

NCAA Initial Eligibility Requirements

**A Guide for the College Bound High
School Athlete**

Parent/Athlete Recruiting Information

Updated Spring 2015



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UNDERSTANDING RECRUITING



ACADEMIC-ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Division I
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Timeline

- **Grade 9**
 - Ask your high school for a list of your schools NCAA core courses to make sure you take the right classes.
- **Grade 10**
 - Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- **Grade 11**
 - Check with high school counselor to make sure you will graduate on time with required number of core classes.
 - Take the ACT or SAT and submit scores to NCAA using code 9999.
 - At the end of the year ask counselor to upload your official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- **Grade 12**
 - Finish remaining NCAA core courses.
 - Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and submit to NCAA using code 9999.
 - Complete all academic and amateurism questions in your NCAA Eligibility Center account.
 - After you graduate, ask your counselor to submit your final official transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

NCAA DI Academic Requirements



Academic Eligibility Requirements

Division I - Current

- Graduate from High School
- Complete 16 Core Classes
 - 4 yrs of English
 - 3 yrs of Math (Alg. 1 or Higher)
 - 2 yrs of Natural or Physical Science
 - 1 extra yr of Engl., Math or Nat. or Phys. Science
 - 2 yrs of Social Science
 - 4 yrs of extra Core courses (any category above, or Foreign Language, religion/philosophy)
- Earn a minimum required GPA in your core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core course GPA and test score sliding scale.

Academic Eligibility Requirements

- Understanding the Qualifier/Non-Qualifier
 - *Qualifier* –
 1. Can participate in practice or competition first year
 2. Can receive athletics scholarship.
 3. Can play four seasons/ Must maintain min. grade req
 - *Non-Qualifier* –
 1. Cannot participate in practice or competition first year
 2. Cannot receive **athletics** scholarship.
 3. Can play only three seasons as long as eligibility is maintained.
 4. (To gain fourth year you must complete 80% of degree, before beginning your fifth yr of school.

Academic Eligibility Requirements

Division I 2016 and after

- For college-bound student-athletes first entering an NCAA Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2016.

Full Qualifier

- Complete 16 Core Courses:
 - Ten of the 16 core courses must be complete before the seventh semester (senior year) of high school.
 - Seven of the 10 core courses must be in English, Math, or Science.
- Minimum Core-Course GPA of 2.300.
- Meet the sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score.
- Graduate from high school.
- **Full Qualifier:** A college-bound student-athlete may receive athletics aid (scholarship), practice and compete in the first year of enrollment at the Division I college or university.

Academic Eligibility Requirements

Division I 2016 and after cont.

Academic Redshirt

- Complete 16 core courses
- Minimum Core-Course GPA of 2.000
- Meet the sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score.
- Graduate from high school.

- **Academic Redshirt:** A college-bound student-athlete may receive athletics aid (scholarship) in the first year of enrollment and may practice in the first regular academic term (semester or quarter) but may NOT compete in the first year of enrollment. After the first term is complete, the college-bound student-athlete must be academically successful at his/her college or university to continue to practice for the rest of the year.

Academic Eligibility Requirements Division I 2016 and after cont.

Nonqualifier

- Does not meet requirements for Full Qualifier or Academic Redshirt status.
- A student-athlete, who is a nonqualifier, cannot receive athletics aid (scholarship), cannot practice and cannot compete in the first year of enrollment.

NCAA DII Academic Requirements



Academic Eligibility Requirements

Division II 2013 and after

- **Graduate from High School**
- **Complete 14 Core Classes**
 - 3 yrs of English
 - 2 yrs of Math (Alg. 1 or Higher)
 - 2 yrs of Natural or Physical Science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
 - 3 yr of additional Engl., Math or Nat. or Phys. Science
 - 2 yrs of Social Science
 - 4 yrs of additional Core courses (any category above, or Foreign Language, religion/philosophy)
- **Earn a 2.000 GPA (4.0 scale) or better in your core courses, and..**
- **Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.**
- **THERE IS CURRENTLY NO SLIDING SCALE IN DIVISION II.**

