

# **THE STUDENT-ATHLETE**



Lincoln-Way Central High School  
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815-462-2221  
PPS Office

Dear Lincoln-Way Central Student-Athletes:

We would like to take this opportunity to help student-athletes with the college admissions process.

This information will not solve your problems. You are not going to be accepted by a college or be offered a scholarship or even be recruited by the school just because you have read this material. You, the student-athlete, must accept this responsibility and get yourself to work! Your counselor, your parents and your coach will help you but the ultimate responsibility rests with you.

Once you have a list of colleges in mind, ask some questions about both sports and academics. Before you approach college coaches concerning their teams and athletic grant-in-aid possibilities, you should know the rules governing the recruitment process.

Even if you think you know where you'd like to go, and you think you know the rules of the recruiting game, don't wait for your favorite school to contact you. It may never happen. You have to make sure it happens. Unless you are a highly visible superstar in a major sport, you probably will not be recruited. Recruiters want you, but they do not know where you are. You are not visible to them. You may never get the chance to play if you don't act now. The following information will help you get on your way.

Good luck!

Lincoln-Way Central High School  
PPS Office  
Athletic Office

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- There are **752** high schools in the state of Illinois
- There are **19,147** high schools in the United States
- There are **6,657,257** participants in high school athletics
- **2%** of these participants are contacted by a college coach
- **5%** of these participants actually participate in college sports
- Less than **1/2 of 1%** of athletes receive some form of aid
- Most high schools **never** have a full scholarship Division I athlete
- There are **1,000,000** high school football players and **550,000** basketball players. **150** make it to the NFL and **50** to the NBA

### ESTIMATED PROBABILITY OF COMPETING IN ATHLETICS BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Student-Athlete	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Baseball
HS Athletes	549,500	456,900	1,112,303	473,184
HS Seniors	157,000	130,500	317,801	135,195
NCAA Athletes	15,700	14,400	64,879	29,816
NCAA Freshman	4,500	4,100	18,537	8,519
NCAA Seniors	3,500	3,200	14,418	6,626
Drafted Athletes	44	32	250	600
% HS to NCAA	2.9	3.1	5.8	6.3
% NCAA to Professional	1.3	1.0	1.7	9.1
% HS to Professional	0.03	0.02	0.08	0.44

Take a long hard look at these numbers and think about what matters most – a college education! Use your athletic ability to accentuate your college experience and assist in the admissions process!

# What I Wish Someone Would Have Told Me About Being a College Athlete

- ❖ The importance of grades starting as a freshman.
- ❖ The importance of preparing for ACT and SAT exams.
- ❖ Applying for regular admissions as well as athletic admissions.
- ❖ Setting long-range goals for ten years after high school.
- ❖ Look at schools that meet academic need as well as athletic needs.
- ❖ Visit campuses that are being considered.
- ❖ Learn time management skills before starting college.
- ❖ Develop communication skills as a team member and as a student.

# **“Working Together” Checklist**

## **The Student-Athlete**

Use the following checklist to remind yourself through the year of the tasks you need to perform to find the “right” college experience.

### **PRE-SEASON**

**DID I:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with my counselor in the spring of the junior year to discuss my college plans?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take the ACT and/or the SAT near the end of my junior year?
- \_\_\_\_\_ See my counselor about a career inventory to find potential college majors?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with my counselor to make sure my senior year courses comply with NCAA rules and regulations?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review my transcript at the end of my junior year to be sure I am in compliance with bylaw 14.3?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop a list of colleges with my counselor?

### **IN-SEASON**

**DID I:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Apply to at least one school that will meet my needs if I don’t play a sport?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Double check with my counselor to assure compliance with the NCAA?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain good academic standing?
- \_\_\_\_\_ If highly recruited; meet with my coach to deal with persistent recruiters?

### **POST-SEASON**

**DID I:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with my coach to assess my potential to play in college?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with my coach to deal with persistent recruiters?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review the NCAA rules regarding recruiting?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make college visits?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assure the right program of study in the schools that have expressed an interest in me?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with my counselor, coach, and parents to make a final decision?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Discuss the proper application procedure with college coaches?

# “Working Together” Checklist

## Parents of Student-Athletes

Use the following checklist to remind yourself through the year if you have met your child’s college needs.

### PRE-SEASON

**DID I:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with son/daughter’s counselor in the spring of the junior year to discuss the college search process?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop a calendar with my child to assure completion of career inventories?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Discuss senior year registration with the counselor to assure compliance with NCAA requirements?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Discuss with my child the list of colleges developed with his or her counselor?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit selected college campuses?

### IN-SEASON

**DID I:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ See that my child gains admission to at least one college in the event college sports fail to materialize?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Double check with a counselor to assure compliance with the NCAA?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check with teachers to assure good academic progress?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with my coach, as necessary, to deal with persistent recruiters?

### POST-SEASON

**DID I:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Revise our list of schools to reflect possible scholarship offers?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with the coach to assess my child’s athletic potential and to determine the kinds of questions we should be asking of recruiters?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with the coach to deal with persistent recruiters?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accompany my child on all college visits?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain contact with the counselor and coach as needed?



## Student Athlete's High School Four-Year Plan

### *A) Freshman Year*

- 1. WORK ON YOUR GRADES!!**
2. Talk to your counselor about core class requirements.
3. Get to know all the coaches in your sport.
4. Attend sports camps.
5. Start thinking about a realistic analysis of your ability.
6. Start thinking about your academic and career goals.

### *B) Sophomore Year*

- 1. KEEP YOUR GRADES UP!!!**
2. Talk to your coaches about your ability and ambitions.
3. Stay out of trouble!!!
4. Make preliminary inquiries about colleges that interest you.
5. A brief letter to a college coach might be appropriate.
6. Take the PLAN test.

### ***C) Junior Year***

- 1. KEEP WORKING ON YOUR GRADES!!!!**
2. Talk with your counselor about career goals and core course requirements.
3. Talk with your coach about the realistic assessment of which college level you can play.
4. Take the PSAT and the ACT (PSAE).
5. Refine your list of possible college choices. Know their entrance requirements.
6. Start making a sports resume.
7. Start making unofficial visits to colleges.
8. Letter to college coaches.
9. Letters of recommendation.
10. Enter NCAA Eligibility Center.
11. Sports camps (last chance)!

### ***D) Senior Year***

- 1. GRADES ARE STILL IMPORTANT!!!**
2. Make sure you have all graduation requirements and core courses.
3. Make sure you are in the NCAA Eligibility Center.
4. Attend College/Career nights and financial aid workshops.
5. Must have taken the ACT (National or State) or SAT.
6. Narrow your college choices to two or three.
7. Make sure you have applications for admission and transcripts sent to colleges you are interested in.
8. Make sure you are aware of recruiting rules regarding campus visits.
9. Send in federal financial aid form (FAFSA) for analysis.
10. Make copies of all forms.
11. Be sure of your final choice before signing any papers.
12. Sit down with your parents and coach and list the pros and cons of each school you are considering.
13. Let the coaches know when their school is no longer in the running. Thank them!!!
14. Make your final decision based on a meaningful college education, excellent career preparation, and a satisfying athletic experience.

## ***WHAT EVERY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COLLEGE RECRUITING***

If you are a high school athlete who wants to play college-level sports, keep two priorities in order. They are:

- #1 College **FIRST**
- #2 Sports **SECOND**

This is especially true when talking with recruiters. This way you can avoid situations that might leave you without a degree or even a team to play on.

To start with, learn all you can about the rules governing recruitment before contacting college coaches or players. Depending on which level of competition you're considering, your relationship with a recruiter must abide by the rules set forth by the NCAA, NAIA or NJCAA. Violating any of the regulations might result in your being barred from competition. Refer to the NCAA website for a list of rules each athlete should understand.

