



HONEST GAME[®]

We Believe In The Power Of Sport Beyond Profit and Its' Power To Transform People And Communities



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4 Year NCAA DI Student-Athlete

14+ Years Assistant Athletic Director at Oak Park & River Forest High School (Oak Park, IL)

2021 IADA Assistant Athletic Director of the Year

7+ Years USA Field Hockey Region Futures Program Director

IL High School Field Hockey Association

B.A. University of Rhode Island

COURSE OVERVIEW

HONESTGAME®

- ✓ Opportunities for College Athletics
- ✓ Academic Eligibility 101 for College Athletics
- ✓ Registering with the NCAA and NAIA Eligibility Centers
- ✓ Honest Game Software



Opportunities for College Athletics

2 million + college students play club sports each year!					
	NAIA	NCAA DI	NCAA DII	NCAA DIII	NJCAA
# SCHOOLS	250	361	300	400	525
# STUDENT-ATHLETES	83,000	204,000	136,000	200,000	70,000
# SPORTS OFFERED	30	24	29	28	28
ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES (DI/DII) NO (DIII)

NCAA OPPORTUNITIES

DIVISION	 DIVISION I	 DIVISION II <i>MAKE IT YOURS.</i>	 DIVISION III DISCOVER DEVELOP DEDICATE
ACTIVE SCHOOLS*	361 (33%)	292 (27%)	422 (39%)
MEDIAN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT	8,800	2,100	1,700
STUDENTS WHO ARE ATHLETES	1 in 22 	1 in 7 	1 in 5 
AVERAGE NUMBER OF TEAMS PER SCHOOL	19	17	19

DIVISION	 DIVISION I	 DIVISION II <i>MAKE IT YOURS.</i>	 DIVISION III DISCOVER DEVELOP DEDICATE
PERCENTAGE OF NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETES IN EACH DIVISION	 37%	 24%	 38%
ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS	Multiyear, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships available. 57% of athletes receive athletics aid.	Partial athletics scholarship model. 62% of athletes receive athletics aid.	No athletics scholarships. 80% of athletes receive nonathletics aid.
DID YOU KNOW?	 Division I schools award over \$3 billion in athletics scholarships.	 Division II is the only division with schools in Alaska, Puerto Rico and Canada.	 Division III's largest school has 28,974 undergraduates. The smallest? 339.

*The number of schools for each division is current as of the 2025-26 academic year. All other figures are based on 2024-25 data. Percentages shown for schools and student-athletes represent numbers at active NCAA schools, so they do not add up to 100%.

What Student-Athletes Should Expect

Hours Spent on Activities Per Week (168 Hours Total)

Division I			
85 Other (e.g., sleep, job, extracurriculars)	14.5 Socializing	35.5 Academics	33 Athletics
Division II			
84.5 Other (e.g., sleep, job, extracurriculars)	15.5 Socializing	37 Academics	31 Athletics
Division III			
84.5 Other (e.g., sleep, job, extracurriculars)	15.5 Socializing	40 Academics	28 Athletics

*Medians collected from the 2019 NCAA GOALS study.

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 & Tumbling
Football	Field Hockey	Fencing	Bowling	Golf	Golf	Equestrian (DI/DIIII only)
Soccer	Soccer	Gymnastics	Fencing	Lacrosse	Lacrosse	Rugby
Water Polo	Volleyball	Ice Hockey	Gymnastics	Outdoor Track & Field	Outdoor Track & Field	Stunt
		Indoor Track & Field	Ice Hockey	Tennis	Rowing	Triathlon
		Rifle	Indoor Track & Field	Volleyball	Softball	
		Skiing	Rifle		Tennis	
		Swimming & Diving	Skiing		Water Polo	
		Wrestling	Swimming & Diving			
			Wrestling			

NAIA OPPORTUNITIES

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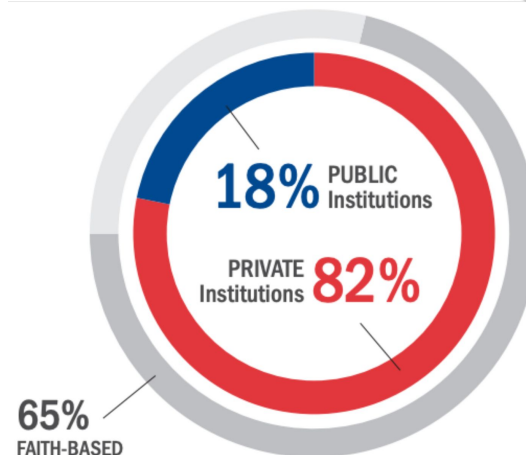
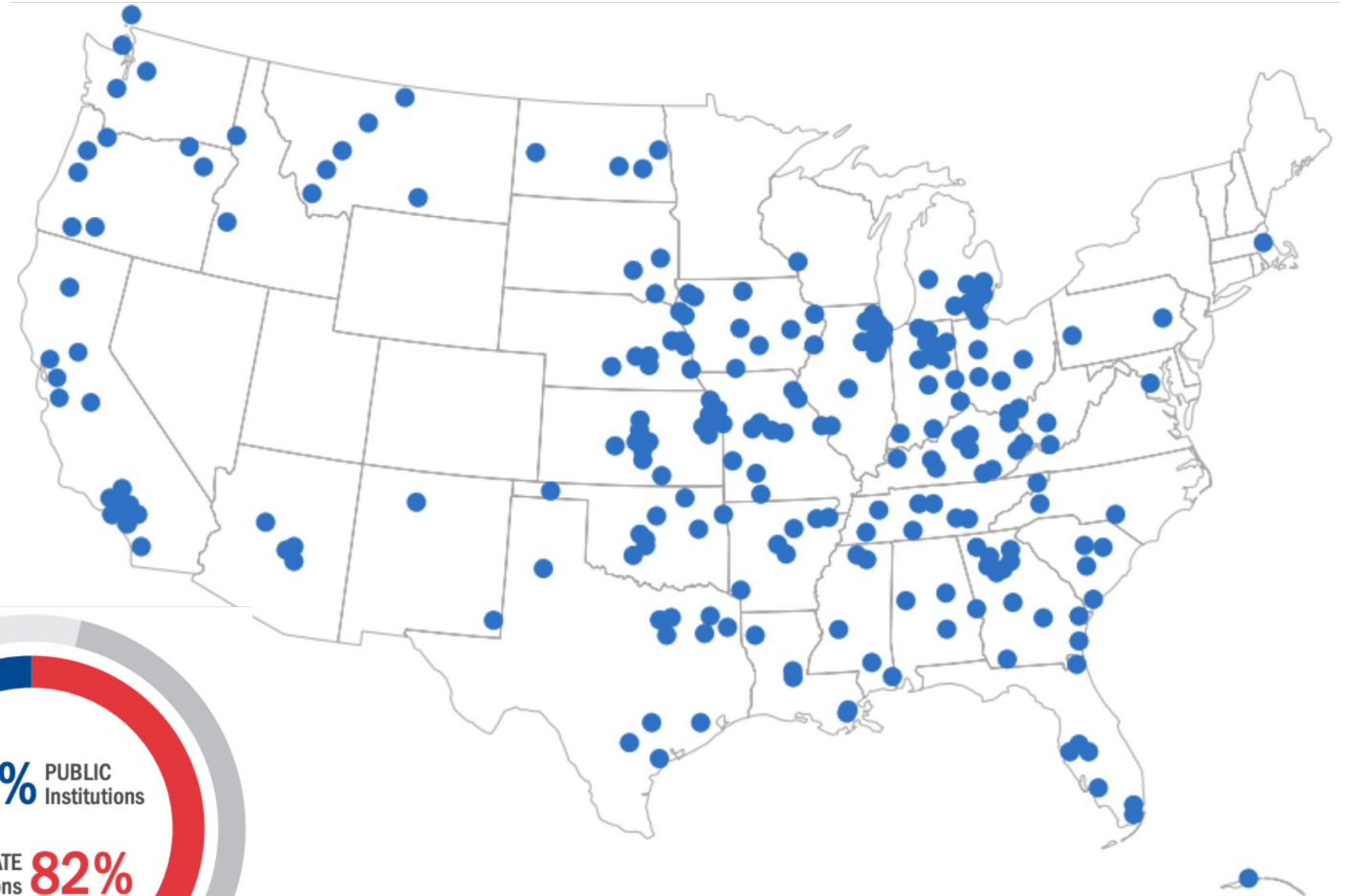