Division II

Academic Eligibility Requirements

- **Partial Qualifier**
 - Has not met all requirements listed previously, but has graduated HS and meets one of the following.
 - Combined SAT score of 820 or ACT sum score of 68, **OR**
 - Completion of the 14 core courses with a 2.00 core course GPA

Division II

Academic Eligibility Requirements

- **As a partial qualifier you may:**
 - Can practice with your team at its home facility during your first year of college.
 - Can receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of college;
 - Cannot compete during your first year of college;
 - Cannot travel with team during your first year of college; and;
 - Can play four seasons in your sport as long as you maintain your eligibility from year to year.

Division II

Academic Eligibility Requirements

- You will be a **Non-qualifier** – if you did not graduate from high school, or, if you graduated and are missing both the core-course GPA or the required ACT or SAT scores.
- Same As Div. I, exception...
 - Can play four years in sport as long as eligibility is maintained from year to year.

Academic Eligibility Requirements

Division II 2018 and after

- For college-bound student-athletes first entering an NCAA Division II college or university on or after August 1, 2018.

Full Qualifier

- Complete 16 Core Classes and graduate from high school
 - 3 yrs of English
 - 2 yrs of Math (Alg. 1 or Higher)
 - 2 yrs of Natural or Physical Science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
 - 3 yr of additional Engl., Math or Nat. or Phys. Science
 - 2 yrs of Social Science
 - 4 yrs of additional Core courses (any category above, or Foreign Language, religion/philosophy)
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.2
- To be a qualifier a student must meet the requirements of the eligibility index (sliding scale).
- Bylaw 14.3.1.1.3 Initial-Eligibility Index for Qualifiers.

Academic Eligibility Requirements Division II 2018 and after cont.

Partial Qualifier

Eligibility for financial aid, practice and competition.

- Complete the 16 core-course requirement, meet the sliding scale (minimum 2.2) and SAT/ACT sum score and graduate from high school.
- A partial qualifier is one who at the time of high school graduation does not meet the requirements of a qualifier, however, meets the requirements of the initial eligibility index for partial-qualifiers.
- An entering freshman, who is a partial-qualifier, is eligible to receive financial aid (based on school and conference policies), practice at home facility, but is not eligible to compete during their first academic year in residence.
- Bylaw 14.3.2.2 Initial-Eligibility Index for Partial Qualifiers.

Academic Eligibility Requirements Division II 2018 and after cont.

Nonqualifiers

Eligibility for financial aid, practice and competition.

- A nonqualifier is a student who has not graduated from high school, or who, did not satisfy the requirements of the initial-eligibility indices for qualifiers and partial qualifiers.
- A nonqualifier is not eligible for practice (may not attend practice in any capacity) or competition (Cannot compete on club or intramural team) during their first academic year in residence, but may receive nonathletics institutional financial aid.

The GED

- The General Educational Development (GED) test may, under certain conditions, satisfy the graduation requirement, but **it will not satisfy core-course grade-point average, core curriculum or test-score requirements.** Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center for information about GED submission.

Division III

- Division III does not use the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse.
- Must contact the College of Interest regarding its policies on Fin. Aid, Practice, and Competition.



NCAA Eligibility Center

www.eligibilitycenter.org/

US. 877/262-1492

FAX. 319/337-1556



What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

- The Eligibility Center evaluates a student's academic record to determine if they are eligible to participate at a Division I or II college as a Freshman student athlete.
- To register with the Eligibility Center, go to www.eligibilitycenter.org and follow the instructions.
- Registration fee is \$75.00



Eligibility Center Registration

- Fee-Waiver Eligibility - you are eligible for a waiver of the registration fee only if you have already received a waiver of the SAT or ACT fee (this is not the same as a U.S. state voucher). You must have an authorized high school official submit your fee waiver documentation online after you have completed your registration.
- **Registering with the Eligibility Center, even qualifying with the NCAA does not guarantee acceptance to your University of choice.**

FAFSA

- FAFSA stands for Free Application for Student Aid. Anyone who is planning on attending college is to fill out a form. Forms are available in the counselor's office or on the internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is very important, because federal student aid is given out on a first come-first served basis. The earliest aid can be applied for is January 1, and the latest date is June 30.





