

# So, you want to be a college athlete?

That's great! Now, you have to learn the process to actually be a college athlete. The National College Athletic Association (NCAA) has developed a process that ensures that all participating colleges and universities and their student-athletes are competing on a "level playing field," and that all prospective athletes are academically eligible to participate.

## STEP 1. YOU MUST REGISTER WITH THE NCAA ELIGIABILITY CENTER "CLEARINGHOUSE"

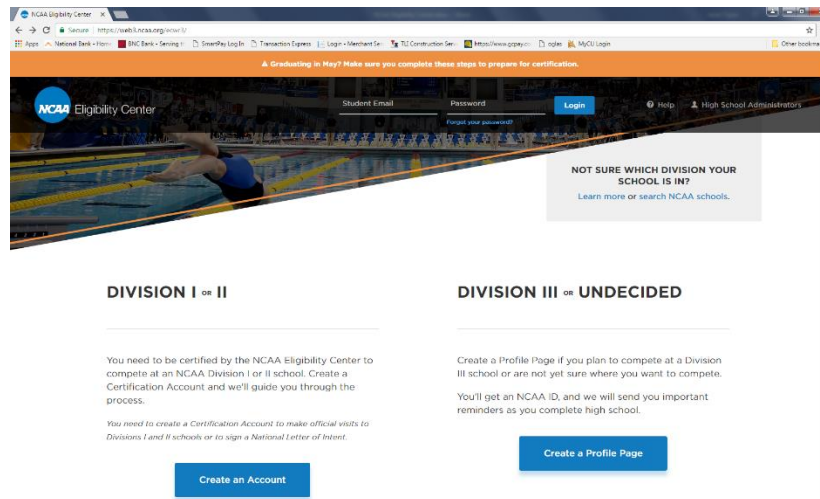
**RULE 1.** If you are a high school athlete who wants to play college-level sports, keep two priorities in mind: **COLLEGE FIRST, SPORTS SECOND!** Avoid situations that might leave you without a degree or even a team to play on.

**STEP 2.** Read the NCAA "GUIDE FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETE" and the "GUIDE TO COMMUNICATING WITH COLLEGE COACHES"

## RULE 2 COLLEGE FIRST, SPORTS SECOND

*There are many websites claiming to be the "OFFICIAL NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE", but there is only ONE!*

## STEP 1: Register <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>



## Know before you go:

The Learn more about choosing the right school with these resources:

- [Choosing A College](#)
- [Recruiting Fact Sheet](#)
- [Recruiting](#)
- [Scholarships](#)
- [Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#)

Hoping to go pro? For most student-athletes, the experiences of college sports and the life lessons they learn along the way help them pursue careers in business, education, athletics administration, communications, law, medicine and many more fields.

[Learn more about the probability of going pro](#)

Playing sports for an NCAA school is not your only option. Check out the [National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics \(NAIA\)](#) or the [National Junior College Athletic Association \(NJCAA\)](#) for other opportunities.

## Play Division I Sports

If you want to compete in NCAA sports at a Division I school, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to make sure you stay on track to meet initial-eligibility standards.

If you have questions about your eligibility or the registration process, call us toll free at 1-877-262-1492. International students should call 317-917-6222.

[Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

## Get Ready. Get Set. Go!

### Grade 9

Ask your counselor for a list of your high school's [NCAA core courses](#) to make sure you take the right classes.

### Grade 10

- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).

### Grade 11

- Check with your counselor to make sure you will graduate on time with the required number of [NCAA core courses](#).
- Take the [ACT or SAT](#) and submit your scores to the NCAA using code 9999.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your [official transcript](#) to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

### Grade 12

- Finish your last [NCAA core courses](#).
- Take the [ACT or SAT](#) again, if necessary, and submit your scores to the NCAA using code 9999.
- Complete all academic and [amateurism](#) questions in your NCAA Eligibility Center account at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).
- After you graduate, ask your counselor to submit your final [official transcript](#) with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

## Division I academic eligibility

To be eligible to compete in NCAA sports during your first year at a Division I school, you must graduate high school and meet **ALL** the following requirements:

- Complete **16 core courses**:
  - Four years of English
  - Three years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
  - Two years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
  - One additional year of English, math or natural/physical science
  - Two years of social science
  - Four additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Complete 10 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, you may not repeat or replace any of those 10 courses to improve your core-course GPA.
- Earn at least a **2.3 GPA** in your core courses.
- Earn an **SAT combined score or ACT sum score** matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale, which balances your test score and core-course GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher core-course GPA to be eligible. If you have a low core-course GPA, you need a higher test score to be eligible.

## What if I don't meet the requirements?

If you have not met all the Division I academic requirements, you may not compete in your first year at college. However, if you qualify as an academic redshirt you may practice during your first term in college and receive an athletics scholarship for the entire year.

To qualify as an academic redshirt, you must graduate high school and meet **ALL** the following academic requirements:

- Complete **16 core courses**:
  - Four years of English
  - Three years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
  - Two years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
  - One additional year of English, math or natural/physical science
  - Two years of social science
  - Four additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Earn at least a **2.0 GPA** in your core courses.
- Earn an **SAT combined score or ACT sum score** matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale.