250 NAIA Schools

98 NAIA Football Programs

20 NAIA Conferences

29 National Championship Sports



Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports	Invitational
Cross Country (M)	Basketball (M)	Baseball	Beach Volleyball (W)
Cross Country (W)	Bowling (M)	Golf (M)	Flag Football (W)
Football	Bowling (W)	Golf (W)	
Soccer (M)	Competitive Cheer	Lacrosse (M)	
Soccer (W)	Competitive Dance	Lacrosse (W)	
Volleyball (W)	Indoor Track & Field (M)	Outdoor Track & Field (M)	
	Indoor Track & Field (W)	Outdoor Track & Field (W)	
	Swimming & Diving (M)	Softball	
	Swimming & Diving (W)	Tennis (M)	
	Wrestling (M)	Tennis (W)	
	Wrestling (W)	Volleyball (M)	

NJCAA OPPORTUNITIES

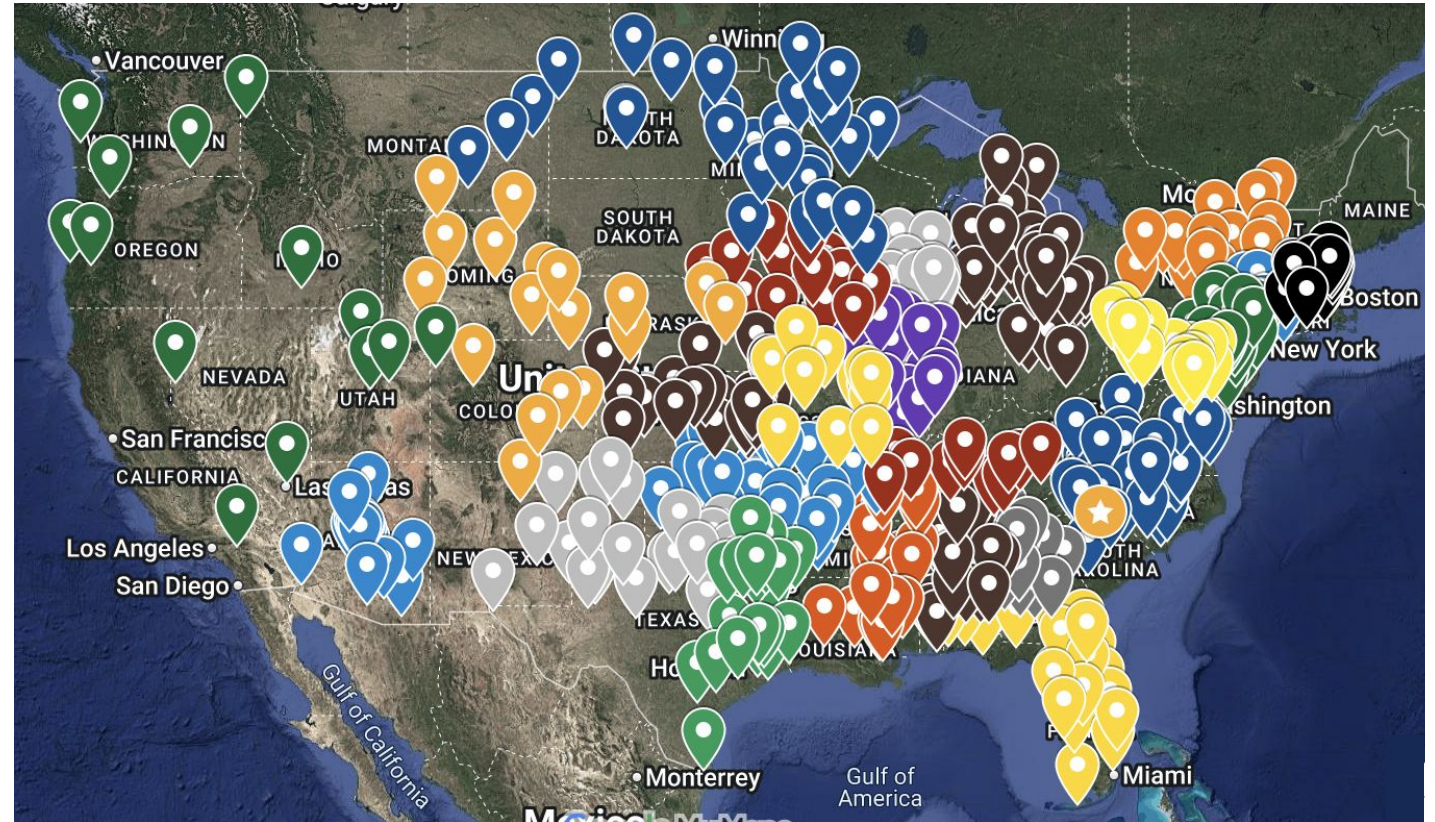
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525 NJCAA Schools

