

Becoming an NCAA Student-Athlete

Getting Started

If you wish to participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics, you need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. You need to qualify academically and you need to be cleared as an amateur student-athlete. For more information logon to: www.ncaa.org and click on the “Becoming a NCAA student-athlete” link under the student-athlete experience page.

What Do I Need To Do?

- **Grade 9**
 - Verify with your high school guidance counselor and the online core-course listing to make sure you are on track.
- **Grade 10**
 - Verify with your high school guidance counselor and the online core-course listing to make sure you are on track.
- **Grade 11**
 - Register with the eligibility center.
 - Make sure you are still on course to meet core-course requirements (verify you have the correct number of core courses and that the core courses are on your high school's 48-H with the eligibility center).
 - After your junior year, have your high school guidance counselor send a copy of your transcript. If you have attended any other high schools, make sure a transcript is sent to the eligibility center from each high school.
 - When taking the ACT or SAT, request test scores to be sent to the eligibility center (the code is "9999").
 - Begin your amateurism questionnaire.
- **Grade 12**
 - When taking the ACT or SAT, request test scores to be sent to the eligibility center (the code is "9999").
 - Complete amateurism questionnaire and sign the final authorization signature online on or after April 1 if you are expecting to enroll in college in the fall semester. (If you are expecting to enroll for spring semester, sign the final authorization signature on or after October 1 of the year prior to enrollment.)
 - Have your high school guidance counselor send a final transcript with proof of graduation to the eligibility center.

Initial Eligibility

Division I Academic Eligibility

To participate in Division I athletics or receive an athletic scholarship during the first year of college, a student-athlete must:

- Complete the 16 core-course requirement in eight semesters:
 - 4 years of English
 - 3 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
 - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by the high school)
 - 1 extra year of English, math or natural or physical science
 - 2 years of social science
 - 4 years of extra core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy)
- Earn a minimum required grade-point average in core courses
- Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches the core course grade-point average and test-score sliding scale. (For example, a 3.000 core-course grade-point average needs at least a 620 SAT).

Division II Academic Eligibility (2009 - July 31, 2013)

If you enroll in a Division II college between now and July 31, 2013, and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletic scholarship during your first year, you must:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete these 14 core courses:
 - 3 years of English
 - 2 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
 - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)
 - 2 additional years of English, math, or natural or physical science
 - 2 years of social science
 - 3 years of extra core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy);
- Earn a 2.000 grade-point average or better in your core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.

Division II Academic Eligibility (As of August, 2013)

If you enroll in a Division II college on or after August 1, 2013, and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletic scholarship during your first year, you must

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete these 16 core courses:
 - 3 years of English

- 2 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
- 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)
- 3 additional years of English, math, or natural or physical science
- 2 years of social science
- 4 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy);
- Earn a 2.000 grade-point average or better in your core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.

Amateurism Eligibility

All incoming student-athletes must be certified as an amateur student-athlete. With global recruiting becoming more common, determining the amateur status of college-bound student-athletes can be challenging. All college-bound student-athletes, including international students, need to adhere to NCAA amateurism requirements in order to preserve their eligibility for NCAA intercollegiate athletics.

Certification process

All college-bound student-athletes must have an academic and amateurism certification from the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#).

For the staff at the NCAA Eligibility Center to certify your amateur status, you must answer a questionnaire during registration. The questionnaire covers the following pre-collegiate enrollment activities:

- Contracts with professional teams
- Salary for participating in athletics
- Prize money
- Play with professionals
- Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team
- Benefits from an agent or prospective agent
- Agreement to be represented by an agent
- Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition

The [Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#) contains more detailed information about initial academic and amateurism eligibility