

NCAA Initial Eligibility and Recruiting

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Session Overview

- Differences between NCAA and NAIA
- NCAA Eligibility Center
- NAIA Eligibility Center
- Academic Requirements for Freshman Eligibility
- Qualification Status (NCAA)
- Certification Process (NCAA)
- Amateurism Certification (NCAA)
- Recruiting Information (NCAA)
- Financial Aid (NCAA)
- Questions

NCAA Eligibility Center

What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

- The NCAA Eligibility Center is the office of the NCAA that certifies **academic** and **amateurism** credentials of all college-bound student-athletes who wish to compete at the NCAA Division I or Division II level.
- *NOTE: Registration Fee is \$70*

NAIA Eligibility Center

What is the **NAIA** Eligibility Center?

Explore the world of NAIA college sports.

Build your customized personal profile.

Connect with NAIA college coaches and admissions officers.

Register so you are ready to play college sports.

NOTE: Registration Fee is \$70

Academic Requirements

Terms used in NCAA initial eligibility:

- Core course – A high school course that meets the following criteria:
 - a. Is an academic course in English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy;
 - b. Is a four-year college prep course; and
 - c. Is taught at or above your high school's regular academic level (no remedial)

Your high school has submitted the core courses at your school. See your guidance counselor to obtain that list.

Academic Requirements

- Sliding Scale – Scale in Division I of core course grade point average and ACT/SAT scores and what criteria needs to be achieved for eligibility.
- Sum score – The sum of the best score from each section in the ACT and/or SAT.
 - The NCAA does not use the composite score for the ACT or SAT.
 - Test score does not have to be achieved on the same test.

Academic Requirements

October 2012 ACT

English - 21

Math – 24

Reading – 23

Science - 25

April 2013 ACT

English - 22

Math – 22

Reading - 25

Science – 26

Sum Score: 97

Academic Requirements

To compete at the **NCAA Division I level** as a freshman:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete 16 core courses:
 - 4 years of English
 - 3 years of math (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered);
 - 1 extra year of English, math or natural or physical science
 - 2 years of social science
 - 4 years of extra core courses (from category above or foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy)

Academic Requirements

NCAA Division I Continued....

- Earn a minimum required grade-point average in your core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core course grade point average and test score sliding scale

Academic Requirements

To compete at the **NCAA Division II level** as a freshman:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete 16 core courses:
 - 3 years of English
 - 2 years of math (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered);
 - 3 additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
 - 2 years of social science
 - 4 years of extra core courses (from category above or foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy)

Academic Requirements

NCAA Division II Continued....

- Earn a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in your core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.

Academic Requirements

To compete at an **NAIA school** as a freshman you must graduate from high school and:

- Must meet at least two of the following:
 - Minimum of 18 on ACT or 860 on SAT;
 - Overall high school gpa of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale; or
 - Graduate in the top 50% of your high school class.

Qualification Status

Division I

Qualifier – Have met all criteria. During first year:

- May practice
- May compete
- May receive athletically related financial aid

Non Qualifier – Have not met all criteria. During first year:

- May NOT practice
- May NOT compete
- May NOT receive athletically related financial aid

Qualification Status

NEW: For college-bound student-athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2016, there are three possible academic outcomes:

1. Full qualifier = competition, athletics aid (scholarship), and practice the first year.
2. Academic redshirt = athletics aid the first year, practice in first regular academic term (semester or quarter).
3. Nonqualifier = no athletics aid, practice or competition the first year.

Qualification Status

NEW: Full-time Enrollees at NCAA Division I Institutions After August 1, 2016

For **competition, practice, and financial aid (i.e., full qualifier)** in first year:

- Minimum core-course GPA of 2.300;
- Earn 10 core courses before senior year; and
- Meet new GPA/test score index on the new sliding scale

Qualification Status

Core-course progression.

- Must complete **10** core courses before seventh semester of high school (e.g., senior year).
- Of the **10** core courses completed, **seven** must be in the area of **English, math, or science**.
- These 10 core courses become “locked in” for the purpose of core-course GPA calculation.
 - A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used if taken after the seventh semester begins.

Qualification Status

For **practice and financial aid (i.e., academic redshirt)** in first year:

- Minimum core-course GPA of 2.000-2.299 in 16 core courses; and
- Meet GPA/test score index on the sliding scale
- Student-athletes who fail to meet the required 10 core courses prior to the start of the seventh semester (seven of which must be in English, math, or natural or physical science), will be allowed to retake core courses in the seventh or eighth semester, which will be used in their academic certification for the purpose of meeting the academic redshirt requirements.

Qualification Status

Division II

Qualifier – Have met all criteria. During first year:

- May practice
- May compete
- May receive athletically related financial aid.