70,000 NJCAA Student-Athletes

Athletics Scholarships Available
for NJCAA DI and DII (*not available for DIII*)



NJCAA OPPORTUNITIES

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Men's Sports	Women's Sports	Co-Ed Sports
Baseball (DI / DII / DIII)	Basketball (DI / DII / DIII)	Cheer
Basketball (DI / DII / DIII)	Beach Volleyball	Clay Shooting
Bowling	Bowling	
Cross Country (DI / DII / DIII)	Cross Country (DI / DII / DIII)	
Football (DI / DII)	Flag Football	
Golf (DI / DII / DIII)	Golf (DI / DII / DIII)	
Lacrosse	Soccer (DI / DII / DIII)	
Soccer (DI / DII / DIII)	Softball (DI / DII / DIII)	
Swimming & Diving	Swimming & Diving	
Tennis (DI / DII)	Tennis (DI / DII)	
Track & Field	Track & Field	
Volleyball	Volleyball (DI / DII / DIII)	
Wrestling	Wrestling	



Academic Eligibility 101 for College Sports

Don't get caught by surprise!

Students can be admitted to college, rostered to a team, and then discover they are NCAA or NAIA **academic non-qualifiers**, making them **ineligible for scholarships or to compete** at the college level.

By the time students learn they are ineligible, it's too late to fix.



Uses a combination of a student-athlete's high school coursework and their NCAA Core GPA as calculated using NCAA-approved Core Courses.

DI

Minimum 2.3 NCAA Core GPA in 16 NCAA-approved Core Courses (10 before the start of senior year)

DII

Minimum a 2.2 NCAA core GPA in 16 NCAA-approved Core Courses

DIII

No NCAA course requirements. Must meet the admissions standards for the institution, with full eligibility in accordance with the NCAA academic requirements

NCAA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY | THE BASICS

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No more SAT/ACT requirement for NCAA eligibility - and no sliding scale for GPA/test scores.



Online or hybrid classes can still count, but only if they appear on your school's NCAA Eligibility Center Portal.



Registration fees for NCAA account costs have gone up - and there's now a cheaper option for students who only need to confirm athletic status (DIII domestic and international students).



New NCAA age-based eligibility rule provides student-athletes with 5 calendar years to play 5 seasons of competition.



*** Freshman student-athletes** are encouraged to sign up for the free NCAA Profile Page Account.

What is an NCAA Core Course?

NCAA Core courses must meet the below requirements to be approved by the NCAA:

- ✓ **Must be a four-year college preparatory course receiving high school graduation credit.**
- ✓ **Must be at or above your high school's regular academic level.**
- ✓ **Must be taught by a qualified instructor as defined by school regulations.**

Approved Subject Areas

English

Math
(Algebra I or higher)

Natural / Physical Science

Social Science

Foreign Language

Comparative Religion
or Philosophy

 **Important Note:** Not all high school classes are NCAA core courses. Each high school has its own list of NCAA-approved courses, which must be submitted and approved by the NCAA by each school.

NCAA Core courses must be on your high school's list of NCAA-approved courses

Search your school's
NCAA Portal for
approved courses



High School Search

Search for a High School's Course List
Search for a high school by six-digit high school code or CEEB/ACT code. If you don't know your high school's code or CEEB/ACT code, search by city, state or high school name.

High School Code:

OR CEEB/ACT Code:

OR

State:

ALL ▼

City:

High School Name:

Search

What is an NCAA Core GPA?

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates student-athletes GPA (DI/DII level) based on the grades earned in the 16 NCAA-approved core courses that are completed in high school (32 semesters).



STUDENT A: ELIGIBLE NCAA GPA



School GPA

2.06



NCAA Core GPA

2.50

Low School GPA but Eligible NCAA Core GPA

A lower overall school GPA didn't prevent this student from qualifying. Their NCAA Core GPA met the required threshold.



STUDENT B: INELIGIBLE NCAA GPA



School GPA

2.61



NCAA Core GPA

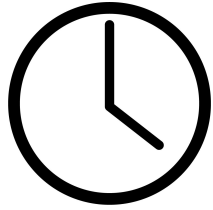
2.20

High School GPA but Ineligible NCAA Core GPA

A strong overall school GPA wasn't enough. This student was ineligible because their NCAA Core GPA fell below the NCAA's required threshold.

NCAA DI QUALIFIER POINTERS

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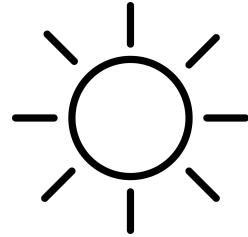


Each Semester Counts Equally

Average 4 NCAA-approved courses each year

In total 16 (32 semesters) NCAA-approved courses

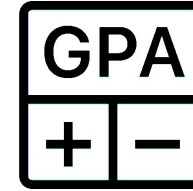
10 (20 semesters) NCAA courses must be completed before start senior year



Summer School or Virtual Courses

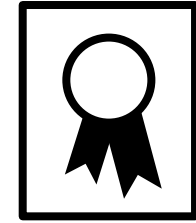
Catching up on courses during the summer or taking virtual courses is encouraged

Not every course is NCAA approved, check approved course list



Core GPA in NCAA courses

Earn a minimum 2.3 Core GPA in NCAA Core Courses



NCAA D1 Qualifier Status

Student registers with NCAA Eligibility Center, submits transcript and completes NCAA Eligibility Center Amateurism Survey

Student completes 16 NCAA approved courses:

4 English | 3 Math | 2 Nat Sci | 1 Eng/Nat Sci/Math | 2 Soc Sci | 4 Add'l Courses

What is the NCAA Core GPA for a DI Full Qualifier?

Student-Athletes must earn at least a 2.3 GPA in their NCAA Core Courses.

Early Academic Qualifier: College-bound student-athletes may practice, compete, and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment if they meet specific criteria after three consecutive academic years (6 semesters) of high school.