Core Courses, GPA, Tests & Special Conditions



Grade-Point Average

- How your Core-Course Grade-Point Average is Calculated.
- The Eligibility Center will calculate the grade-point average of your core courses on a 4.000 scale. The best grades from your NCAA core courses will be used. Grades from additional core courses you took will be used only if they improve your GPA.
- The Eligibility Center will assign the following values to each letter grade:
 - A – 4 pts. / B – 3 pts. / C – 2 pts. / D – 1 pt.
- Certain specifics from school to school may be adjusted when calculated. (Honors, Weights, Letter grades, numeric grades.)
- See your high school's grading scale by pulling up your school's List of NCAA Courses at www.eligibilitycenter.org

SAT & ACT Tests

Requirements

Dates

Understanding the Difference

SAT & ACT Test Score Requirements

- You must achieve the required score on an SAT or ACT test before your full time college enrollment. You must do this whether you are a citizen of the United States or of a foreign country. You must take the national test on a national testing date.
- <http://sat.collegeboard.org>
- <http://www.actstudent.org/>
- SAT - The math, verbal, critical reasoning subsections will be used for scoring purposes.
- ACT – The math, science, English and reading subsections will be used for scoring purposes.
- The Writing Section, for both the SAT and ACT, will not be used to determine qualifier status.

National Testing Dates - SAT

Remaining SAT National Testing Dates:

Mar. 14, 2015

*Nov. 7 or 8, 2015

May 2, 2015

*Dec. 5 or 6, 2015

June 6, 2015

*Jan. 23 or 24, 2016

*Oct. 3 or 11, 2015

*Mar. 5 or 6, 2016

*Anticipated testing dates for 2015-16

National Testing Dates - ACT

Remaining ACT National Testing Dates:

Feb. 7, 2015

Oct. 24, 2015

Apr. 18, 2015

Dec. 12, 2015

June 13, 2015

Feb. 6, 2016

Sept. 12, 2015

Apr. 9, 2016

Understanding the Difference

- The ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities.
- The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test. The SAT has only 3 components: Verbal, Mathematics, and a required Writing Test. Mathematics makes up 50% of SAT's test score and only 25% of ACT's test score.
- The College Board introduced a new version in 2005, with a **mandatory** writing test. ACT offers **optional** writing test. Take the ACT Writing Test only if required by the college(s) you're applying to.
- The SAT has a correction for guessing. They take off for wrong answers. The ACT is scored based on the number correct with no correction for guessing.

Understanding the Difference

- **SAT** – The SAT or Scholastic Assessment Test is primarily based in cognitive reasoning, math, with some verbal reading included.
- Colleges do not solely use students SAT scores as final admittance criteria or determination.
- The **SAT** is broken up into 3 subject area tests:
 - Reading, Mathematics, Writing
- Scores on each subject area range from 200 – 800
- Optional Writing Portion.

Understanding the Difference

- **ACT** – The ACT stood for American College Testing, the name of the original company that provides the test.
- As the SAT colleges do not provide final admittance based solely on ACT scores.
- The ACT is comprised of 5 subject area tests English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test.
- Scores for each section range from 1 – 36 and are then averaged to find your composite test score.

Recruiting Regulations

Understanding Recruiting

-Terminology

-Dates

-Divisions and the Differences

Recruiting High School Athletes

- The Recruiting process is a highly exciting time for all young athletes. It is often a time when all their hard work both academically and athletically finally begins to show visible results.
- What do I as an athlete and a parent need to know about the recruiting process?
- **Prospective Student Athlete** – You become a prospective student athlete when
 - You start your freshmen year in High School, or
 - Before your ninth grade year, a college gives you, your relatives or your friends any financial aid or other benefits that the college does not provide to students generally.