The 2010-2011 NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete identifies areas that each athlete and parent should be aware of. Such as:

1. Contact periods
2. Campus visits
3. Phone calls
4. Evaluation periods
5. Dead periods
6. Letter of Intent
7. Early commitment/Regular commitment

A certain amount of self-disclosure and self-reflection is necessary both during the recruitment process and after. Asking yourself questions and searching for the answer often helps to identify the "right fit" school. Such as:

- If I could not play for some reason at this college, could I be happy here academically and socially?
- Could I be happy at this college or accept playing without a scholarship?
- Could I be happy here in a reduced playing role?
- Would I be happy at this college if the present coach were to leave before I graduated?

In a meeting with a coach or assistant coach, asking questions is appropriate. In fact, it is appreciated very much by the coach as well. In a home visit by a coach, plan on an hour and a half to two hours. During that time the following questions could be asked:

- Identify the role of the recruiter. Is he/she the head coach?
- Keep your education foremost in mind by asking about academic programs that interest you. A good recruiter is as informed about college programs as an admissions officer. Specific questions about majors and courses in your field.
- Know what level of competition this school competes in. Athletic scholarships available?
- Ask for details about the scholarships. Are they for one year only? Are they renewable? This is an NCAA rule!
- How long is the scholarship good for? Four years? Five years? Summer school? (An institution can commit to a 5<sup>th</sup> year but is not bound to do so).
- Is tutoring/counseling available? Other services for the student-athletes? Academic probation?

## Questions to Ask as You Consider Colleges

You may want to ask your prospective college coaches the following questions as you consider colleges.

### **ATHLETICS**

**1. What positions will I play on your team?** It is not always obvious. Most coaches want to be flexible, so you might not receive a definite answer.

**2. What other players may be competing at the same position?** The response could give you an idea of when you can expect to be a starter.

**3. Will I be redshirted my first year?** The school's policy on redshirting may impact you both athletically and academically.

**4. What expectations do you have for training and conditioning?** This will reveal the institution's commitment to a training and conditioning program.

**5. How would you best describe your coaching style?** Every coach has a particular style that involves different motivational techniques and discipline. You need to know if a coach's teaching style matches your learning style.

**6. When does the head coach's contract end? How long does the coach intend to stay?** The answer could be helpful. Do not make any assumptions about how long a coach will be at a school. If the coach leaves, does this change your mind about the school/program?

**7. What are preferred, invited and uninvited walk-on situations? How many do you expect to compete? How many earn a scholarship?** Situations vary from school to school.

**8. Who else are you recruiting for my position?** Coaches may consider other student-athletes for every position.

**9. Is medical insurance required for my participation? Is it provided by the college?** You may be required to provide proof of insurance.

**10. If I am seriously injured while competing, who is responsible for my medical expenses?** Different colleges have different policies.

**11. What happens if I want to transfer to another school?** You may not transfer without the permission of your current school's athletics administration. Ask how often coaches grant this privilege and ask for an example of a situation where permission was not granted.

**12. What other factors should I consider when choosing a college?** Be realistic about your athletic ability and the type of athletic experience you would enjoy. Some student-athletes want to be part of a particular athletic program, even if that means little or no playing time. Other considerations include coaching staff and style. Of course, the ideal is to choose a college or university that will provide you with both the educational and athletic opportunities you want.

### **ACADEMICS**

**1. How good is the department in my major?** How many students are in the department? What credentials do faculty members hold? What are graduates of the program doing after school?

**2. What percentage of players on scholarship graduate?** The response will suggest the school's commitment to academics. You might want to ask two follow-up questions:

- 1) What percentage of incoming students eventually graduate?
- 2) What is the current team's grade-point average?

**3. What academic support programs are available to student-athletes?** Look for a college that will help you become a better student.

**4. If I have a diagnosed and documented disability, what kind of academic services are available?** Special academic services may help you achieve your academic goals.

**5. How many credit hours should I take in season and out of season?** It is important to determine how many credit hours are required for your degree and what pace you will follow to obtain that degree.

**6. Are there restrictions in scheduling classes around practice?** NCAA rules prevent you from missing class for practice.

**7. Is summer school available?** If you need to take summer school, will it be paid for by the college? You may need to take summer school to meet academic and/or graduation requirements.

## **COLLEGE LIFE**

### **1. What is a typical day for a student-athlete?**

The answer will give you a good idea of how much time is spent in class, practice, study and travel. It also will give you a good indication of what coaches expect.

**2. What are the residence halls like?** The response should give you a hint of how comfortable you would be in your room, in study areas, in community bathrooms and at the laundry facilities. Also ask about the number of students in a room, co-ed dorms and the rules governing life in the residence halls.

**3. Must student-athletes live on campus?** If “yes,” ask about exceptions.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

**1. How much financial aid is available for both the academic year and summer school?** What does your scholarship cover?

**2. How long does my scholarship last?** Most people think a “full ride” is good for four years, but athletic financial aid is available on a one-year, renewable basis.

**3. What are my opportunities for employment while I am a student?** Find out if you can be employed in season, out of season or during vacation periods.

**4. Exactly how much will the athletics scholarship be? What will and will not be covered?** It is important to understand what college expenses your family is responsible for so you can arrange to pay those. Educational expenses can be paid with student loans and

government grants, but it takes time to apply for these. Find out early so you can get something lined up.

**5. Am I eligible for additional financial aid? Are there any restrictions?** Sometimes a student-athlete cannot accept a certain type of scholarship because of NCAA limitations. If you will be receiving other scholarships, let the coach and financial aid officer know so they can determine if you may accept additional dollars.

**6. Who is financially responsible if I am injured while competing?** You need to understand your financial obligations if you suffer an injury while participating in athletics.

**7. Under what circumstances would my scholarship be reduced or canceled?** Coaches should be able to give you some idea of how players are evaluated from year to year and how these decisions are made. The institution may have a policy governing renewal of athletic aid. Ask if such a policy exists and read it.

**8. Are there academic criteria tied to maintaining the scholarship?** Some institutions add academic requirements to scholarships (e.g., minimum grade-point average).

**9. What scholarship money is available after eligibility is exhausted to help me complete my degree?** It may take longer than four years to complete a college degree program. Some colleges assist student-athletes financially as they complete their degrees. Ask how such aid is awarded. You may have to work with the team or in the athletic department to qualify for this aid.

**10. What scholarship money is available if I suffer an athletics career-ending injury?** Not every institution continues to provide an athletic scholarship to a student-athlete who can no longer compete because of a career-ending injury.

**11. Will my scholarship be maintained if there is a change in coaches?** A coach may not be able to answer this, but the athletic director may.

## HOW TO GET YOURSELF RECRUITED

Needless to say, being born with talent is very helpful. In many cases these are the “special talent” athletes that high school and college coaches dream about. For them, coaches already know who they are! For the rest of us, hard work and persistence will get us noticed and one step further in realizing our dream of continuing play and doing so at the highest level possible. These athletes must take charge of their recruiting process.

To get recruited you must follow these very simple steps. These are:

- Keep working hard at your sport year after year after year.
- Set yearly goals to get you to the “next step”.
- Have the support of your school coach.
- Further develop your skill by playing in a club program.
- When ready, perform in “college exposure” activities.
- Don’t forget to stay focused in the classroom!
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Identify colleges with compatible athletic/academic programs.
- Send a letter of self-introduction to the college coach.
- Have school and club coach help write/call college coach.
- Send a “sports” resume with game schedule to college coach.
- Fill out all questionnaires sent from the school/team.
- Continue the communication via email.
- Arrange for campus visit if invited to attend.