Qualifier: College-bound student-athletes may practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships during their first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

Academic Redshirt: College-bound student-athletes may receive athletics scholarships during their first year of enrollment and may practice during their first regular academic term, but may NOT compete during their first year of enrollment.

Nonqualifier: College-bound student-athletes cannot practice, receive athletics scholarships or compete during their first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

What is the NCAA Core GPA for a DII Full Qualifier?

Student-Athletes must earn at least a 2.2 GPA in their NCAA Core Courses.

Early Academic Qualifier: College-bound student-athletes may practice, compete, and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment if they meet specific criteria after three consecutive academic years (6 semesters) of high school.

Qualifier: College-bound student-athletes may practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships during their first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

Partial Qualifier: College-bound student-athletes may receive athletics scholarships during their first year of enrollment and may practice during their first year of enrollment, but may NOT compete during their first year of enrollment.

Nonqualifier: does not exist at the NCAA DII level.

What is an NCAA Early Qualifier?

Early Academic Qualifier status is designated for prospective student-athletes who meet certain academic thresholds **after six semesters of high school**. EQs are eligible to compete, practice and receive athletics aid during their first year of full-time enrollment.

NCAA DI EQ Requirements

Must achieve an **NCAA Core GPA of 3.0** or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses in the following areas:

- 3 years of English
- 2 years of Math
- 2 years of Natural/Physical Science
- 2 additional years of English, Math or Natural/Physical Science
- 5 additional core courses in any area

NCAA DII EQ Requirements

Must achieve an **NCAA Core GPA of 2.5** or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses in the following areas:

- 3 years of English
- 2 years of math
- 2 years of natural/physical science
- 6 additional core courses in any area



A final high school transcript must be submitted to the Eligibility Center

What is the NCAA 10/7 Rule?

ONLY FOR NCAA DI

10 Core Courses Completed Before the Start of the 7th Semester

NCAA DI-bound students must complete **10 core courses** before the start of their **7th semester** (senior year) in high school.

★ Of those 10, **7 must be in English, Math, or Science.**

Locked-In Grades

Once high school senior year starts, grades achieved in the 10/7 courses are **locked in** for NCAA core GPA calculation.

These courses **cannot be replaced or repeated** once senior year begins.

Ineligibility Risk

If a student-athlete does not meet the NCAA 10/7 rule by the mandatory deadline, they will be deemed a **Non-Qualifier** and will be **ineligible to play at an NCAA DI school** right after high school.

Education-Impacting Disability (EID)

For academic eligibility purposes, the NCAA defines an EID as a current impairment that has a substantial educational impact on a student's academic performance and required accommodation must be approved by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

A high school student with a documented EID must meet the same initial-eligibility requirements as other students but may be provided certain accommodations to help meet those requirements.

A course for students with EIDs may count towards the NCAA academic eligibility requirements if it:

- is designated for students with EIDs
- must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively, as a regular core course offered in that academic area
- must appear on the high school's list of approved core courses as a EID version “=Algebra 1”

Education-Impacting Disability (EID)

Students planning on attending an NCAA DI school and **whose EID documentation is approved by the NCAA Eligibility Center:**

- may take up to **3 additional core courses after graduating high school** and before enrolling full-time at a DI school if they graduate high school in eight consecutive semesters after starting ninth grade.

Students planning on attending a NCAA DII school and **whose EID documentation is approved by the NCAA Eligibility Center:**

- may take **an unlimited number of core courses after starting 9th grade and before enrolling full-time at a Division II school.**



Students who do not meet the **2.3 minimum overall high school GPA requirement** upon graduation may still become eligible to compete at an NAIA school by meeting **2 of the following 3 criteria:**



GPA

Minimum overall high school GPA of **2.0** (on a 4.0 scale)