# Play Division II Sports

If you want to compete in NCAA sports at a Division II school, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to make sure you stay on track to meet initial-eligibility standards.

If you have questions about your eligibility or the registration process, call us toll free at 1-877-262-1492. International students should call 317-917-6222.

[Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

## Get Ready. Get Set. Go!

### Grade 9

- Ask your counselor for a list of your high school's [NCAA core courses](#) to make sure you take the right classes.

### Grade 10

- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).

### Grade 11

- Check with your counselor to make sure you will graduate on time with the required number of [NCAA core courses](#).
- Take the [ACT or SAT](#) and submit your scores to the NCAA using code 9999.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your [official transcript](#) to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

### Grade 12

- Finish your last [NCAA core courses](#).
- Take the [ACT or SAT](#) again, if necessary, and submit your scores to the NCAA using code 9999.
- Complete all academic and [amateurism](#) questions in your NCAA Eligibility Center account at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).
- After you graduate, ask your counselor to submit your final [official transcript](#) with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

## Division II Academic Eligibility

To be eligible to compete in NCAA sports during your first year at a Division II school, you must meet academic requirements for your core courses, grade-point average (GPA) and test scores. The requirements are changing for students who enroll full-time at a Division II school after August 1, 2018.

### If you enroll BEFORE August 1, 2018

You must graduate high school and meet **ALL** the following requirements:

- Complete [16 core courses](#):
  - Three years of English.
  - Two years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).
  - Two years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it).
  - Three additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
  - Two years of social science
  - Four additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Earn at least a [2.0 GPA](#) in your core courses.
- Earn a [SAT combined score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68](#). Remember, if you took the SAT on or after March 2016 you need to [compare your score](#) on the College Board concordance table. The 820 score is after the concordance table is applied.

### AFTER August 1, 2018

You must graduate high school and meet **ALL** the following requirements:

- Complete [16 core courses](#):
  - Three years of English.
  - Two years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).
  - Two years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it).
  - Three additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
  - Two years of social science
  - Four additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Earn at least a [2.2 GPA](#) in your core courses.
- Earn an [SAT combined score or ACT sum score](#) matching your core-course GPA on the Division II sliding scale, which balances your test score and core-course GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher core-course GPA to be eligible. If you have a low core-course GPA, you need a higher test score to be eligible.

## What if I don't meet the requirements? If you enroll BEFORE August 1, 2018

If you enroll full-time at a Division II school before Aug. 1, 2018, and you have not met all the Division II academic requirements, you may not compete in your first year. However, if you meet the requirements to be a partial qualifier, you may practice and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year at college. To be a partial qualifier, you must graduate high school and meet **ONE** of the following requirements:

- Earn a [2.0 GPA](#) in [16 core courses](#):
  - Three years of English.
  - Two years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).
  - Two years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it).
  - Three additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
  - Two years of social science
  - Four additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Earn an [SAT combined score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68](#). Remember, if you took the SAT on or after March 2016 you need to [compare your score](#) on the College Board concordance table. The 820 score is after the concordance table is applied.

## If you enroll AFTER August 1, 2018

If you enroll full-time at a Division II school after Aug. 1, 2018, and you have not met all the Division II academic requirements, you may not compete in your first year. However, if you meet the requirements to be a partial qualifier, you may practice and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year at college. To be a partial qualifier, you must graduate high school and meet **ALL** the following requirements:

- Complete [16 core courses](#):
  - Three years of English.
  - Two years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).
  - Two years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it).
  - Three additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
  - Two years of social science
  - Four additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy Earn at least a [2.0 GPA](#) in your core courses.
- Earn an [SAT combined score or ACT sum score](#) matching your core-course GPA on the Division II sliding scale.

If you are concerned you may not meet the Division II academic requirements, consider taking the following actions:

- Ask for advice and accountability from your high school counselor. Check in with the admissions or compliance office at the college you hope to attend.
- Get tutoring or other study help.
- Graduate on time. Division I schools allow college-bound student-athletes who graduate on-time to take one core course during the year after they graduate high school.
- Avoid quick fixes through credit recovery programs. These courses may not be accepted by the NCAA.
- Keep your coursework. If the NCAA Eligibility Center needs to review your record due to irregularities, you may be asked to provide your coursework.
- Follow your high school's policies. The best thing to do is work within the rules.

## Contact the Eligibility Center

For students and parents with eligibility questions:  
877/262-1492 (toll free)  
317/917-6222

### **Transcript/Document Mailing Address**

NCAA Eligibility Center  
Certification Processing  
P.O. Box 7136  
Indianapolis, IN 46207

### **Overnight/Express Mailing Address**

NCAA Eligibility Center  
Certification Processing  
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

### **Customer Service Hours**

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time  
Monday through Friday  
Fax number: 317/968-5100  
Toll-free phone number (U.S. callers and Canada except Quebec): 877/262-1492

**STEP 2. Read the NCAA “GUIDE FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETE” and the “GUIDE TO COMMUNICATING WITH COLLEGE COACHES”**