's account from the [High School Portal](#). It's free and easy! When transcripts are uploaded directly to a student's account, the NCAA Eligibility Center has near real-time access to the transcript. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to use this process.

Electronic transcripts are accepted and, while posted to a student's Eligibility Center account the same day it is sent, may take up to three business days to process. The NCAA Eligibility Center will accept official electronic transcripts from any of the approved e-transcript providers listed below:

- » Cialfo
- » [Credentials/eScrip-Safe](#)
- » National Student Clearinghouse
- » National Transcript Center
- » Naviance (management tool for schools that utilize Parchment as the backend for delivering e-transcripts)
- » NeedMyTranscript
- » [Parchment \(aka Docufide\)](#)
- » SCOIR
- » Scribbles Software
- » State of Georgia comes in DIRECT
- » USMO ET (Speede)
- » [XAP](#)

Transcripts also may be mailed; please allow four days for processing from the day of receipt. (Uploading via the [High School Portal](#) is considered best practice.) In order to send a transcript by U.S. mail or through overnight express delivery service, please use the appropriate address listed on [page 3](#).





WHAT IS HIGH SCHOOL REVIEW?

High School Review determines which high schools, high school programs and high school courses may be used in the academic certification process. The High School Review staff partners with high schools and districts, as well as leading secondary education organizations, to stay current with changes in educational policies and practices. This team is staffed by individuals from the secondary and post-secondary school communities who have served previously as teachers, administrators, high school counselors and coaches.

FOR HIGH SCHOOLS NEW TO THE NCAA

If you would like your high school or program reviewed for use in initial-eligibility certifications and your school does not have an account with the NCAA Eligibility Center (or your school's account status is "None"), call our high school support line at 877-622-2321, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time. The Customer Service team will take some basic demographic information from you, including contact names, phone numbers and emails. An email will be sent to the contacts you provide, with the login and PIN information, to begin the account review process.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the account review process.

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.

Please see Nontraditional Courses (NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.2.2) for a [complete list of requirements](#).

If a nontraditional course or program at your school/district has not yet been reviewed by the NCAA, please contact NCAA Eligibility Center Customer Service staff at 877-622-2321 to begin the review process. Information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and review of nontraditional and online courses can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

When viewing your [school/program's course list](#), 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.

CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAMS

Many high schools offer credit recovery or credit retrieval programs for students to receive credit for a course they previously failed. These courses are also reviewed by the High School Review staff.

For a credit recovery program to be approved, the courses must meet the following requirements:

1. The courses must meet NCAA core-course requirements and, in some instances, nontraditional course requirements.
2. The high school must follow its credit recovery policies, regardless if the student is an athlete. The NCAA Eligibility Center may request the high school's policy, if necessary.
3. Repeated courses must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively, to the previously attempted course.

DIVISION I WORKSHEET

This worksheet is provided to assist your students in monitoring their progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine their academic status after they graduate. Encourage them to check their high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses for the classes they 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 (4 YEARS REQUIRED)						
10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
✓	Example: English 9	.50		A		(.5 x 4) = 2
	TOTAL ENGLISH UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

MATHEMATICS (3 YEARS REQUIRED)						
10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
✓	Example: Algebra I	1.0		B		(1.0 x 3) = 3
	TOTAL MATHEMATICS UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)						
10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

ADDITIONAL YEAR IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS OR NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (1 YEAR REQUIRED)						
10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL ADDITIONAL UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)						
10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSES (4 YEARS REQUIRED)						
10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT		GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

	TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA		/		=	
--	---	--	---	--	---	--

QUALITY POINTS / CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA

Sixteen core courses are required for their core-course GPA. Ten core courses must be completed before the seventh semester; seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science.

DIVISION II WORKSHEET

This worksheet is provided to assist your students in monitoring their progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine their academic status after they graduate. Encourage them to check their high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses for the classes they 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	.50		A		(.5 x 4) = 2						
TOTAL ENGLISH UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS						
MATHEMATICS (2 YEARS REQUIRED)											
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)						
Example: Algebra I	1.0		B		(1.0 x 3) = 3						
TOTAL MATHEMATICS UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS						
NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)											
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)						
TOTAL NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS						
ADDITIONAL YEARS IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS OR NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (3 YEARS REQUIRED)											
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)						
TOTAL ADDITIONAL UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS						
SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)											
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)						
TOTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS						
ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSES (4 YEARS REQUIRED)											
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)						
TOTAL ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS						
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">/</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">=</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">QUALITY POINTS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">/</td> <td style="text-align: center;">CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA</td> </tr> </table>						TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA	/	=	QUALITY POINTS	/	CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA
TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA	/	=									
QUALITY POINTS	/	CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA									

SCHOLARSHIPS

NCAA Division I and II schools provide more than \$2.7 billion in athletics scholarships annually to more than 150,000 student-athletes. Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships.

Only about **2%** 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 a student-athlete experience.