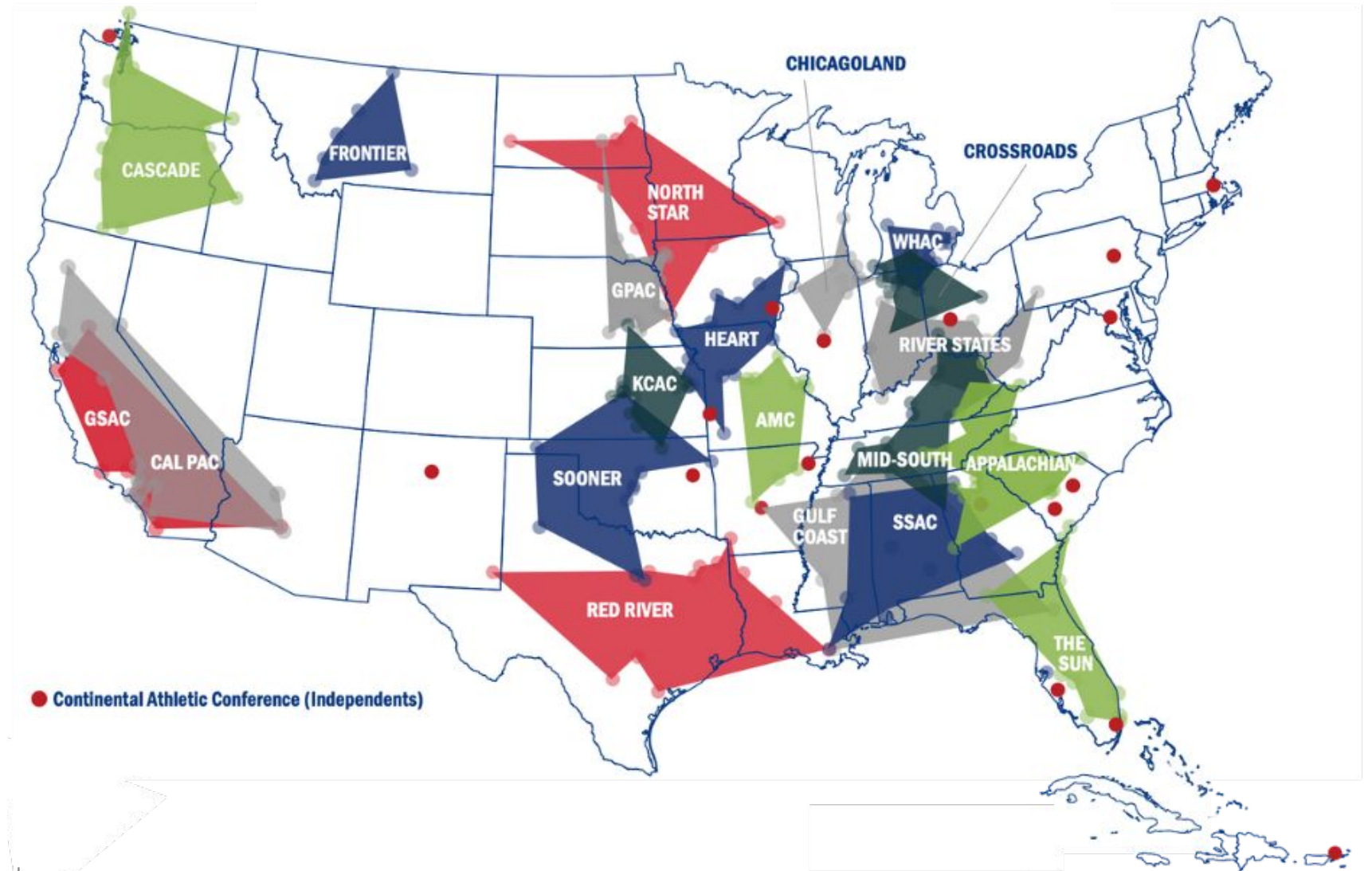
TEST SCORE

Minimum test score of **18** on the ACT or **970** on the SAT



CLASS RANK

Graduate in the **top half (50%)** of their high school class



Academic Basics & Eligibility

- ✓ Two-year colleges are allowed to set their own academic standards.
- ✓ Generally, student-athletes **must graduate high school with an academic diploma, GED, or a State Department of Education-approved high school equivalency test.**
- ✓ NCAA initial-eligibility is crucial to understand prior to attending a JUCO if you intend to transfer to a 4-year school.
- ✓ Non-qualifiers who attend JUCO are held to different academic and enrollment requirements than initial-qualifiers.

★ NCAA DI Transfer Update

Significant rule changes directly affect student-athletes transferring from two-year to DI schools.

GPA Requirement Reduction
GPA lowered from 2.5 to 2.0

Credit-Hour Alignment
Transfer credit-hour requirements are now based on your enrollment history to better align with and mirror standard four-year college transfers.

Honest Game Insight: *Attending a JUCO right out of high school does not inhibit a student-athlete's goal of playing at a traditional four-year college!*

⚠️ Early Graduation

Popular with Football Players

- Will students be eligible if they graduate early?

⚠️ Reclassification

Popular with Basketball Players

- Will students be off track if they reclass? If they reclass, are they duplicating the same year again?
- Looking at Junior College options and understanding this pathway.

⚠️ Academic Eligibility Issues

- Missing NCAA-approved English (*common subject specific issue*)
- Missing NCAA-approved Math (*common subject specific issue*)
- 10/7 lock before the start of senior year
- NCAA GPA vs. School GPA
- If students don't take a foreign language, do they have enough "additional courses"?
- During course selection, double check to confirm core courses are NCAA approved

STUDENT-ATHLETES ISSUES TO WATCH FOR

Transfer Students

- Check their old school's NCAA-approved list of courses

International Students

- Check the country's course approvals, etc.

ELL/ESL

- Does your school have the appropriate approvals? If not, are those students supplementing their English requirements?

Summer School / Virtual Courses

- Ensure courses count for both graduation and NCAA eligibility

EID / Waiver

- Exceptions are available with submissions



New Era in College Sports

NCAA AGE-BASED ELIGIBILITY RULE (“NCAA 5-IN-5”)

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The Standard

Starting in the 2026-2027 academic year, NCAA DI and DII student-athletes can play up to **5 seasons** of competition within a strict **5-year** eligibility window.

The Clock Trigger

The 5-year clock begins upon:

- Full-time enrollment
- Turning 19 (academic year after)

Redshirts Eliminated

Traditional injury and academic redshirts are **completely eliminated**, including both injury and academic redshirts.

Strict Waiver Limits

Standard redshirt waivers have been retired, and extensions are limited to:

- Official military service
- Pregnancy / Maternity
- Official religious missions

Recruiting Impact for High School Student-Athletes

Roster competition will **drastically increase** as older athletes stay longer.

Coaches heavily prioritize athletes who are **academically prepared** for day one.

NCAA AGE-BASED ELIGIBILITY RULE (“NCAA 5-IN-5”)

Real-Life Example: How the NCAA Age-Based Eligibility Rule Works

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

James, a football student-athlete, graduates from high school in 2026 and enrolls at an NCAA DI school in the fall.

He is **academically cleared by the NCAA** and **immediately eligible** to play.

THE INJURY

During his freshman season, James suffers an **season ending injury** and is unable to compete for the entire year.

It does not matter when he got injured or how many games he played.

RULE IMPACT

Redshirt waivers are no longer used (except for military, pregnancy, or religious missions).

James still has **4 seasons of eligibility remaining** within his 5-year window. **No extra year is granted.**

Academic Redshirts: The same logic applies. Student-athletes deemed NCAA DI partial-qualifiers do not gain an extra year of eligibility later on.

Reminder: Students deemed NCAA DI **non-qualifiers** cannot be rostered, practice, compete, or receive athletic scholarships.



KEY CHANGES IN THE NCAA SETTLEMENT

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New Scholarship Model

- **End of "head count" & "equivalency":** Only for schools opting into the *House* settlement. Schools can now offer full, partial, or no scholarships in every sport.
- **Roster Caps:** Specific roster caps replace previous scholarship limits.
- **Distribution Flexibility:** Remains entirely at the coach's discretion.



Direct Revenue Sharing

- **Direct Sharing:** Schools can share revenue directly with athletes up to **\$20.5 million** per school.
- **Annual Increases:** Cap amounts increase yearly with salary caps for individual athletes.