Recruiting Terminology

- **Contact** – this occurs any time a coach has any face to face contact with you or your family off their campus and more than a hello is said.
- This also includes any contact with you or your family by the coach at your high school or anywhere you are competing.
- College coaches can start contacting high school recruits after July 1 (June 15 for Division II) immediately preceding their Junior year in high school.
- **Contact Period** – During this time, a college coach may have in person contact with you and/or your parents on or off the college's campus. The coach may also watch you play or visit your high school. You and your parents may visit a college campus and the coach may write and telephone you during this period.

Recruiting Terminology

- **Evaluation** – An evaluation is an activity by a coach to evaluate your academic or athletics ability. This would include visiting your high school or watching you practice or compete.
- **Evaluation Period** – The college coach may watch you play or visit your high school, but cannot have any in-person conversations with you or your parents off the colleges campus. You and your parents can visit a college campus during this period. A coach may write and telephone you or your parents during this time.

Recruiting Terminology

- **Quiet Period** – The college coach may not have any in person contact with you or your parents off the college's campus. The coach may not watch you play or visit your high school during this period. You and your parents may visit a college campus during this time. A coach may write or telephone you or your parents during this time.
- **Dead Period** – The college coach may not have any in person contact with you or your parents at any time in the dead period. The coach may write and telephone you or your parents during this time.

Recruiting Terminology

- **Official Visit** – any visit to a college campus by you or your parents paid for by the college. You may take only one official visit to a member institutions campus. The college may pay the following expenses.
 - Transportation to and from
 - Room and Meals 3 per day
 - Reasonable entertainment expenses, including 3 comp admissions to a home game.
- Before a PSA may take an official visit, you will have to:
 - provide the college with a current copy of your high-school transcript and
 - Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- The first opportunity to take an official visit is June 15 immediately preceding the PSA's junior year in high school.

Recruiting Terminology

- **Unofficial Visit** – Any visit by you and your parents to a college campus paid for by you or your parents. The only expense you may receive from the college is three complimentary admissions to a home athletics contest. You may make as many unofficial visits as you like and may take those visits at any time. The only time you cannot talk with a coach during an unofficial visit is during a dead period.

Questions about Recruiting

- When will recruiting begin?
- When can my child be contacted?
- How can my child be contacted?
- Who will be contacting my child?
- Who, How, When can we begin contacting someone?

- As a prospective student-athlete or parent/legal guardian you can contact the NCAA Eligibility Center with questions by calling 877/262-1492.

Recruiting

- The recruiting process for most Division I athletes usually begins at the beginning of their Sophomore year of High School.
- This does not mean that no contact means no chance of Scholarship.
- In Division I, beginning July 1 prior to your Junior year in high school a college coach can make one phone call per week.
- In Division II, beginning June 15 prior to your Junior year in high school a college coach can text, call or visit you an unlimited number of times.

Differences in Divisions

- Division IA (FBS)
- Division I-AA (FCS)
 - Division II
 - Division III
- Junior Colleges

Division I

- Must sponsor at least seven sports for men and seven for women (or six for men and eight for women) with two team sports for each gender
- Div. I schools must meet minimum financial aid awards for their athletics program, and there are maximum financial aid awards for each sport that a Div. I school cannot exceed.

Division I – FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision)

- FBS football schools are usually fairly elaborate programs. FBS teams have to meet minimum attendance requirements (17,000 people in attendance per home game, OR 20,000 average of all football games in the last four years or, 30,000 permanent seats in their stadium and average 17,000 per home game or 20,000 average of all football games in the last four years OR, be in a member conference in which at least six conference members sponsor football or more than half of football schools meet attendance criterion.
- Total of **85** scholarships allowed per institution.
- ***There are no partial scholarships in FBS football.***
- ***Student Athletes cannot receive other financial support (Grants/Scholarships)***
- Only allowed 20 Walk On athletes/Preferred Walk On

Division I – FCS (Football Championship Subdivision)

- Formerly Division I-AA
- Similar attendance requirements as FBS schools.
- Only allowed 63 total scholarships by the NCAA
- FCS schools can give partial scholarships.