## RECRUITING SERVICES

Recruiting services will not help you if you are not good enough to play in college. If you follow the advice of this packet you may be able get the attention of a college coach especially if you choose to use a recruiting service. No guarantees!

These services perform a valuable function. For a nominal fee they can do for you what time will not permit.

It is true that many top Division I and Division II programs buy names to begin their search. Be careful! Some recruiting services can actually make the student-athlete ineligible by receiving a percentage of the scholarship attained thus acting as an agent.

## SAMPLE COVER LETTER TO COACH

Date

James Brown  
2600 W. Smith St.  
New Lenox, IL 60451

Dear Coach Krzyszewski,

I am a 6'5" junior forward at Lincoln-Way Central High School in New Lenox, Illinois. I am interested in attending Duke University after I graduate. As a sophomore I started for our conference championship basketball team averaging 12 points per game, 8 rebounds and 4 assists. This year, my junior season, I have been elected team captain and currently average 19 points per game. Our team continues to be successful and will look to repeat as conference champions.

Academically, I have a 3.2 gpa and have earned a 205 on my PSAT score. I plan to take both the ACT and SAT this spring. In addition, my course load this year includes all core requirements as well as two Advanced Placement courses. I will have my college entrance scores sent directly to Duke University and to the NCAA Eligibility Center when completed. My high school will also be sending my 6<sup>th</sup> semester transcript as it becomes available.

I am very interested in attending Duke University because of its academic excellence, social opportunities and outstanding basketball program. I am particularly impressed with the graduation rate of student-athletes at Duke, as well as the national reputation of the Communications Program. I believe that my academic and athletic skills qualify me to be considered for the Blue Devil program.

Please send me information on the Duke program at your convenience and let me know what information I can provide to be evaluated by the basketball coaching staff. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Brown

## SAMPLE RESUME FOR JAMES BROWN

James Brown  
2600 W. Smith Street  
New Lenox, IL 60451  
815-999-0234  
[brownj@comcast.net](mailto:brownj@comcast.net)

### Educational Background:

GPA of 3.2/4.0 scale  
ACT score 28  
SAT score of 1210 (610 M – 600 V)  
Honor Roll 9 & 10  
Enrolled in two AP courses  
Will pursue degree in Communication

### Extracurricular:

Student Government 9-11  
Link Crew 10-11  
St. Vincent de Paul 9-11  
Band 9-11

### Athletic Background:

#### ***Basketball***

Junior Varsity 9  
Varsity 10-11  
MVP 9  
Voted “Mr. Hustle” by coaches 10  
All Conference Third-Team 10  
Most Improved-Summer Select AAU

#### ***Soccer***

Junior Varsity 9-10  
Grade 9: center halfback, 8 goals  
Grade 10: left wing, 14 goals  
First Team All Conference

### References:

Mr. Brian Papa, Head Soccer Coach  
Mr. Rich Kolimas, Head Basketball Coach  
Mr. John Bay, AAU Head Coach

## Tips for Monitoring Your Initial-Eligibility Progress

This guide will help you keep track of your completed core courses, units, grades and credits you received, plus your ongoing grade-point average.

### Keep Track Of Your Courses, Units & Credits

Generally, you will receive the same credit at the NCAA Eligibility Center as you received from your high school. Examples are provided in the English and math sections of both worksheets:

**1 trimester unit = 0.33 units**

**1 semester unit = 0.50 units**

**1 year = 1.0 unit**

### Keep Grade-Point Totals for Each Course

Determine your points earned for each course. Multiply the points for the grade by the amount of credit earned. Use the following scale unless your high school has a different scale on file with the NCAA Eligibility Center:

**A – 4 quality points**

**B – 3 quality points**

**C – 2 quality points**

**D – 1 quality point**

**Remember:** The NCAA Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when figuring your core-course grade-point average. For example, grades of B+, B and B- will each be worth 3 quality points.

### Examples of total quality point calculations:

- An A grade (4 points) for a trimester course (0.33 units):  
 $4 \text{ points} \times 0.33 \text{ units} = 1.32 \text{ total quality points}$
- An A grade (4 points) for a semester course (0.50 units):  
 $4 \text{ points} \times 0.50 \text{ units} = 2.00 \text{ total quality points}$
- An A grade (4 points) for a full-year course (1.00 units):  
 $4 \text{ points} \times 1.00 \text{ units} = 4.00 \text{ quality points}$

### Calculate Your Overall Grade-Point Average

To calculate your estimated core-course grade-point average, divide the total number of points for all your core courses by the total number of core-course units you have completed.

**NOTE:** Your calculation helps you keep track of your grade-point average. The NCAA Eligibility Center will calculate your official core-course grade-point average once it has received your final transcript.

### Example of core-course grade-point average calculations:

- 42 quality points and 14 core-course units  
 $42/14=3.000$  grade point average

### Compare Your Core-Course Grade-Point Average to Division I or II College Requirements

To monitor your current eligibility status, use the appropriate standards for Division I or II to determine if you are projected to meet the NCAA initial-eligibility requirements for grade point average and core course units.

- If you lack core-course units, which is likely if you have not yet completed high school, make sure you enroll in and complete the courses you still need.
- If you complete more core-course units than you need, the NCAA Eligibility Center will select the highest grades that meet initial eligibility requirements to calculate your core-course grade-point average. Please note that it is still necessary to complete the required number of core-course units in each area (for example, two units of social science).
- Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center staff toll-free at 877/262-1492 if you need help.
- Please talk to your parents or guardians and high-school counselor if you have questions.

# Academic-Eligibility Requirements

## Division I

### 2008 and Later

If you enroll in a Division I college in 2008 or later and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year, you must:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete these 16 core courses:
  - 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 your 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 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 on page 9 (for example, a 2.400 core-course grade-point average needs a 860 SAT).

**You will be a qualifier** if you meet the academic requirements listed above. As a qualifier, you:

- Can practice or compete for your college or university during your first year of college;
- Can receive an athletic scholarship during your first year of college; and
- Can play four seasons in your sport if you maintain your eligibility from year to year.

**You will be a nonqualifier** if you do not meet the academic requirements listed above. As a nonqualifier, you:

- Cannot practice or compete for your college or university during your first year of college;

- Cannot receive an athletic scholarship during your first year of college, although you may receive need-based financial aid; and
- Can play only three seasons in your sport if you maintain your eligibility from year to year (to earn a fourth season you must complete at least 80 percent of your degree requirements before beginning your fifth year of college).

*Note: Computer science courses can be used as core courses only if your high school grants graduation credit in math or natural or physical science for them, and if the courses appear on your high school's core-course list as a math or science courses.*

## Division II

### 2005 and Later

If you enroll in a Division II college in 2005 or later and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics 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 extra 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. There is no sliding scale in Division II.

*Note: Computer science courses can be used as core courses only if your high school grants graduation credit in math or natural or physical science for them, and if the courses appear on your high school's core-course list as a math or science courses.*

*\* Beginning August 1, 2013, students planning to attend an NCAA Division I or II college or university will be required to complete 16 core courses.*

You will be a qualifier if you meet the academic requirements listed above.

### As a qualifier, you:

- Can practice or compete for your college or university during your first year of college;
- Can receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of college; and
- Can play four seasons in your sport if you maintain your eligibility from year to year.

You will be a partial qualifier if you do not meet all of the academic requirements listed above, but you have graduated from high school and meet one of the following:

- The combined SAT score of 820 or ACT sum score of 68; OR
- Completion of the 14 core courses with a 2.000 core-course grade-point average.

### As a partial qualifier, you:

- 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; and
- Can play four seasons in your sport if you maintain your eligibility from year to year.