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. Students must report all financial aid they receive to their NCAA school's financial aid office. If students have questions about what financial aid can be accepted, they should contact their NCAA school's financial aid office and athletics department for help.

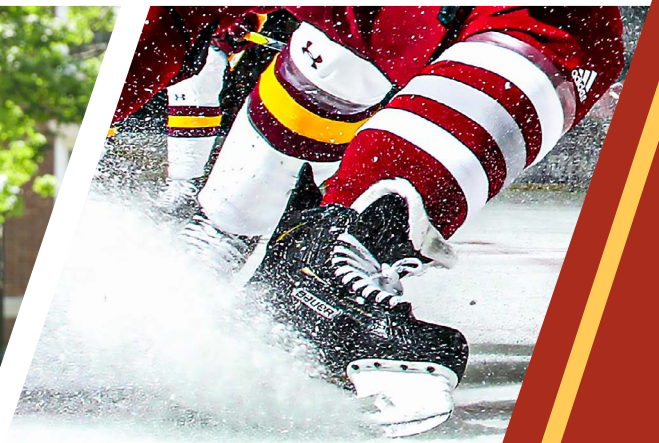
If a school plans to reduce or not renew a student's aid, the school must notify them in writing by July 1 prior to the start of the impacted school year and provide an opportunity for them to appeal. In most cases, the head coach decides who receives the scholarship, the scholarship amount and whether it will be renewed. Students should contact the NCAA school they hope to attend for more detailed information about NCAA financial aid rules.

NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

A **National Letter of Intent** is signed by a student, agreeing to attend a Division I or II school for one academic year. NLI member schools agree to provide athletics financial aid to the student for a minimum of one academic year as long as the student is admitted to the school and is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules.

The NLI is voluntary and not required for students 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 a student signs an NLI but decides to attend another college, the signee may request a release, but it is the school's discretion to grant their NLI release or not. If a student signs an NLI with one school but attends a different school, they lose one full year of eligibility and must complete a full academic year at the new school before being eligible to compete. If students have questions about the NLI, they should visit the NLI website at nationalletter.org.



IMPORTANT RECRUITING TERMS

Celebratory standardized signing form (*a form used by Division III schools*): The celebratory standardized signing form is a standard NCAA-provided, nonbinding athletics celebratory signing form after a college-bound student-athlete has been accepted for enrollment at a Division III school.

Contact: A contact happens any time a college coach says more than “Hello” during a face-to-face meeting with a student or the student’s family members off the college’s campus.

Contact period: During a contact period, a college coach may have face-to-face contact with a student or a student’s family members, watch the student compete or visit the student’s high school, and call or write the student or the student’s family members.

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

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

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

Financial aid (scholarship): Any money a student receives 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 a student plays at a Division I school, the student has five calendar years in which to play four seasons of competition. A student’s five-year clock starts when the student enrolls as a full-time student at any college. Thereafter, the clock continues, even if the student spends an academic year in residence as a result of transferring, decides to redshirt, does not attend school or attends part time during their college career.

Full-time student: Each school determines what full-time status means. Typically, a student is a full-time student if they 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 (except Quebec).

Official commitment: When a student officially commits to attend a Division I or II college, the student signs 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 a student (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 the student 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 a student on an official visit, the student will have to provide the college with a copy of their high school transcript and register for a Certification account with the **Eligibility Center**. In Division I, the student may not make an official visit during a recruiting shutdown period or a dead period. In Division II, the student 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 a student or the student’s family members off the college’s campus. A coach may not watch the student play or visit the student’s high school during this period. The student and their family members may visit a college campus during this time. A coach may call or write the student or their family members during this time.

Recruited: If a college coach contacts a student off campus, pays a student’s expenses to visit the campus, or (in Division I and II), issues a **National Letter of Intent** or a written offer of financial aid, the student is considered to be recruited.

Recruiting calendar: NCAA member schools limit recruiting to certain periods during the year. **Recruiting calendars** promote the well-being of college-bound student-athletes and ensure fairness among schools by defining certain periods during the year in which recruiting may or may not occur in a particular sport.

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 marketing or receiving telephone calls) are permissible.

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

Ten-semester/15-quarter clock: If a student plays at a Division II or III school, the student has the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which they are enrolled as a full-time student to complete four seasons of competition. A student uses a semester or quarter any time they attend class as a full-time student or are enrolled part time and compete for the school. A student does not use a term if they 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 degree within two years. Some people call these schools community colleges or junior colleges.

Unofficial visit: Any visit by a student and the student's family members to a college campus paid for by the student

or the student's family members. The only expense a student 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. The student may make as many unofficial visits as they like after the first permissible date in each sport. The only time the student 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, the student may not make an unofficial visit during a dead period. In Division III, they may receive one on-campus meal as well as admission to a home athletics event for the student and those accompanying them.

Verbal commitment: A verbal commitment happens when a student verbally agrees to play sports for a college before they sign or are eligible to sign a **National Letter of Intent**. The commitment is not binding on the student or the school and can be made at any time.

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



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