NEW NCAA SCHOLARSHIP + ROSTER LIMITS

SPORT	SEX	OLD LIMIT	NEW LIMIT	INCREASE
Baseball	Men	11.7	34	22.3
Basketball	Men	13	15	2
Basketball	Women	15	15	0
Beach Volleyball	Women	6	19	13
Bowling	Women	5	11	6
Cross Country	Men	5	17	12
Cross Country	Women	6	17	11
Equestrian	Women	15	50	35
Fencing	Men	4.5	24	19.5
Fencing	Women	5	24	19
Field Hockey	Women	12	27	15
Football	Men	85	105	20
Golf	Men	4.5	9	4.5

SPORT	SEX	OLD LIMIT	NEW LIMIT	INCREASE
Golf	Women	6	9	3
Gym	Men	6.3	20	13.7
Gym	Women	12	20	8
Ice Hockey	Men	18	26	8
Ice Hockey	Women	18	26	8
Track	Men	12.6	45	35.4
Track	Women	18	45	27
Lacrosse	Men	12.6	48	35.4
Lacrosse	Women	12	38	26
Rifle	Both	3.6	12	8.4
Rowing	Women	20	68	48
Skiing	Men	6.3	16	9.7
Skiing	Women	7	16	9

NEW NCAA SCHOLARSHIP + ROSTER LIMITS

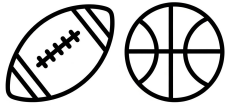
SPORT	SEX	OLD LIMIT	NEW LIMIT	INCREASE
Soccer	Men	9.9	28	18.1
Soccer	Women	14	28	14
Softball	Women	12	25	13
Stunt	Both	14	65	51
Swim	Men	9.9	30	20.1
Swim	Women	14	30	16
Tennis	Men	4.5	10	5.5
Tennis	Women	8	10	2
Triathlon	Women	6.5	14	7.5
Tumbling	Women	14	55	41

SPORT	SEX	OLD LIMIT	NEW LIMIT	INCREASE
Volleyball	Men	4.5	18	13.5
Volleyball	Women	12	18	6
Water Polo	Men	4.5	24	19.5
Water Polo	Women	8	24	16
Wrestling	Men	9.9	30	20.1
Wrestling	Women	10	30	20

What does this mean for high school students?

WINNERS IN THE NEW LANDSCAPE

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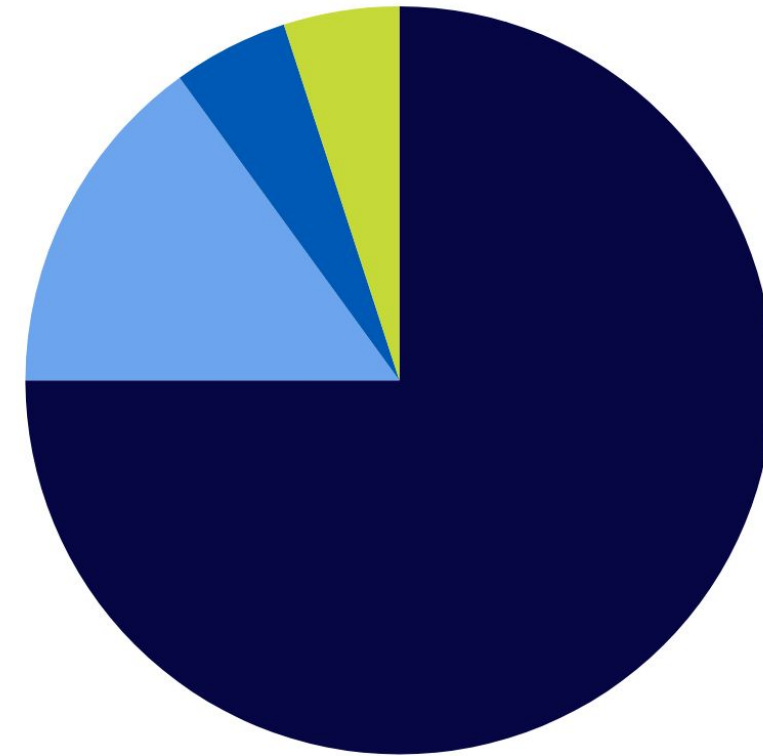
Revenue Sport Athletes

Football and basketball players will receive substantial direct payments. Top athletes could earn millions of dollars when combined with NIL deals.



Business Opportunities in College Sports

- College athletes may now use agents
- High school athletes can now enter college having made money based on their Name, Image, and Likeness and still remain an amateur



- | | |
|--|---|
|  Football (75%) |  Women's Basketball (5%) |
|  Men's Basketball (15%) |  Other Sports (5%) |

* Projected revenue distribution shows football and men's basketball receiving the largest share of payments.

2025-2026 ESTIMATES

	Total \$ to Student-Athletes	Percentage
NCAA Revenue Share	\$1.8B	78%
NIL	\$292M	13%
NIL Collectives	\$205M	9%
TOTAL	\$2.3B	100%

Revenue Sharing estimates per NCAA school 2025-26	NCAA I Schools	# of Schools Participating
FBS - Power 4 Schools	68	68
FBS - Group of 6 Schools	68	65
FCS Conference Schools	129	88
NCAA I Schools w/o Football	100	90
TOTAL	365	311

nil-ncaa.com



Collectives are expected to lose to booster funds being re-allocated to the schools to pay for revenue sharing.

2025 - 2026 ESTIMATES

NCAA Basketball	Avg Roster Cost	% Paid via NIL	Revenue Share
SEC	\$9.7M	\$7.1M	\$2.5M
Big 12	\$8.6M	\$4.4M	\$4.2M
Big 10	\$8.5M	\$5.4M	\$3.1M
ACC	\$8.2M	\$4.1M	\$4.1M
Big East	\$8M	\$2.3M	\$5.7M
Mid to High Majors	\$2.3M	\$1M	\$1.3M
Low to Mid Majors	\$525K	\$100K	\$425K

[The Athletic](#)

2025-2026 ESTIMATES

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SPORT	M/W	\$ Total per Sport	# Roster Spots	Avg \$ per Student	% Rev Share
Football	M	15,345,899	105	\$146,151	75.0%
Basketball	M	3,279,161	15	\$218,611	16.0%
Hockey	M	552,813	26	\$21,262	2.7%
Baseball	M	364,567	34	\$10,723	1.8%
Basketball	W	233,913	14	\$16,708	1.1%
Wrestling	M	126,591	30	\$4,220	0.6%
Volleyball	W	103,938	17	\$6,114	0.5%
Gymnastics	W	91,333	19	\$4,807	0.4%
Softball	W	83,526	23	\$3,632	0.4%
Hockey	W	65,236	25	\$2,609	0.3%
Soccer	M/W	58,860	28	\$2,102	0.3%
Track & Field / X-C	M/W	43,366	49	\$885	0.2%
Lacrosse	M/W	41,083	41	\$1,002	0.2%
Swimming	M/W	31,986	30	\$1,066	0.1%
Rowing	W	20,139	64	\$315	0.1%
Field Hockey	W	19,299	25	\$772	0.1%
Tennis	M/W	17,164	9	\$1,907	0.1%
Golf	M/W	12,590	9	\$1,399	0.1%
Beach Volleyball	W	8,536	17	\$502	0.1%



*Each college
can choose to
distribute as they
choose.*

nil-ncaa.com

THE FUTURE OF NAME, IMAGE & LIKENESS (NIL)

HONESTGAME®

NIL + REVENUE SHARING



NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) deals continue alongside new revenue sharing.