You will be a nonqualifier if you did not graduate from high school, or, if you graduated and are missing both the core-course grade-point average or minimum number of core courses and the required ACT or SAT scores.

### As a nonqualifier, you:

- Cannot practice or compete for your college or university during your first year of college;
- Cannot receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of college, although you may receive need-based financial aid; and
- Can play four seasons in your sport if you maintain your eligibility from year to year.

## Division III

Division III does not use the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center. Contact your Division III college regarding its policies on financial aid, practice and competition

# NCAA AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION

In response to the NCAA membership's concerns about amateurism issues related to both international and domestic prospective student-athletes, President Myles Brand has authorized the creation of a centralized amateurism certification process.

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center will include an amateurism certification section that will be used to determine the amateur status of domestic and international freshman and transfer prospective student-athletes initially enrolling at NCAA Divisions I and II member institutions on or after August 1, 2007. *[Note: In NCAA Division III, certification of an individual's amateurism status is completed by each institution.]* During the fall 2006, prospects began completing the amateurism section when they registered with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center.

## ***Registering with the NCAA Eligibility Center***

Prospective student-athletes may register with the NCAA Eligibility Center via the Internet at the beginning of their junior year in high school. As part of the amateurism certification process, each prospect will be asked to answer several questions regarding his or her sports participation history. Early registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center and the completion of the athletics participation questions will allow institutions to have preliminary information regarding a prospect's amateurism status, which will promote consistency in the recruiting process. Final certifications of amateur status will occur at the end of the prospective student-athlete's senior year of high school or approximately two to three months prior to initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution.

## ***Certification of NCAA Divisions I and II Amateurism Rules***

Amateurism certification will not cover all areas of NCAA Bylaw 12. Institutions will be responsible for determining the amateur status of prospective student-athletes for the areas of the amateurism bylaws not covered by the amateurism certification process. In addition, institutions will be responsible for certifying compliance for all amateurism bylaws during the time period between the student-athlete's request for final amateurism certification and his or her initial enrollment at an NCAA institution.

Selected pre-enrollment amateurism rules to be certified by amateurism certification include:

- *Contracts with a professional team (Division I)*
- *Salary for participating in athletics (Division I)*
- *Prize money above actual and necessary expenses (Division I)*
- *Play with professionals (Division I)*
- *Preferential treatment*
- *Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team (Division I)*
- *Benefits from an agent or prospective agent*
- *21<sup>st</sup> birthday rule (Division I)*
- *Agreement to be represented by an agent*
- *Tennis and swimming and diving rule (Division I)*
- *Organized-competition rule*

## AMATEURISM OVERVIEW: PRE-ENROLLMENT

	Division I – (Student-athletes first enrolling on or after August 1, 2002)	Division II – (Student-athletes first enrolling on or after August 1, 2001)	Division III – (Student-athletes first enrolling on or after August 1, 2002)
<b>Enters into a Professional Contract</b>	No	Yes*	Yes*
<b>Accepts Prize Money</b>	Yes – If open event, and does not exceed actual and necessary expenses or money from sponsor.	Yes*	Yes*
<b>Enters Draft</b>	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
<b>Accepts Salary</b>	No	Yes*	No
<b>Receives Educational Expenses</b>	Yes – If other than an agent, booster or professional team or organization	Yes – If other than an agent, booster or professional team or organization.	<b>No</b>
<b>Receives Expenses from a Professional Team</b>	<b>No</b>	Yes*	Yes*
<b>Competes with Professionals</b>	<b>No</b>	Yes*	Yes*
<b>Receives Benefits from an Agent</b>	No	<b>No</b>	No
<b>Enters into Agreement with an Agent (Oral or Written)</b>	No	<b>No</b>	No

- May be subject to Bylaw 14.2.4.2 in Division II and Bylaw 14.2.4.3 in Division III. (If the student-athlete does not enroll in college at first opportunity and participates in organized competition, the student-athlete is charged with a season of competition for every year of competition. Further, the student-athlete must fulfill an academic year in residence upon enrolling in college).
- Definition of organized competition is different in Division II and Division III. (See Division II Bylaw 14.2.4.2 and Division III Bylaw 14.2.4.3.)
- This chart is to be used only as a reference; please check the manual for specific information.

# Questions About the Certification of Amateur Status

## **Who will be certified?**

Every prospective student-athlete, both domestic and international, who is attending an NCAA Division I or II institution for the first time, must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. This includes prospective student-athletes who are transferring from any two- or four-year institutions (including international institutions) that are not members of NCAA Division I or II. Thus, if an individual wants to participate in athletics at an NCAA Division I or II institution, the prospective student-athlete must register with the Eligibility Center and submit the appropriate documentation to receive a certification decision.

## **Do transfer prospective student-athletes also have to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center?**

Every prospective student-athlete who is attending an NCAA Division I or II institution full time for the first time must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

## **When should I register with the Eligibility Center?**

Register for the NCAA Eligibility Center at the beginning of your junior year in high school. The athletics participation section should be updated regularly so that institutions recruiting you will have up-to-date information about you. Be sure to send your high school transcript to the Eligibility Center after you have completed at least six semesters of high school coursework.

## **Is there a registration deadline?**

No. However, prospective student-athletes must be certified as an amateur before they may receive an athletics scholarship or practice or compete at a Division I or II institution.

## **Is there an additional fee to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center because of the additional questions on athletics participation?**

No, there is only one fee to register for the NCAA Eligibility Center, which covers both the academic and amateurism certification. In addition, there is no reduction of the fee if the prospect does not need an academic certification (e.g., has already served an academic year in residence at a collegiate institution).

## **May I receive a fee waiver?**

Yes, you are eligible for a waiver of the initial-eligibility certification fee if you have already received a fee waiver (not a state voucher) for the ACT or SAT. If ACT or SAT has not granted you a fee waiver, then you will NOT be eligible for a waiver of the certification fee. If you are seeking a waiver of the certification fee, you should confirm your eligibility with your high school counselor. Your high school counselor MUST submit an electronic fee waiver confirmation before your registration may be processed.

**How often can I update my information?**

You can update your information as often as you need until you request a final certification of your amateurism status. At that point, you will no longer be able to update your amateurism information.

**Can I receive different amateurism certifications for Division I and Division II?**

Yes. Division I and II have different rules, so it is possible that your certification status may be different for each division.

**Who can help me complete the amateurism registration process?**

Anyone can assist you in completing the process. However, when you have completed the registration process, YOU will be the only person allowed to submit the information to the Eligibility Center.

**Will a paper copy of the amateurism form be available?**

No, the registration form will only be available on the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center Web site and must be completed online.

## Questions Relating to the Athletics Participation Section of the Amateurism Eligibility Center

**What if I enroll in an NCAA Division I or Division II institution and decide to participate in a sport other than one of the three I had listed on the amateurism Eligibility Center registration form?**

If you decide to participate in a sport other than the three you listed on the registration form, the institution in which you enroll will be responsible for certifying your amateurism status in that sport.

**If I have been participating in events related to my sport for a significant period of time, what events do I need to list on the amateurism registration form?**

You should include all events in which you participated, beginning with the ninth grade and thereafter.

**Am I automatically ineligible if I violated the amateurism rules?**

No. The Eligibility Center will review your athletics participation history. If there are violations of NCAA amateurism rules, the NCAA Eligibility Center may certify you with conditions, which must be fulfilled before you are eligible for competition. The conditions will be set based on which rule was violated and the severity of the violation. Such conditions may include repayment of money or sitting out of competition for a specified number of games, or both. In some cases, the NCAA may determine that the violations are such that permanent ineligibility for competition is the appropriate penalty.