Partial Qualifier – Have graduated, met core courses and met at least the test score or gpa requirement (but not both). During first year:

- May practice
- May receive athletically related financial aid
- May NOT compete

Non-Qualifier – Have not met any of the requirements. During first year:

- May NOT practice
- May NOT compete
- May NOT receive athletically related financial aid

Qualification Status

Other Notes on Qualification Status:

- NCAA qualification status is just for the first year at a four-year school. After the first year, other NCAA rules will determine eligibility.
- If a student-athlete attends a two-year college after high school and transfers to an NCAA institution, the qualification status will determine what transfer rules the student-athlete will need to meet.

Process for Certification

- Register with NCAA Eligibility Center—
www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org
- Request ACT or SAT scores be sent to the NCAA and/or NAIA Eligibility Center.
 - Send all scores to Eligibility Center
www.actstudent.org or www.sat.collegeboard.org.
 - Code for NCAA Eligibility Center is 9999
 - Code for NAIA Eligibility Center is 9876
 - When you register for the ACT or SAT, include the appropriate Eligibility Center

Process for Certification

- Request your guidance counselor send your transcript to the Eligibility Center;
- At the end of your senior year, request your final transcript, with proof of graduation, be sent to the Eligibility Center; and
- When Eligibility Center receives final transcript, a certification will be performed.

Additional Information

- Division I – You may take up to one additional core course after high school graduation but before enrollment in college.
- Non-Traditional Courses – Any course not taught in a traditional manner must meet criteria to be used as a core course. Check with your guidance counselor, the Eligibility Center or the college you will attend.
- Student must still be admitted to the college or university. The requirements will not be the same as the NCAA requirements.

Amateurism Certification

- The NCAA will also certify your amateurism status;
- You will answer questions about your competitions at the time of registration;
- In April of your senior year, you will request your amateurism be finalized. The NCAA will then determine if you are an amateur.

Amateurism Certification

Areas to be reviewed

1. Contracts with a professional team.
2. Salary for participating in athletics.
3. Prize money.
4. Play with professionals.
5. Tryouts, practice or competition with professional teams.
6. Benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
7. Agreement to be represented by an agent.
8. Delayed initial full-time enrollment to participate in organized competition.
9. Any financial assistance based on athletics skill or participation.

Recruiting

Official Visit – Expenses paid by institution (travel, lodging, food, game admissions, permissible entertainment)

- May begin visits on or after first day of senior year;
 - *Exception: Men's basketball – January 1 of junior year*
- Each prospect may have five official visits (only one per institution);
- Institution must notify you in writing that you will use one of your five visits;
- May be on the visit for a maximum of 48 hours;
- Must register with the Eligibility Center and be placed on the institution's list; and
- Institution must have a copy of the transcript and test score (can use PSAT or PLAN if not yet taken ACT or SAT).

Recruiting

Unofficial Visit – Expenses cannot be paid by institution

- May take at any time during high school, except during a “Dead Period”;
- May take as many as desired and no limits on number to one institution; and
- May receive three complimentary admissions to institution’s home athletic contests.

Recruiting

National Letter of Intent (NLI)

What is the NLI?

An agreement between the institution and the prospective student-athlete that he/she will attend the university or college for one academic year in exchange for an athletics scholarship.

Note: The NAIA has a separate Letter of Intent program.

Recruiting

Who is eligible to sign an NLI?

- High school seniors;
- Two-year college transfers (including those previously at a four-year school)

Can a walk-on sign an NLI?

- No, an athletically related financial aid agreement must accompany the NLI.

When can the NLI be signed?

- There are designated times through the year in which NLI's can be signed.

Recruiting

Tryouts

Division I – Tryouts for prospects are not permitted;

Exception: Men's Basketball (very specific rules)

Division II – Tryouts for prospects are permitted under the following conditions:

1. One tryout per institution per sport;
2. Must be a senior and enrolled in term other than which the sport competes in high school (ex: soccer is in the fall in high school, tryout must be in the spring);
3. Must have a medical examination;
4. May include tests to evaluate strength, speed and skill (football, no helmets or pads);
5. May compete against the team; and
6. No longer than two hours.

Questions?

Financial Aid

The NCAA limits the number of scholarships that a sport may award each year. There are two classifications of scholarships for sports:

1. Head Count – Full scholarships only.
 - Division I Only – Football, Men’s Basketball, Women’s Basketball, Volleyball, Women’s Gymnastics and Women’s Tennis
2. Equivalency – Partial Scholarships (may still receive full scholarship)
 - Division I sports not listed above and all of Division II sports.

Financial Aid

Notes on Scholarships

- Division I – just passed that multi-year scholarships may be offered for August 2012 and beyond.
- Division II – scholarships can only be offered for one academic year and are renewable.
- Scholarships include only tuition, fees, room, board and required textbooks.
- Other scholarships may be countable toward the team maximum so check with the institution.

Questions?

Resources

NCAA Website www.ncaa.org

NCAA Eligibility Center www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org

NCAA Guide for College Bound Student-Athletes

[http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/
CBSA.pdf](http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA.pdf)

National Letter of Intent www.national-letter.org

NAIA Website www.naia.org

NAIA Eligibility www.playnaia.org