LEGITIMATE DEALS



Legitimate deals must involve valid business purpose, not just pay-for-play.

MAJOR MARKET ADVANTAGE



Schools in major markets with strong corporate presence will have advantages in attracting sponsorships.



College NIL over \$600 report to CSC within 5 business days.

01

BRAND DEALS

Promote a local or corporate entity as a brand ambassador or social media influencer etc.



02

MERCHANDISE

Promote their own business or merchandise. Any owned product or service that draws profit from a student-athletes name, image, and likeness



03

MEDIA RIGHTS

Athletes can monetize their personal content and appearances.

Autographs - Paid signing sessions

Camps - Receiving compensation for appearing and working in camps



04

SCHOOL REVENUE

Alumni and Boosters form LLC (collectives) to raise funds to pay athletes for NIL deals



THINGS TO CONSIDER WITH NIL

HONESTGAME®



Have Legal Representation

When discussing NIL deals with any company or person, never sign any contracts before consulting with your parents and coaches. A poor contract can have major impacts on your future.



Money Received Over \$400 Will Be Taxed

Any compensation greater than \$400 will need to be reported to the IRS. If you are contracted you will receive a 1099 and must report to the college financial aid office. Consult with a tax professional.



Recruiting Visits

When visiting colleges during the recruiting process, each state has different NIL rules and regulations. Be sure you consult with your parents and coach to understand what is acceptable on a recruiting trip.



Financial Aid Impacts

NIL deals will need to be reported to your college financial aid department. The income you receive can impact your overall eligibility to receive federal financial aid and/or Pell Grants.



Image & Branding

Work with specialists on your social media and image strategy. Ensure you don't harm your image aligning with a controversial product or service.

Be Prepared for the Academic Conversation



Admissions & Eligibility

College coaches heavily consider a candidate's ability to meet the school's admissions standards, eligibility status, and potential academic scholarship opportunities.



The Difference-Maker

An outstanding GPA and quality standardized test scores can be the ultimate difference-maker between you and another closely matched recruit.



Coach Advocacy

Coaches can advocate for recruits in admissions. High academic achievement lifts a massive workload off the coaching staff, making you a seamless recruit.

Academics is now the new recruiting currency.

In today's era of college sports, college coaches prioritize student-athletes that are strong academically because it unlocks merit aid and other funding sources - allowing them to stretch their recruiting dollars further.

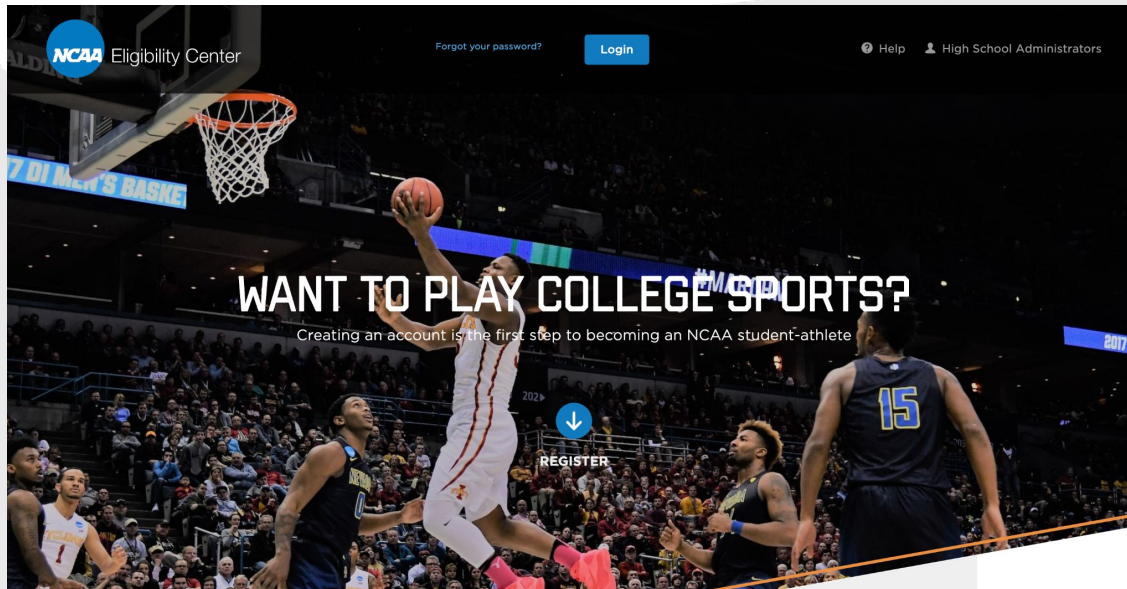


Registering with the NCAA and NAIA Eligibility Centers

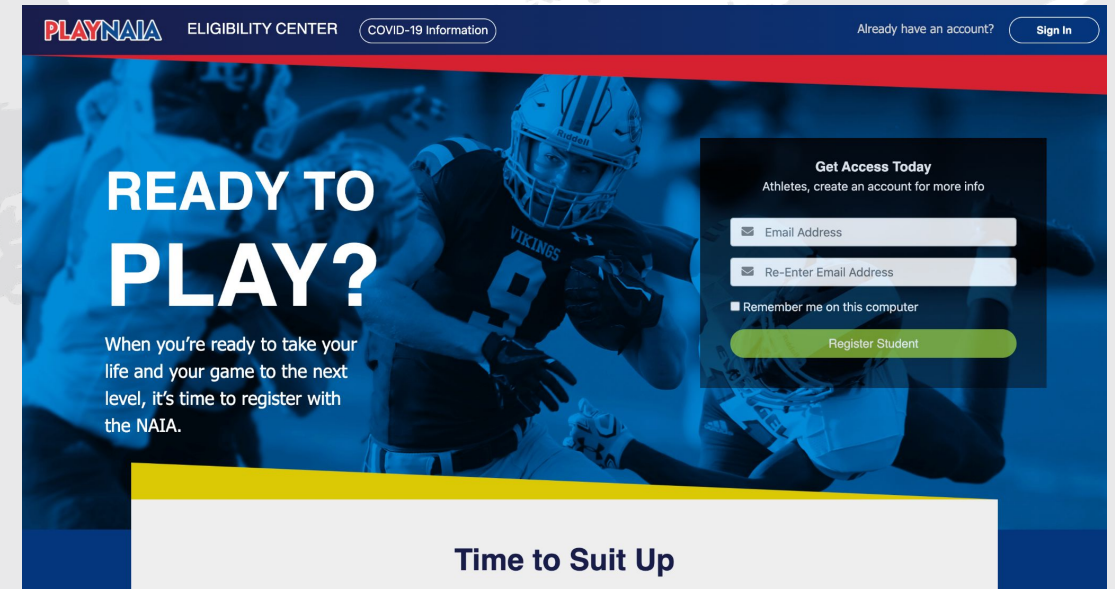
Encourage College-Bound Student-Athletes to Register