**Can I appeal a certification decision regarding my amateur status?**

Yes. The NCAA has an appeals process in place if you choose to appeal the certification decision. You will need to work with an NCAA institution since all appeals must be filed by a member institution.



## NCAA FRESHMAN – ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS QUICK REFERENCE SHEET

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### **The NCAA initial-eligibility rules have changed.**

For students entering any Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2008, your NCAA initial eligibility will be evaluated under the 16 core-course rule as described on this sheet.

Students must complete **three** years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher), and **four** years of additional core courses. The additional core course may be taken in any area: English, mathematics, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy. The breakdown of the requirements is listed below.

#### **DIVISION I 2008 and after**

##### **16 Core Courses:**

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab offered by high school).
- 1 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science
- 2 years of social science
- 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy).

#### **DIVISION II 2005 and after**

##### **\*14 Core Courses:**

- 3 years of English
- 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab offered by high school).
- 2 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science
- 2 years of social science
- 3 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy).

**PLEASE NOTE:** For students entering college on or after August 1, 2005, **computer-science** courses may only be used for initial-eligibility purposes if the course receives graduation credit in mathematics or natural/physical science and is listed as such on the high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses.

*\*Beginning August 1, 2013, students planning to attend an NCAA Division I or II college or university will be required to complete 16 core courses*

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- In Division II, there is no sliding scale. The minimum SAT score is 820 (Verbal and Math sections only) and the minimum ACT sum score is 68.
- Students first entering a Division II collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2013, must meet the new 16 core-course rule.
- Students first entering a Division I collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2008, must meet the 16 core-course rule.
- The SAT combined score is based on the Verbal and Math sections only. The new writing section will not be used.

For more information regarding the new rule, please go to [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). Click on “Student-athletes and Parents” in the “Custom Home Pages” section. You may also visit the NCAA Eligibility Center Web site at <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT NCAA ELIGIBILITY, PLEASE CALL THE NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY CENTER TOLL-FREE AT 877/262-1492. YOU MAY ALSO CALL THE NCAA AT 317/917-6222.

## Division I Core GPA and Test Score Sliding Scale

Core GPA	SAT**	ACT
3.550 & above	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
3.450	440	41
3.425	450	41
3.400	460	42
3.375	470	42
3.350	480	43
3.325	490	44
3.300	500	44
3.275	510	45
3.250	520	46
3.225	530	46
3.200	540	47
3.175	550	47
3.150	560	48
3.125	570	49
3.100	580	49
3.075	590	50
3.050	600	50
3.025	610	51
3.000	620	52
2.975	630	52
2.950	640	53
2.925	650	53
2.900	660	54
2.875	670	55
2.850	680	56
2.825	690	56
2.800	700	57
2.775	710	58
2.750	720	59
2.725	730	59
2.700	730	60
2.675	740-750	61
2.650	760	62
2.625	770	63
2.600	780	64
2.575	790	65
2.550	800	66
2.525	810	67
2.500	820	68
2.475	830	69
2.450	840-850	70
2.425	860	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	80
2.125	960	81
2.100	970	82
2.075	980	83
2.050	990	84
2.025	1000	85
2.000	1010	86

\*\*SAT is Verbal and Math ONLY



**Welcome to the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center website.**

This website provides access to the information described below.

The new NCAA Eligibility Center website is located at <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/> and is available for students to register, view their certification status, and to answer general information questions you may have about the NCAA Division I and Division II initial-eligibility requirements. Should you have any questions, please contact the NCAA Eligibility Center at 877-262-1492. A couple of things to remember when registering for the NCAA Eligibility Center:

1. Don't forget to print off the Student Release Form and give it to your high school guidance counselor when you request your transcripts. There are two copies; a preliminary copy (when you first send your transcripts) and a final copy (when you send your final high school transcripts).
2. Don't forget to have your **official scores** from ACT sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center. They will no longer accept the ACT scores on your high school transcripts.

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Public access to lists of approved core courses at high schools is available. These lists of courses are available to NCAA member institutions, as well as high school counselors, students, and their families to help students understand which courses may be counted toward freshman eligibility. Go to the NCAA Eligibility Center website to access the list of approved and denied courses. This can be found under the Prospective Student-Athletes section. Lincoln-Way East High School's code is 143170.

- [High School's List of Approved Core Courses](#) (formerly 48H)

## Eligibility Center Registration

To register with the Eligibility Center, you must complete the Student Release Form (SRF), at the beginning of your junior year, online and send the Eligibility Center the registration fee (\$60 for domestic and \$85 for international students). This SRF does two things:

- It authorizes each high school you have attended to send the Eligibility Center your transcript, test scores, proof of graduation and other necessary academic information.
- It authorizes the Eligibility Center to send your academic information to all colleges that request your eligibility status.

**Online registration:** The only method is to register online.

- Go online to <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>
- Select Prospective Student-Athletes and
- Click on Domestic Student Release Form.
- Complete the SRF form online, and include your credit or debit card information to pay the fee.

Then follow instructions to complete the transaction.

# Division I Worksheet

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The clearinghouse will determine your official status after you graduate. Remember to check your high school's list of approved courses for the classes you have taken. Use the following scale: A = 4 quality points; B = 3 quality points; C = 2 quality points; D = 1 quality points

## English (4 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Example: English 9	.5		A		(.5 x 4) = 2
<b>Total English Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Mathematics (2 years required 2007–08; 3 years required August 1, 2008, and after)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Example: Algebra 1	1.0		B		(1.0 x 3) = 3
<b>Total Mathematics Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Natural/physical science (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
<b>Total Natural/Physical Science Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Additional year in English, mathematics or natural/physical science (1 year required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
<b>Total Additional Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Social science (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
<b>Total Social Science Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Additional academic courses (3 years required 2007–08; 4 years required August 1, 2008, and after)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
<b>Total Additional Academic Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Core-Course GPA (14 credits required 2007–08; 16 required August 1, 2008, and after)

Total Quality Points	Total Number of Credits	Core-Course GPA (Total Quality Points/Total Credits)
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## Division II Worksheet

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The clearinghouse will determine your official status after you graduate. Remember to check your high school's list of approved courses for the classes you have taken. 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	.5		A		(.5 x 4) = 2
<b>Total English Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

### Mathematics (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Example: Algebra 1	1.0		B		(1.0 x 3) = 3
<b>Total Mathematics Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

### Natural/physical science (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
<b>Total Natural/Physical Science Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

### Additional year in English, mathematics or natural/physical science (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
<b>Total Additional Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

### Social science (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
<b>Total Social Science Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

### Additional academic courses (3 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
<b>Total Additional Academic Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

### Core-Course GPA (14 credits required)

<b>Total Quality Points</b>	<b>Total Number of Credits</b>	<b>Core-Course GPA (Total Quality Points/Total Credits)</b>
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*\*Beginning August 1, 2013, students planning to attend an NCAA Division I or II college or university will be required to complete 16 core courses*

## NCAA RECRUITING HIGHLIGHTS

- No alumni, boosters or representatives of a college's athletic department can be involved in your recruitment.
- A contact is any face-to-face meeting between a college coach and you or your parent during which you say more than "hello".
- Phone calls from coaches or faculty members or any institutional representative except for admission counselors are not permitted until NCAA agreed upon date. Check bylaws.
- In sports *other than football*, a coach is limited to one call per week.
- Enrolled student-athletes may not make phone calls to you.
- You or your parents may call a coach at your expense as often as you wish.
- Letters from coaches are not permitted until September 1<sup>st</sup> of your junior year.
- In all sports other than football, coaches may contact you off the college campus 3 times. In football, 7 times.
- An evaluation is any off-campus activity used to assess your academic qualification or athletic ability, including a visit to your high school or watching you practice or compete.
- In Division I sports other than football and basketball, coaches may not evaluate you more than 4 times per year. In football and basketball, 2 times. Division II has unlimited evaluations.
- There is a dead period when coaches may not contact or evaluate you on or off campus--48 hours before and 48 hours after 8:00 AM on the first signing date.
- Know the signing dates for your sport by checking the NCAA website.
- You may not tryout for a Division I or Division III school. You may do so for a Division II school if you have the Athletic Director or the College President's permission.
- You may visit a college campus any time at your own expense.
- During your senior year you may take 5 paid 48-hour visits to Division I college campuses. Before the visit, your transcript and test scores (PSAT/ACT/SAT) must be mailed.