Division II

- Attendances and School Revenue are used to determine Division II status.
- Division II Universities are allowed 36 total scholarships for football and 10 for basketball but...
- Division II schools can “Break Up” their scholarships.
- Students are eligible to qualify for other aid. (Federal/Other)

Division III

- Division III Universities provide no Athletic Scholarships or special opportunities for Student Athletes.
- This is the purest form of College Athletics.
- Grant and Aid packets determined through academics, testing, and need.

Junior Colleges

- Junior colleges fall into a category similar to that of Division II schools, in that they are able to Break Up scholarships as they see fit.

Tips for Parents....

Start Preparing Realistically

- First and Foremost a, “**Student**-Athlete”
- Must begin thinking about tomorrow, today.
- Keep records of Academic Info Current
- Be thinking what and where is a place of interest for me, my child.
- Academically. What you do today effects what you can do tomorrow.
- Athletically.. Strength, there is no substitute for it, and no excuse for the lack of it. (You determine your opportunity.)
- Socially....Be Involved. Multitask.

Be Realistic

- 51,000 Football players in Texas approximately 400 received Division I scholarships.
- Everyone will not get a scholarship.
- Not to discourage, but to be honest. We want you to enjoy this time and learn lessons that will apply to the rest of your life.
- Control What you can Control
 - Academics
 - Strength Training
 - ATTITUDE
 - Being The Best Person You Can Be.

Number of Scholarships Division I

Men's Sports

- Football - 85
- Basketball - 13
- Baseball – 11.7
- Cross Country/ Track and Field - 12.6
- Golf – 4.5
- Soccer – 9.9
- Swimming – 9.9
- Tennis – 4.5
- Wrestling – 9.9

Women's Sports

- Basketball - 13
- Cross Country/Track and Field - 18
- Golf - 6
- Soccer - 12
- Softball - 12
- Swimming - 14
- Tennis - 8
- Volleyball - 12

Number of Scholarships Division II

Men's Sports

- Football - 36
- Basketball - 10
- Baseball – 9
- Cross Country/ Track and Field - 12.6
- Golf – 3.6
- Soccer – 9
- Swimming – 8.1
- Tennis – 4.5
- Wrestling – 9

Women's Sports

- Basketball - 10
- Cross Country/Track and Field – 12.6
- Golf - 5.4
- Soccer – 9.9
- Softball – 7.2
- Swimming – 8.1
- Tennis - 6
- Volleyball - 8

What Do The Coaches Do For You?

- We make an individual highlight video to be shown to all interested coaches.
- We fill out all questionnaires that come from colleges and recruiting services.
- We e-mail a list of all prospects to every college in the country.
- We provide SAT, ACT, and financial aid information and deadlines.
- We promote you and this team in any way possible.
- We push you to become the best person, student, and athlete you can be!

What Can You Do To Help Yourself?

- Be organized and have a plan. Research colleges that interest you.
- Make your grades! Do as good as you possibly can in all your classes.
- Have a great off-season. Improve as much as possible on all your tests.
- Play great next year and help us have a great season! The further we go in the playoffs, the more exposure you will get.
- Sign up to take the Tests.
- Let us know when you get your scores in.
- Be realistic in your expectations.
- Keep the TEAM first and remember that the more success we have as a Team, the more rewards there are for everyone.
- Don't get caught up with things you cannot control.

In Conclusion

- Know we are working for your student/athletes.
- Recruiters - Know we will be honest with all recruiters about our athletes, always.
- Letters - Mean they are tracking you and evaluating you.
- Camps - Are for evaluation not to teach you how to play the game. Chance to showcase yourself.
- Test Scores - SAT or ACT as a Junior.
- Scholarships – We don't give out scholarships but, we will do everything possible to help you.

Questions?

- NCAA Eligibility Center
 - 877/262-1492
- NCAA National Offices
 - 317-917-6222
- More information can be found at www.ncaa.org/playcollegesports