ELIGIBILITYCENTER.ORG



PLAYNAIA.ORG



What Type of NCAA Account Does My Student-Athlete Need?

All student-athletes looking to study and compete at an NCAA DI or DII school must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at NCAA.org.

There are 3 types of accounts depending on the NCAA division and whether they're a domestic or international student-athlete, including:

Option 1: Academic + Athletics Certification Account

DI or DII-bound student-athletes who are anticipating being placed on a school's IRL, receive an athletic grant-in-aid, or take an official visit. Registration fee is \$120 (domestic students)/\$180 (international students) .

Option 2: Athletics Certification Account

DIII-bound international or domestic student-athletes transferring from JUCO to a NCAA DI or DII school who have not previously been certified.
Registration fee is \$85.

Option 3: Free Profile Page Account

For domestic students registering to play at NCAA-sponsored events, students younger than 9th grade, or those still unsure about playing college sports.

What Do Students Need to Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center?



Valid Email Address

Students should use an email that is frequently checked and one they will have access to after high school.



Basic Education History

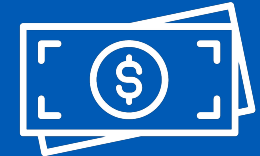
List of all high schools or secondary schools students have attended and the dates during which they attended them.



Sports Participation History

Details on teams, competition events attended, and individuals who advised or promoted them.

(Academic and Athletics Certification Accounts only)



Payment

Students must pay online by debit, credit card, or echeck. Some students may be eligible for a fee waiver.

(Academic and Athletics Certification Accounts only)

5 Tips for Student-Athletes Completing Eligibility Center Registration

1

Stay on top of Eligibility Center tasks

Students will receive an email from the NCAA when they are assigned new tasks.

2

Complete and send in SAT/ACT test scores

While the NCAA no longer requires standardized test scores, they may still be used for NAIA eligibility.

3

Keep academic records up-to-date

Students should ask their school counselor to send up-to-date transcripts to the NCAA and NAIA Eligibility Center after finishing their 6th semester.

4

Send final transcript to the Eligibility Center

After high school, confirm that your school counselor has sent your final high school transcript to the NCAA and/or NAIA Eligibility Center.

5

Request NCAA Amateurism Certification

College-bound NCAA DI or DII student-athletes should complete the amateurism survey in spring of their senior year.



Navigating Athletic Grant-in-Aid

What Has Changed with the Removal of National Letter of Intent (NLI)?

The National Letter of Intent eliminated by the NCAA Division I and DII Councils and in its place NCAA schools will have student-athletes sign an athletic grant-in-aid agreement.



Watch for updates as NCAA guidance will continue to evolve!

Athletic Grant-in-Aid

An **Athletics Grant-in-Aid** is a **legal binding financial aid agreement** between a college-bound student-athlete and a college or university that specifies the athletic scholarship a student-athlete will be receiving.

**Signing Athletic Grant-in-Aid
= No More Recruiting**



It's okay to continue the recruiting process with NCAA schools that do not have athletic scholarships, which may include NCAA DIII, Ivy League, or U.S. Military Academies.



Important Exclusions

- **Walk-ons**, recruited walk-ons, and non-scholarship students do not sign an athletic grant-in-aid.
- **“Commitment letters”** without an athletic grant-in-aid do not include a guaranteed scholarship or roster spot.

Prospective Student-Athletes Signing 2026/27

SPORT	INITIAL SIGNING DATE	FINAL SIGNING DATE
Division I Basketball (Early Period)	November 1, 2026	November 18, 2026
Division I Basketball (Regular Period)	April 14, 2027	Final Date based on institutional policy for awarding scholarships
Division I Football (Early Period)	December 2, 2026	December 4, 2026
Division I and II Football(Midyear Two-Year College Transfers)	December 3, 2026	Final Date based on institutional policy for awarding scholarships
Division I and II Football (Regular Period)	February 3, 2027	Final Date based on institutional policy for awarding scholarships
All Other Division I and II Sports	November 11, 2026	Final Date based on institutional policy for awarding scholarships



Review future signing dates with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Student-by-Student Terms

Terms & Conditions Vary

Athletic grant-in-aid terms and conditions may vary significantly by school, sport, or even by individual recruit.

Releases Must Go Through School

Requesting a release from a signed athletic grant-in-aid must go directly through the specific school with which you signed.

Fully Understand Before Signing

Ask Questions Early

Ask the prospective college coach and the school's Compliance officer any questions you have before signing the agreement.

Compare Multiple Offers

Look beyond just the scholarship dollar amount. Compare multi-year vs. annual renewals, community service provisions, and academic requirements.

✓ **What to Sign**

The student-athlete will receive an electronic or print athletic grant-in-aid agreement which outlines the terms and conditions of the award, including the amount of the scholarship and what the student must do to keep it.

✓ **How to Submit**

By completing the electronic or print agreement, the student confirms they agree to the offered athletic grant-in-aid.



High schools are encouraged to celebrate all college bound student-athletes (walk ons, commits, signees) by hosting a symbolic signing ceremony, allowing families and the community to share in the special moment.

What Happens After Signing an Athletic Grant-in-Aid?

The college will mark the student-athlete as a committed recruit in the NCAA Eligibility Center, indicating to other NCAA DI and DII coaches that the student has committed.

A signed athletic grant-in-aid can be nullified for many reasons including:

- ✗ Student-athlete is not admitted to the school
- ✗ Student-athlete becomes ineligible
- ✗ Serious disciplinary issues or team rules are violated



These reasons will be included under Terms and Conditions of the athletic grant-in-aid.