- Your visit includes round-trip transportation, room and board, and complimentary admission to any campus athletic event.
- There is no limit on the number of Division III schools you may visit.
- NAIA schools may have on-campus tryouts.
- Schools are permitted to ask prospects to undergo a medical exam during the visit.
- Make sure your correct year in school is listed in all programs, letters and mailings.
- Division I Football and Basketball are “headcount” sports (cannot divide scholarships) others are “equivalency” sports (you may divide up scholarships). Division II can divide scholarships.

## Frequently Asked Questions on Initial Eligibility

### *What requirements do I need to be able to practice, play and get a scholarship at a Division I or Division II school?*

You need to complete the following:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete a minimum of 16\* core courses;
- Present a minimum grade-point average (GPA) in those 16\* core courses; and
- Present a qualifying test score on either the ACT or SAT test.

*\* Beginning August 1, 2013, students planning to attend an NCAA Division I or II college or university will be required to complete 16 core courses*

### *How do I know if the courses I'm taking will count as core courses?*

You need to look at your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses. Follow these steps:

- Go to the [NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center Web site](#)
- Click on "General Information"
- Click on "List of Approved Core Courses"
- Input your high school's code (if you know it) or search by your high school's name and state.
- Review the list

**Very important:** If a core course you took is not on the list, it won't be used in your eligibility determination. Courses that appear on your transcript must exactly match what is on the list.

### *What do I do if a core course I took isn't on the list?*

See your high school counselor immediately. Someone at your high school is responsible for keeping your high school's list updated. It is important that they do this every year to make sure the core courses you are taking appear on the list.

### *May a correspondence or independent study course be used to meet the 16 core-course requirements?*

Yes. Independent study, Internet or correspondence courses may be used as core courses if the following conditions are met:

- They meet all requirements for a core course;
- The instructor and student have access to one another during the course for the purpose of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance to the student;
- Evaluation of the student's work is conducted by the appropriate academic authorities in accordance with the high school's established academic policies; and
- The course is acceptable for any student and is placed on the high-school transcript.

***May courses taken in the eighth grade that are high-school core courses (e.g., Algebra I, Spanish I, Freshman Composition) be used to meet the 16 core-course requirements?***

Courses taken in the eighth grade may not be used to satisfy the core-curriculum requirements regardless of the course content or level. However, in the rare event that students need to have courses taken in the eighth grade considered for eligibility purposes, there is a waiver process available.

***How is the NCAA core grade-point average different from a student's overall grade-point average?***

The NCAA core-course grade-point average is calculated using only NCAA-approved core courses in the required 16 core units. High-school grade-point averages generally include the grades from most or all courses attempted in grades nine through 12.

***Can weighted grades for honors or advanced placement courses be factored into the calculation of the student's core grade-point average?***

A school's normal practice of weighting honors or advanced courses may be used as long as the weighting is used for computing grade-point averages. Weighting cannot be used if the high school weights grades for the purpose of determining class rank. Additionally, in no instance may the student receive greater than 1.000 additional quality points for purposes of calculating the grade-point average for initial eligibility.

***What options are available to students who do not meet the NCAA initial-eligibility standards?***

Students who do not meet the initial-eligibility standards may be granted a waiver of their deficiency through an NCAA initial-eligibility waiver. NCAA academic committees have the authority to authorize waivers of the initial-eligibility requirements based on objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances in which a student's overall academic record warrants the waiver of the normal application of the legislation. The waiver must be filed by an NCAA institution (college or university) on behalf of the student.

***May students use courses taken after high-school graduation?***

Generally, students who enroll in a Division I institution may not use courses taken after high-school graduation to meet the NCAA core-curriculum requirements. Students who return after graduation to the high school from which they graduated may take courses to meet the core-course requirements. These students cannot enroll in college and participate in intercollegiate athletics until the following fall. Students enrolling in Division II institutions and students with disabilities (enrolling in either Division I or II) may use core courses taken after high-school graduation to meet the NCAA core-curriculum requirements, provided the courses are completed before full-time enrollment in a college or university. Please note that, for Division I, students with disabilities must have the required documentation: (a) a signed copy of a professional evaluation report that states the diagnosis of the student's disability; and (b) a copy of the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individual Transition Plan (ITP) or Section 504 Plan or statement that relates to accommodations received by the student with the disability. The NCAA national office, not the NCAA Eligibility Center, processes the information.

***May a student who has graduated repeat a course taken in grades nine through 12 and use the repeated course for purposes of meeting NCAA initial-eligibility requirements?***

Courses taken in grades nine through 12 may be repeated after graduation to meet NCAA Division I initial-eligibility core-course requirements, provided the courses are repeated at the high school from which the student graduated. If core courses are completed beyond the eighth semester, a student's initial full-time college enrollment cannot occur until the next academic year.

For Division II student-athletes, courses completed in grades nine through 12 may be repeated to meet initial-eligibility core-course requirements, provided the courses are repeated before initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

***When should a student register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center?***

Students should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center after the completion of their junior year in high school. At this time, a transcript, which includes six semesters of grades, should be sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center *from the high school*. Additionally, students should have their SAT or ACT test scores forwarded directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center whenever they take the exam.

***May courses taken at a local college be used to meet the 16 core-course requirements?***

College courses may be used to satisfy core-curriculum requirements if the courses are accepted and awarded credit by the high school for any student and, meet all other requirements for core courses. For NCAA Division I only, such courses must be placed on the student's high-school transcript. Courses taken at a college will NOT appear on the high school's list of Approved Core Courses. The high school's list of NCAA Approved Core Courses will include only those courses taught/offered by the high school.

***Can students with a diagnosed disability use courses that are designated for students with a disability to meet NCAA core-course requirements?***

Students with appropriately diagnosed disabilities may use courses for students with disabilities for the purpose of meeting NCAA core-course requirements. Courses for students with disabilities must appear on the high school's list of NCAA Approved Core Courses in order for a student to receive NCAA credit for the course.

***May a nonstandard ACT/SAT be used for initial eligibility?***

Yes. Students with diagnosed disabilities may take a nonstandard ACT or SAT. The test score must still be provided to the NCAA Eligibility Center, just as any other test.

***Does the prohibition against special education, remedial or compensatory courses apply to students with disabilities?***

No. In order for courses designated for students with disabilities to be approved, the course must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively, as a regular core course offered in that academic area.

***Are vocational courses acceptable?***

Traditional vocational courses are not acceptable. These include courses such as agriculture, auto mechanics, accounting and health.

***What if a student's final high-school transcript contains an error or the student has grade changes that are not included on the first final transcript mailed to the NCAA Eligibility Center?***

Once the NCAA Eligibility Center has received all required documentation including a final high-school transcript for a student, they are able to produce a final certification report. If a high school sends a revised final transcript, the NCAA Eligibility Center will not be able to use the changes. Instead, any changes to a student's final high-school transcript must be approved through the initial-eligibility waiver process.

***May courses taken at high school "A" be accepted if they appear on high school "B's" transcript?***

No. High school "A" may provide the NCAA Eligibility Center with an official copy of high school "B's" transcript, but grades from one high school cannot be accepted on another high-school's transcript.

***How are students prioritized for processing at the NCAA Eligibility Center?***

Students who have their status requested by an NCAA institution are prioritized by the NCAA Eligibility Center for processing. If a student's eligibility status is never requested by a member institution, the NCAA Eligibility Center may not process such a student's status.

[**NOTE:** This is not a complete list of NCAA regulations regarding initial eligibility. Please call or write the NCAA or access the NCAA Web site if you have specific questions.]

NCAA  
700 W. Washington St.  
P.O. Box 6222  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222  
317/917-6222 (phone)  
317/917-6888 (fax)  
800/638-3731 (NCAA Hotline)  
[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

## Information for Parents and Guardians

If you are the parent or legal guardian of a potential student-athlete, please pay special attention to the amateurism and academic eligibility and Eligibility Center sections.

### **Amateurism and Academic Eligibility**

If your child plans to compete, practice or receive an athletic scholarship at a Division I or II college, he or she must meet the eligibility requirements of this guide.

### **NCAA Eligibility Center Registration: Transcript and Test-Score Submissions**

It is best for your son or daughter to register with the Eligibility Center at the beginning of his or her junior year. Once registered, your son or daughter must ask the high school counselor or registrar to send his or her academic transcripts to the Eligibility Center. ACT or SAT score(s) also must be submitted to the NCAA. Your son or daughter must list the NCAA Eligibility Center as a separate recipient of his or her ACT or SAT scores when he or she takes the test. The test scores must come directly from SAT or ACT. The Eligibility Center will not accept test scores reported on the high school transcript. The Eligibility Center will typically review your son's or daughter's high school record and send a preliminary report to him or her, with notification of any missing requirements. A final report may be issued once your son's or daughter's high school submits a final transcript showing high school graduation. Please call the NCAA Eligibility Center at 877/262-1492 if you have any questions.

### **How to Monitor Your Son's or Daughter's Eligibility**

You may check the NCAA Web site at <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/> to make sure your son or daughter is taking approved courses. A list of core courses should have been submitted to the NCAA by your son or daughter's high school. Check your son or daughter's schedule before each year in high school to make certain that he or she is taking the required courses. NCAA colleges may obtain information from the Eligibility Center about your son or daughter's status and progress only if his or her information is specifically requested by that college.

### **Financial Aid**

If your son or daughter is academically eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics and is accepted as a full-time student at a Division I or II school, he or she may receive athletics-based financial aid from the school. Division I or II financial aid may **include tuition and fees, room and board, and books.**

Division III institutions do not award financial aid based on athletics ability. A Division III college may award need-based or academically related financial aid.

A non-qualifier may receive only need-based financial aid (aid unrelated to athletics). A non-qualifier also may receive non-athletics aid from private sources or government programs (such as Pell grants). The college financial aid office can provide further information.

It is important to understand several points about athletics scholarships from Divisions I and II schools:

- All athletic scholarships awarded by NCAA institutions are limited to one year and are renewable annually. **There is no such award as a four-year athletic scholarship.**
- Athletic scholarships may be renewed annually for a maximum of five years within a six-year period of continuous college attendance. **Athletic aid may be canceled or reduced at the end of each year for any reason.**
- Athletic scholarships are awarded in a variety of amounts, ranging from full scholarships (including tuition, fees, room and board, and books) to very small scholarships (e.g., books only).
- The total amount of financial aid a student-athlete may receive and the total amount of athletics aid a team may receive can be limited. These limits can affect whether a student-athlete may accept additional financial aid from other sources. Ask financial aid officials at the college or university about any other financial aid your son or daughter might be eligible to receive, and how this aid impacts his or her athletics aid limit. **You must inform the college financial aid office about scholarships received from all sources, such as local civic or booster clubs.**

An athletic scholarship is a tremendous benefit to most families, but you should also have a plan to pay for college costs that are not covered by a scholarship (such as travel between home and school). You should also consider how you will finance your son's or daughter's education if the athletics scholarship is reduced or canceled.

### **National Letter of Intent**

The National Letter of Intent (NLI) is a voluntary program administered by the Collegiate Commissioners Association, not by the NCAA. By signing an NLI, your son or daughter agrees to attend the institution for one academic year. In exchange, that institution must provide athletics financial aid for one academic year.

Restrictions are contained in the NLI itself. Read them carefully. These restrictions may affect your son or daughter's eligibility.

If you have questions about the National Letter of Intent, visit the NLI Web site at [www.national-letter.org](http://www.national-letter.org) or call 317/223-0706.

### **Agents**

During high school, your son or daughter might be contacted by an agent who is interested in representing your son or daughter in contract negotiations or for commercial endorsements. Some agents may not identify themselves as agents, but may simply say they are interested in your son or daughter's general welfare and athletics career. They may offer gifts or other benefits to you and your family.

NCAA rules do not prevent meetings or discussions with an agent. However, your son or daughter will jeopardize his or her eligibility in a sport if he or she agrees, verbally or in writing, to be represented by an agent while attending high school or college, regardless of whether the agreement becomes effective immediately or after his or her last season of college eligibility. Your son or daughter will also endanger his or her college athletics eligibility if he or she, or your family, accepts benefits or gifts from an agent. If an individual contacts your son or daughter about marketing his or her athletics ability, be careful. If you have concerns, contact your high school coach, director of athletics or the NCAA.

### **Scouting/Recruiting Services**

During high school, your family might be contacted by a scouting/recruiting service. The NCAA does not sanction or endorse any of these services. Remember, a scouting/recruiting service cannot base its fee on the amount of a student's college scholarship. For example, it is impermissible for a recruiting/scouting service to offer a money-back guarantee. If you have any questions, please call the NCAA.

### **All-Star Contests—Basketball and Football**

After your son or daughter completes high school eligibility, but before graduating, he or she may participate in two high school all-star football or basketball contests in each sport. If you have any questions, please call the NCAA.

### **Transfer Students**

If your son or daughter transfers from a two-year or four-year college to an NCAA school, he or she must meet certain requirements before being eligible for practice, competition or financial aid at that college. Order the NCAA Transfer Guide by calling 888/388-9748 or download it from the NCAA Web site at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). Call the NCAA at 317/917-6222 if you have questions about transfer requirements.



# A Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete

## *NAIA National Championships*

The NAIA offers the student-athlete (men & women) the opportunity to compete at his/her highest level. The NAIA offers national championships for men in cross country, soccer, football, indoor and outdoor track and field, swimming & diving, wrestling, basketball, baseball, tennis & golf. Women's national championships include volleyball, soccer, cross-country, indoor and outdoor track and field, swimming & diving, basketball, softball, tennis & golf. Listed below are a few items important to participating as a student-athlete in the NAIA.

### *NAIA Eligibility Regulations*

**\*\*First-time NAIA students who wish to participate in athletics in 2011-12 must have their eligibility determined by the [NAIA Eligibility Center](#).**

The following is a short listing of criteria that needs to be met to be eligible to represent a member institution in any manner (scrimmages, intercollegiate competitions). For more information on NAIA Eligibility Regulations, visit [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org).

1. If an entering freshman\* be a graduate of an accredited high school or be accepted as a regular student in good standing as defined by the enrolling institution and meet two of the three entry level requirements.
  - \* An entering freshman is defined as a student who upon becoming identified with an institution has not been previously identified with an institution(s) of higher learning for two semesters or three quarters (or equivalent).
    - a) Achieve a minimum of 18 on the Enhanced ACT or 860 on the SAT. The ACT/SAT test must be taken on a national or international testing date and certified to the institution prior to the beginning of each term in which the student initially participates (residual tests are not acceptable). The SAT score of 860 or higher must be achieved on the Critical Reading and Math sections of the SAT. The SAT score of 860 or higher must be achieved on the **CRITICAL READING** and **MATH** sections of the SAT. Scores must be achieved on a single test.
    - b) Achieve a minimum overall high school grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
    - c) Graduate in the top half of your high school graduating class
2. **YOU MUST** be making normal progress toward a recognized baccalaureate degree and maintain the grade points required to remain a student in good standing, as defined by the institution you are attending.
3. **YOU MUST** be identified and enrolled in 12 credit hours at the time of participation. Should participation take place between terms, you must have been identified with the institution the term immediately preceding the date of participation.
4. **YOU MUST**, if a second term freshman, have accumulated a minimum of nine institutional credit hours **BEFORE** identification for the second term of attendance.

5. **YOU MUST** have accumulated a minimum of 24 institutional credit hours the two immediately previous terms of attendance. Up to 12 institutional credit hours earned during the summer and/or non-term may be applied to meet the 24-hour rule, provided such credit is earned AFTER one of the two immediately previous terms of attendance. However, if you are transferring from a two-year institution, and if you have not been identified with an institution of higher learning for more than five semesters or seven quarters, have been identified with a four-year institution, and have met graduation requirements for an associate degree from a junior college, you may be exempt from the 24-hour rule for the first term you are enrolled at an NAIA member institution. You must have passed all hours required for graduation and, in the last two terms of attendance, you must have needed fewer than 24 hours to complete graduation requirements.
6. **YOU MAY NOT** count repeat courses previously passed in ANY term toward the 24-hour rule.
7. **YOU MUST** be eligible according to your affiliated conference standards.
8. **YOU MUST**, if a transfer student from a four-year institution, have eligibility remaining at the institution from which you are transferring to be eligible for further intercollegiate competition. For eligibility purposes, the NAIA does not recognize the NCAA “five year rule” or age-limitations regulations.
9. **YOU MUST**, if a transfer student having participated in intercollegiate athletics at a four-year institution, reside for 16 consecutive calendar weeks, (112 calendar days), not including summer sessions, at the transferred institution before becoming eligible for intercollegiate competition in any sport in which you participated while attending the previous four-year institution. Exceptions to the 16 calendar weeks’ residency will be explained by the institution’s faculty athletics representative.
10. **YOU MUST** be within your first 10 semesters, 12 trimesters, or 15 quarters of attendance as a regularly enrolled student. Beginning August 1, 2004, a term of attendance is any semester, trimester, or quarter in which you enroll for 12 or more institutional credit hours and attend any class. Summer sessions are not included, but night school, extension or correspondence courses are applicable to this ruling.
11. **YOU MUST**, upon reaching junior academic standing as defined by the institution, have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale as certified by the institutional registrar.
12. **YOU MUST**, to participate the second season of sport, have accumulated at least 24 semester/36 quarter institutional credit hours.
13. **YOU MUST**, to participate the third season in a sport, have accumulated at least 48 semester/72 quarter institutional credit hours.
14. **YOU MUST**, to participate the fourth season in a sport, have accumulated at least 72 semester/108 quarter institutional credit hours. These hours must include at least 48 semester/72 quarter hours in general education and/or your major field of study.
15. **YOU MUST**, to participate the third and/or fourth season in a sport, have and maintain a total cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

16. **YOU MAY NOT** participate for more than four seasons in any one sport. A season of competition is defined as participation in one or more intercollegiate contests, whether as a freshman, junior varsity, or varsity participant or in any other athletic competition in which the institution is represented during a sport season or participation in any competition or training for which the participant receives compensation including remuneration for expenses after September 1 in the year of high school graduation or equivalent.
17. Should you participate for two different institutions in the same sport in the same academic year (example - basketball or fall golf at a junior college and then transfer to an NAIA school and participate in basketball or spring golf), you shall be charged with two seasons of competition in that sport, unless you earned an associate degree at a junior college in the term immediately preceding the transfer.
18. **YOU MUST** be an amateur, as defined by the NAIA, in the sport(s) in which you participate. See your athletics director or faculty athletics representative for all amateur regulations as printed in the NAIA Bylaws.

\* *Remember, athletes as well as member institutions are responsible for knowing and abiding by NAIA rules and regulations as outlined in the NAIA Official Handbook. See your athletics director or faculty athletics representative for all NAIA rules and regulations.*

### ***Hardships***

Hardships deal only with season of competition. A hardship request is a request for an exception to the season of competition regulation (see item 16 above). Hardship requests will be considered only if the following criteria are met:

1. The injury or illness is beyond the control of the student-athlete and/or coach, and incapacitates that student-athlete from competing further during the sport season as verified by an M.D. or D.O. who must have examined the student during the sport season in question.
2. Participation after being examined by a physician and before receiving written medical clearance shall nullify hardship consideration.
3. The athlete shall not have participated in more than the Association's allowable number of contests or dates, excluding scrimmages, recognized by the NAIA during the sports season. Contact a member institution for the hardships.

### ***Financial Aid, Scholarships, Grants-In-Aid & Student Loans***

Assignment of scholarships, grants-in-aid or student loans shall be controlled by the faculty through the regularly constituted committee on student loans and scholarships.

Any financial aid or assistance to prospective students, in money or in kind, except from members of the student's immediate family or from those upon whom the student is legally dependent, shall be administered by the institution under the policies and procedures established by the institution through the regularly constituted committee on student loans and scholarships.

A member institution of the NAIA shall award no more institutionally-controlled financial aid to the student-athlete than the actual cost of:

1. tuition;
2. mandatory fees, books and supplies required for courses in which the student-athlete is enrolled;
3. room and board for the student-athlete only, based on official room and board allowance listed in the institutions catalog. Further financial assistance to a student-athlete, other than listed above, by a member institution shall be prohibited.

### ***NAIA Advantages***

There are many advantages to competing in NAIA sports. Beside the benefit of close-knit communities and small class sizes on the typical NAIA campus, NAIA athletics offer:

- Maximum opportunity to participate in regular season contests and National Championships
- Greater opportunities to transfer without missing a season
- Fewer recruiting restrictions
- Focus on the education and character development of the student-athlete

The NAIA recruitment process is less cumbersome, with fewer restrictions on the contact between a student-athlete and a coach.

More frequent communication aids in assuring that the student-athlete is comfortable with the choice of an institution. While NAIA rules hold to strict academic requirements, the process of establishing eligibility is streamlined since there is no NCAA Eligibility Center. We hope you strongly consider enrolling at an NAIA member institution.

### ***Recruitment of an Enrolled Student-Athlete***

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) *Champions of Character* program is designed to instill an understanding of character values in sport and provide practical tools for student-athletes, coaches and parents to use in modeling exemplary character traits. The five core values of *Champions of Character* include: *responsibility, respect, servant leadership, integrity and sportsmanship*. For more information on *Champions of Character*, visit [www.championsofcharacter.org](http://www.championsofcharacter.org).

For more information, visit [www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org)

NAIA National Office

1200 Grand Blvd.

Kansas City, MO 64106

P: 816.595.8000 F: 816.595.8200

NAIA Rules Hotline: 816-595-8180



The new NAIA logo acknowledges our Champions of Character program and determination to building character in student-athletes, member institutions and communities throughout North America.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Some information in this booklet was put together  
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“Parent and Student Guide”, West Windsor-Plainsboro School District,  
Dave Prutow, Counselor, 2003

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